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*Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church*

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www.ololmi.org

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**Weekly Bulletin      Sunday January 14, 2006 – Sunday January 21, 2007**



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Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**JANUARY**  
20 MYO Spaghetti Dinner

**FEBRUARY**  
3 St Maron's Dinner and Hafli  
9 St Maron's Feast Day

**Clergy**  
Rev. Father Jihad Younes  
Deacon Martin Rachid  
Subdeacon Earl Matte  
Subdeacon Charles Rossie

**Parish Staff**  
Pam Aziz – Parish Secretary  
Darrell Frye – Maintenance  
Pat Haley – Caterer

**Parish Leaders**  
Albert Zerka– Parish Council  
Dee Gardner – Choir Director  
Dottie Byrnes – Organist  
Freda Hearsch – Religious Education  
Cindy Shaheen – Altar Society  
Jeanette Walterhouse – Morningstar  
Rob Kowalk – Spiritual Growth Coordinator



**Liturgy Schedule**

Monday	9a.m.
Tuesday	9a.m.
Wednesday	9a.m.
Thursday	9a.m.
Friday	12noon
Saturday	9a.m. 5p.m.
Sunday	10a.m.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month	10a.m. (English) 12noon (Arabic)

**Adoration**  
Friday 11a.m.

**Confessions**  
½ hour before liturgy on Saturday and Sunday and by appointment.

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**Sacrament of Baptism**, please contact the priest at least **1 month** before the intended date for the baptism.  
**Sacrament of Marriage**, please contact the priest at least **6 months** before the intended date for the wedding.  
**Sick calls**, please notify the Church office as soon as possible if you want communion for your sick. We usually do sick calls on Wednesdays.



*Our Lady of Lebanon  
Maronite Catholic Church  
4133 Calkins Road  
Flint Michigan 48532*

*Annual Saint Maron's Day Hafli  
Saturday, February 3, 2007  
Liturgy at 5pm followed by Dinner & Hafli*

Adults \$10  
Children 12 & under \$8

Doors open at 6pm  
Dinner at 6:30pm  
Hafli at 7:30pm

*Blessed are you Saint Maron your fasting and prayer became the inheritance of a chosen people. Blessed is the church which honors your memory today*

**Pray for our sick and homebound Parishioners:**



Marge Okal

Sarah Marshall  
Mike Rizik  
Hanneh Chammas  
Hap Maroun  
Joe Faris  
Doris Beck  
Rose Johnson  
Dorothy Mattar  
Sharon Griffiths  
Woody Mattar



**Our Lady of Lebanon  
Office Hours**

Monday 9am – 5pm  
Tuesday 9am – 5pm  
Wednesday 9am – 5pm  
Thursday 9am – 5pm  
Friday 9am – 5pm



## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY 14: Second Sunday after Epiphany

10A.M.: (2Cor 4:5-15; Jn 1:35-42) Reader: Mary Matte

- Rep. George Faris by Josie and Family
- Rep. Jerry Knight (4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) by Josie and Family

### ARABIC MASS 12 NOON

### MONDAY 15: Martin Luther King Day, Our Lady of the Sowing and St. John the Cave - dweller

- Rep. Winston Walterhouse by Mr. & Mrs. David Faris

### TUESDAY 16: In Honor of St. Peter in Chains

- Rep. Mayford Penhaligon by Mike & Krista Oshust

### WEDNESDAY 17: St. Anthony the Great, Confessor

- Rep. Elias Deibis by Vince Scharich

### THURSDAY 18: Establishment of the Chair of St. Peter in Rome and St. Athanasius the Alexandrian, Doctor of the Church

- Rep. Mary Bernath by Juleit Hermiz

### FRIDAY 19: St. Macarius the Egyptian, Confessor

12NOON

- Rep. Betty Mansour by Joyce Joubran

### SATURDAY 20: St. Euthymius the Great, Confessor

9A.M.:

- Special Intentions

5P.M.

- Rep. Marge Washum by Josphine Knight

### SUNDAY 21: Third Sunday after Epiphany

10A.M.: (Gal 3:23-29; Jn: 3:1-16) Reader: Karl Moon

- Rep. Joe Nemer by Duane & Dee Gardner

### SUNDAY 28: Sunday of the Deceased Priest

### St. Ephrem the Syriani, Doctor of the Church

10A.M.: (1Tim 4:6-16; Lk 12:42-48) Reader: Robert Pollack

- Living and Deceased of the Maroun Family by Sam

#### Weekly Contributions

December 17: \$2387  
 December 24-25: \$5008  
 December 31: \$ 4596  
 January 7: \$2272



## Announcements

Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> is Martin Luther Day the office will be closed.

Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> is a week of prayer for Christian Unity.

The new officers for our parish council are Albert Zerka, President; Wilson Lahoud, Vice President; and Scott Shaheen, Secretary. Congratulations!

Father Jihad will be out of town beginning Monday, January 22, 2007 until Friday, January 26, 2007. There will be no Liturgy while he is out of town.

St. Maron's Day Hafli will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2007 following the 5pm Liturgy. Tickets are \$10 adults and children 12 and under \$8. Tickets can be purchased from any parish council member.

The MYO will be having a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. They will also be raffling off a ring. Come and enjoy the evening with us.

### Don't forget your contribution envelopes

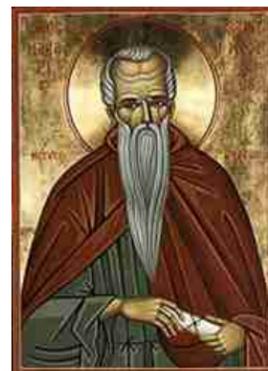
Contribution envelopes are now available in the Narthex. If you do not see a box of envelopes with your name on it please call the church office. If you have contribution envelopes that you are behind on please consider catching them up soon. If anyone has any questions please call the office.

During the Divine Liturgy the gifts (bread and wine) are transferred from the side altar to the main altar as a symbol of offering the fruit of our work to Almighty God who will come and unite His Divinity with our Humanity. We need to have gift bearers every Sunday to help in this part of Liturgy. A sign up sheet is put on the bulletin board for you to choose the date when you want to be the gift bearer. Please sign your name and don't forget we need TWO people every Sunday.

Church cleaning for the Month of January:

Mary Matte

## St. Macarius



St. Macarius the Elder was one of the greatest of the Christians who pioneered the monastic life in the deserts of Egypt. Many anecdotes have come down to us of his struggle for perfection in a crude world.

Macarius started off as a cattle-raiser in the Upper Nile district. But while still a youth he sensed a personal call to undertake the life of a desert hermit, a life of prayer, austerity and labor.

During the early period of his apprenticeship, he became the object of a vicious slander that brought upon him undeserved mistreatment. A woman of the desert locale, for some unknown motive, accused him publicly of having assaulted her. She must have talked a good case, for the people of the neighborhood accepted the charge. They upbraided Macarius as a wolf in sheep's clothing; they seized him bodily, paraded him through the streets, and beat him severely.

What was the hermit's reaction? In true Christian meekness, he decided not to defend himself, and to work extra hard at his manual tasks in order to provide for the care of the infant with whom his accuser was pregnant. Surely, he thought to himself, the real father would not provide for that child!

Fortunately, the truth came out through other circumstances. When the woman's hour had come, the birthing was hard until she admitted that the father was other than Macarius. Shaken by this confession, the neighbors who had been so ready to blame the hermit now changed their tune, praising him for his humility.

Macarius no doubt thanked God for rescuing his reputation, but he by now had had enough of public opinion. He fled to the mountainous desert of Skete near the delta of the Nile. Then about 30, he would pass the remaining 60 years of his life at that place as the spiritual director of the multitude of other monks who hastened to place themselves under his tutelage. Up to now, Macarius, like most of the Egyptian hermits, had been a layman. After a while, however, the local bishop ordained him a priest so that he might provide the sacraments for his followers.

The monks of Skete were especially noted for their austerity. Although this was some times excessive, it was nevertheless impressive. Later on Macarius himself would declare, "I have never once eaten, drunk or slept as much as nature required." Yet he kept warning his disciples against becoming proud of their fasting.

Macarius' chief teaching, however, continued to be, "Leave everything that happens, good or bad, in God's hands." Even when counseling on prayer, he said that the best prayers are not always those that are long or eloquent. Short ones are equally pleasing to God, like "O God, come to my assistance"; or "Lord, show me mercy as you know best." This absolute mildness and patience communicated itself, and was responsible for many conversions. Yet the saint kept studying self-control.

Once God pointed out to him that two married women who lived nearby were holier than he was. He therefore went to see them and learn of their dispositions. "What are your methods for achieving holiness?" he asked. They answered, "We live in humility and patience, charity and conformity to the dispositions of our husbands. We carefully avoid idle or rash conversations, and by consecrating all our powers of body and soul to the glory of God, we sanctify every action by prayer." Such was the revealing lesson that these two wives taught to the celibate monk.

A disciple once asked St. Macarius how to begin to live in Christ. The saint told him to go to the cemetery and first scold all the dead, out loud, and then praise them. When he returned, the Master asked what reply the dead had made to the reproof and the praise. "Nothing," the disciple answered. Macarius (thinking perhaps of his earlier suffering from slander), said, "Go then and learn neither to be moved by praise or flattery. If you die to the world and to yourself, you will begin to live in Christ."

St. Macarius was not spared trials from without. At one point the heretical bishop of Alexandria exiled him and his monks to an island in the Nile. But the exiles lost no time, and converted the pagan islanders. At length they were released. The people loved them too much to allow that to happen again.

Macarius, then, still advises us: "Do not fear false accusations: God always knows the truth."

[www.stthomasirondequoit.com](http://www.stthomasirondequoit.com)