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Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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Weekly Bulletin

Sunday June 24, 2007 – Sunday July 1, 2007

## Does God Love Me?

A Short Story from the book Our Daily Bread

It's not easy to understand the depth of God's love for us. Because of our pride and fear, we fail to grasp how undeserving we are and how free His love is.

At times I struggle with pride, so I tend to believe that I have earned any love I receive. Pride tells me that I am loved only when I am lovable, respectable, and worthy.

At other times I feel the tug of fear. Deep down inside, I know that I don't deserve the love I get. My motives are never pure, and I fear I will be rejected if they are exposed. So even while I am basking in acceptance, I live with the fear of being unmasked, revealing that I am much less than what others think me to be.

When I consider my relationship with God, therefore, I tend to feel that His affection for me is based on my performance. When I do well, He loves me; but if I foul up, then I expect only His scorn.

Yet God does not love us because we deserve it. He loves us in spite of what we are. In 1 John 4:10 we read, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son." Because of what Jesus Christ has done for us, we know we are always loved by God. That simple truth shatters our pride and dispels our fear. — [Haddon W. Robinson](#)

*Oh, such love, my soul, still ponder—  
Love so great, so rich, so free!  
Say, while lost in holy wonder,  
"Why, O Lord, such love to me?" —Kent*

No one is beyond the reach of God's love.

[www.rbc.org](http://www.rbc.org)

Fr. Jihad has forms from the Consulate of Lebanon for passport renewals, marriage & birth registrations. If you are in need any of these forms please see Fr. Jihad.

### 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.

**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.

### Pray for our sick and homebound Parishioners:



Eddie Rashid  
Nadia Sob

Tom & Margaret LaBranch

Marge Okal  
Sarah Marshall  
Hanneh Chammas  
Hap Maroun  
Joe Faris  
Doris Beck  
Ann Faris

Dorothy Mattar  
Sharon Griffiths



### Our Lady of Lebanon Office Hours

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



## MASS INTENTIONS

**SUNDAY 24: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**  
**The Birth of John the Baptist, Confessor**  
 10A.M.: (2Cor 11:21-30; Mt 16:13-20) Reader: Diane Massad  
 - Rep. Sylvia Zerka by George & Virginia Rizk

**MONDAY 25: Zechariah & Elizabeth the Parents of John the Baptist**  
 - Rep. Peter Joubran by Family

**TUESDAY 26:**  
 - Intentions of Mary James by James Manoharan

**WEDNESDAY 27:**  
 - Rep. Rose Johnson by M/M Bill Kelly

**THURSDAY 28: St. Irenaeus, Confessor**  
 - Rep. Mike Rizik by Agnes Torok

**FRIDAY 29: The Apostles St. Peter & St. Paul**  
 12NOON  
 - Rep. Jimal Maroun by Mary Ann Sheehan

**SATURDAY 30: The Twelve Apostles**  
 5P.M.  
 - Rep. Ferris Adado by Jon & Michele Corbat  
 - Rep. Francis El Hayek & Salwa  
 40 Day Memorial by Sami El Hayek

**SUNDAY July 1: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**  
**Blessed Junipero Serra, Confessor**  
 10A.M.: (1Cor 12:12-13,27-30; Mt. 10:16-25) Reader: Earl Matte  
 - Rep. Sam Marino by Mike & Madeline Zerka  
 - Deceased Members of the Matte Family &  
 Rep. Mayford Penhaligon by Earl & Mary Matte

**SUNDAY July 8: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**  
 10A.M.: (2Cor 3:1-6; Lk 10:1-7) Reader: Mary Matte  
 - Rep. Jacob, Mary & Louie Zerka by George & Virginia Rizk  
 - Rep. Gloria Mansour by Family

### Weekly Contributions

May 27: \$2291  
 June 3: \$3178  
 June 10: \$1324  
 June 17: \$1593



## Announcements

There will no longer be a 9am mass on Saturdays.

Last Sunday there was a collection for Right to Life and we collected \$152. Thank you for your generosity.

The Parish Council will be having a Cruise Raffle on September 12, 2007. They would also like to have a Silent Auction. They are looking for donations of goods and services. If you have any questions please see Al Zerka.



Church cleaning for the Month of June:

Nina Rachid, Louise Faris & Linda Macksood

### Altar Server Schedule

July 1: Team 4  
 July 8: Team 1  
 July 15: Team 2



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### JULY

3-8 Maronite Youth Conference  
 16-20 Children's Bible School  
 22 Parish Picnic  
 25-29 NAM Convention in Richmond Virginia

### Quote of the Week

"Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within the reach of every hand." – *Mother Teresa*



## Saint Irenaeus

*Confessor*

Saint Irenaeus was born in the year 120; he was of the Greek tongue, and probably a native of Asia Minor. His parents, who were



Christians, placed him while still young under the care of the great Saint Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna. It was in this holy school that he learned the sacred science which later made him a great ornament of the Church and the terror of her enemies. Saint Polycarp cultivated his

rising genius and formed his mind to piety by his precepts and example, and the zealous young scholar was careful to reap all advantages offered him by the solicitude of such a master. Such was his veneration for his tutor's sanctity that he observed all the acts and virtues he saw in that holy man, the better to copy his example and learn his spirit. He listened to his instructions with an insatiable ardor, and so deeply did he engrave them in his heart that the impressions remained vivid even in his old age. In order to confound the heresies of his age, this Doctor of the Church acquainted himself with the conceits of the pagan philosophers, and thereby became qualified to trace every error to its sources and set it in its full light. By his writings he was already known to Tertullian, Theodoret and Saint Epiphanius, who speak of him as a luminous torch of truth in the darkness of those times.

After Irenaeus had spent a number of years in combat against the eastern gnostics and philosophers of error, Saint Polycarp determined to send him to Gaul, where many of the heretics of Asia Minor had already migrated to pursue the Catholic religion, which was beginning to find roots there. With a company of about forty Christians, the valiant soldier of Christ ascended the Rhone to Lyons to rejoin and aid Saint Pothinus, its bishop. Saint Pothinus was already advanced in age, and his church's neophytes could not

always distinguish truth from the gnostic aberrations. Saint Pothinus received the apostles with joy and soon ordained Saint Irenaeus.

A hundred times he exposed himself to martyrdom by his zeal, acting as the right arm of the aging bishop, but God was reserving that crown for him twenty-five years later. When Saint Pothinus had glorified God by his splendid martyr's death in the year 177, Irenaeus was chosen to be the second bishop of Lyons. The persecutors imagined that Christianity had been stifled in Lyons, and they ceased their pursuits for a time.

This great Doctor of the Church wrote many important works, of which the most famous is his *Adversus Haereses, Against the Heresies*, in explanation of the Faith. By his preaching, Saint Irenaeus in a short time converted almost the whole country to the Faith; the Christians of Lyons became models by their candor, their estrangement from all ambition, their poverty, chastity and temperance, and in this way confounded many adversaries of their religion. Saint Irenaeus continued to imitate what he had seen done by his beloved master, Saint Polycarp, himself the disciple and imitator of Saint John the Apostle. One can readily imagine the excellence of the administration and the breadth of charity reigning in the Church of Lyons.

Finally he suffered martyrdom there, with many others, in the year 202, under the Emperor Septimus Severus, after eighty years spent in the service of the Lord. The imperial decrees renewing the persecutions arrived at Lyons at the time of the celebration of Severus' tenth year of reign; the pagans found amid the celebrations an opportunity to take vengeance on the Christians, who refused to participate in the debaucheries which accompanied these feasting. Assassins armed with daggers, stones and knives filled the city with blood, and thousands of Christians won, with their bishop, the crown they had always admired as the greatest glory God could grant His servants.

[www.magnificat.ca](http://www.magnificat.ca)