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**The Most Reverend Gregory J. Mansour, Eparchial Bishop**  
**The Very Reverend Dominique Hanna, Rector**  
**Deacon Peter Frangie**  
**Subdeacon Norbert Vogl**  
**Subdeacon Adonis El-Asmar**



**DORMITION/ ASSUMPTION OF  
THE VIRGIN MARY**

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# ***Dormition/ Assumption of the Virgin Mary & Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost*** ***August 16, 2020***

Sun., August 16	The Assumption of the Virgin & 12th Sunday of Pentecost 10 am Divine Liturgy for Afif Abou Chrouch Req. by Mr & Mrs William Abou Chrouch	St. Roch
Mon., August 17	NO LITURGY	
Tues., August 18	10 am Divine Liturgy	
Wed., August 19	10 am Divine Liturgy St. Luke of Baalbek	
Thurs., August 20	10 am Divine Liturgy St. Bernard, Doctor of the Church	
Fri., August 21	10 am Divine Liturgy	
Sat., August 22	10 am Divine Liturgy	
Sun., August 23	13th Sunday of Pentecost Intentions of the Parishioners	St. Isaac the Syriac

## **Financial Standing July 2020**

### **Ordinary Income**

Sundays & Holy Days Collections: **\$10,294.81**

Cathedral Stipends from Marriages & Funerals, Lower Hall Rent, Candles, Breakfast, Luncheon, Bake Sale, Dues, Religious Education, flowers, ...: **\$2,585.51**

**Total Ordinary Income: \$12,880.32**

### **Ordinary Expense**

Payroll, Gas, Electricity, Building Insurance and Medical Insurance, Leasing Equipment, TV, Phone, Internet, Church, Hall & Office Supplies, Postage, Regular Maintenance, Charity, Eparchial Appeal, Insurance,...

**Total Ordinary Expense: \$18,228.49**

**Total Ordinary Income vs Expense: -\$5,384.17**

**No income was brought in as extraordinary income.  
The Library did not pay the May, June & July rent.**

**Thank you for your contribution  
in helping maintain the Church  
and in planning different activities**



**PRAY FOR  
LEBANON**

## **YOU MAY ALSO HELP**

### **BY CHECK:**

**Make your donation to Lebanon by sending a check to the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn and in the memo designate your charity either to Caritas, Lebanon or Saint Vincent de Paul**

### **ONLINE:**

**You may also donate online by clicking [here](#)**

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Jeffery Feldman, a former ambassador of the United States of America to Lebanon, in an article entitled *Lebanon as Paradise Lost* wrote after the explosion of August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, "A self-referential joke once common in Lebanon posited that God bestowed Lebanon with beautiful mountains, stunning beaches, freshwater resources, fertile soil and fruited plains, and creative, attractive people: paradise. But then God realized that heaven is reserved for the after-life—so he created..." If I continue with the quote, I enter the realm of politics which I do not want to do. In his description, the former ambassador compared Lebanon to a piece of heaven on earth. He only knew it between 2004 and 2008. Can you imagine how he might have described it if he had known it before the civil war of 1975?

In the late 80s in the midst of the Civil War, Majida El Roumi, a well-known classical Lebanese singer, sang for Beirut a piece written by the famous poet Nizar Qabbani, "We profess before the one God, that we were jealous of you [Beirut] and your beauty was hurting us... and we have gifted you a knife instead of a rose." Beirut, for Majida and Niza, is a beautiful lady with human qualities and characteristics, fully alive, but scarred. Mr. Feldman knew Beirut fourteen or fifteen years after the Lebanese war and he still saw in her a part of God's created paradise, Lebanon.

I was watching President Emmanuel Macron in his press conference in Beirut the day after the blast and I asked myself why the President of France would go to Lebanon less than twelve hours after the huge explosion. Why would the President of an organized, civilized and modern nation like France travel right away to a dysfunctional country like Lebanon? Why would the President of a European country cancel his planned meetings and postpone his dealings with the Covid crisis and economic issues to spend a full day in devastated Beirut? Did the French president go to Beirut because it has a special charm to it that compelled him to go? I think so. But where does this charm and attraction come from?

Psalm 29: 5 reads, "The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon." Beirut is the capital of Lebanon, and Lebanon is the country of the cedars. Like the olive tree, the cedar is a sacred tree, God's tree. Some cedar trees are three thousand years old. Others were used to build the temple of Solomon, the house of God. The cedar of Lebanon endures extreme cold weather with strong winds and an immense amount of snow, to say the least. I think the charm of Lebanon and its capital Beirut comes from the fragrance and perseverance of God's sacred cedar tree. Beirut cannot break easily and the paradise it is is not lost even when the city is covered with ashes and rubble.

We might think that Beirut is destroyed, but, believe me, it is not. It will take much more than 2,750 tons of Ammonium Nitrate to annihilate Beirut. It is only the voice of the Lord if he wills it that can break the city. But will God abolish his paradise, his piece of heaven on earth?

The cedars of Lebanon are Beirut's protectors and anyone who conspires to destroy Beirut has to destroy those enduring cedars too. Keep in mind that the cedars are God's trees. The cedars belong to God.



### Lector Ministry

If you wish to be put on the next lector's schedule, please see Subdeacon Adonis El-Asmar or email the Church at [cathrectory@verzion.net](mailto:cathrectory@verzion.net).

### The 2020 Eparchial Charities Appeal

The Eparchial Charities Appeal will continue to be collected until August 16. We are asked to raise \$5,500 to participate in this awesome mission of the Eparchy. We have collected \$4,659 so far. You may donate [here](#). Thanks for your generosity.

### Congratulation to the New MYA Board

We would like to thank the previous MYA Board for their hard work last year. We would also like to congratulate the new board:

Tiana El Adem, President

Melissa Safi, Vice President

Dr Joseph Sidaoui, Event Planner

Peter Nehme, Secretary/ Social Media Coordinator

Isabel Hazar, Treasurer.

### Bulletin Advertisement

Business owners, you may advertise your businesses in the Church bulletin that reaches over 600 households via email. For more information click [here](#) or call the rectory at 718-624-7228.

### Cathedral Cedar Remembrance Tree

Parishioners and friends can now remember their deceased and honor their living with their names on the commemorative tree located in our Cathedral Chapel vestibule. Please click [here](#) for more details.

### Finance Council Recommendation

The Finance Council recommends that parishioners set their Church donation up as an automatic payment. This is the best way to keep supporting your spiritual home while on vacation or out of town. You may also make your contribution online by clicking [here](#).

### Postponement of the Greece Pilgrimage

Due to the coronavirus, the planned Greece Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Paul was postponed to October 10-19, 2021. It will be the same itinerary as before, but we plan to be joining another group.

### Project Roots

Bishop Gregory is asking to redouble the efforts to register American citizens of Lebanese descent who would like to regain their Lebanese citizenship. Parishioners are encouraged to register their births and marriages in Lebanon. Please check Project Root's [new website](#) and contact [Zahia Abi Habib](#) for more information.



# The 2020 Eparchial Annual Lenten Appeal

A Second Collection for the Eparchial Charities Appeal will be taken every Sunday until August 16. We are asked to raise \$5,500 to participate in this awesome mission of the Eparchy. We have collected \$4,659 so far. You may donate [here](#). Thanks for your generosity.



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Lent 2020

Prot. No. 012 S / 20

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter into the season of preparation through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, I ask you to recall all the ways in which God has blessed you. As you reflect on that, I also ask you to consider supporting the Eparchy of Saint Maron with a donation to our 2020 Lenten Appeal, to further the Eparchy's mission of service to God's faithful people.

Your generosity towards this year's Annual Eparchial Appeal will support:

- **Seminarians:** We currently have five men preparing for the priesthood. Our seminarians are our future priests, and we want them to get the best education and formation possible. We need your help to invest in their education and formation. Each seminarian costs about \$45,000 per year, in the form of tuition, books, room, board, health insurance and other costs. **40% of your contribution to this year's Annual Appeal will go for Seminarians.**
- **Ministries:** Our ministries to young people, the elderly, families, and in defense of life from conception to natural death, help people at the most critical times in their lives. Please help ensure that the Eparchy can help those in need when they need help the most. **20% of your contribution will go to support Ministries.**
- **Retired Priests:** Collectively, the 15 retired priests of the Eparchy served the faithful for over 500 years. Now, we help them with a modest pension of \$2,000 per month. **20% of your contribution will go to support Retired Priests.**
- **Helping in Lebanon and the Middle East:** The Eparchy assists Lebanon and the Middle East in multiple ways, for example: by applying for grants to American foundations and donors, advocating for the persecuted Christians of the Middle East with the U.S. government, and channeling and providing direct financial assistance. **10% of your contribution will go to support Christians in Lebanon and the Middle East.**
- **Endowment:** The Eparchy's Endowment Fund provides a source of income each year for the needs of the Eparchy and ensures that the Eparchy will have resources in the future. It also provides a "rainy day fund" if needed in the future. **10% of your contribution will be deposited into the Eparchy's Endowment.**

I pray that you will open your heart once again and consider giving a gift. Your participation in this Annual Appeal makes a positive difference in the lives of so many people, both inside the Eparchy, and outside of it in the Middle East. Any gift you make will help.

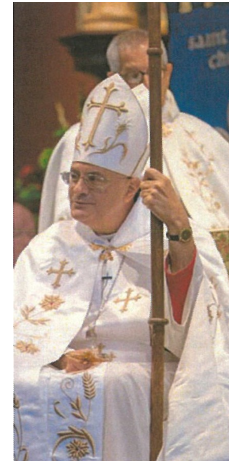
Thank you, and may God bless you for your generosity. I wish you a blessed Lent and Easter.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+ Gregory J. Mansour

PS: Please also consider remembering the Eparchy and your parish in your estate plan, or as the beneficiary of an insurance policy, retirement plan or charitable gift annuity. Thank you.



## Sunday Readings

### قراءات الأحد

#### Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin

##### The Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 12: 9-15

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

##### The Gospel according to Saint Luke 1: 46-55

Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

#### عيد انتقال العذراء مريم

##### رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل رومة 12: 9-15

يا إخوتي، لَتَكُنْ مَحَبَّتُكُمْ بِلَا رِيَاءٍ: تَجَنَّبُوا الشَّرَّ، وَلَا زَمُوا الْخَيْرَ. أَحِبُّوا بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا مَحَبَّةً أَخَوِيَّةً، وَبَادِرُوا بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا بِالْإِكْرَامِ.

كُونُوا فِي الْأَجْتِهَادِ غَيْرِ مُتَكَاسِلِينَ، وَبِالرُّوحِ حَارِّينَ، وَلِلرَّبِّ عَابِدِينَ، وَبِالرَّجَاءِ فَرِحِينَ، وَفِي الضِّيقِ ثَابِتِينَ، وَعَلَى الصَّلَاةِ مُوَظِّبِينَ، وَفِي حَاجَاتِ الْقَدِيسِينَ مُشَارِكِينَ، وَإِلَى ضِيَاةِ الْغُرَبَاءِ سَاعِينَ.

بَارِكُوا الَّذِينَ يَضْطَهُدُونَكُمْ، بَارِكُوا وَلَا تَلْعَنُوا. اِفْرَحُوا مَعَ الْفَرِحِينَ، وَأَبْكُوا مَعَ الْبَاكِينَ.

##### إنجيل القديس لوقا 1: 46-55

قَالَتْ مَرْيَمُ: «تَعْظُمُ نَفْسِي الرَّبِّ،

وَتَبْتَهِجُ رُوحِي بِاللهِ مُخْلِصِي،

لأنَّهُ نَظَرَ إِلَى تَوَاضُعِ أَمْتِهِ. فَهَذَا مِنْذُ الْآنَ تُطَوِّبُنِي جَمِيعُ الْأَجْيَالِ،

لأنَّ الْقَدِيرَ صَنَعَ بِي عَظَائِمَ، وَأَسْمُهُ قُدُّوسٌ،

وَرَحْمَتُهُ إِلَى أَجْيَالٍ وَأَجْيَالٍ لِلَّذِينَ يَتَّقُونَهُ.

صَنَعَ عِزًّا بِسَاعِدِهِ، وَشَتَّتَ الْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ بِأَفْكَارِ قُلُوبِهِمْ.

أَنْزَلَ الْمُقْتَدِرِينَ عَنِ الْعُرُوشِ، وَرَفَعَ

الْمُتَوَاضِعِينَ.

أَشْبَعَ الْجِيَاعَ خَيْرَاتٍ، وَصَرَفَ الْأَغْنِيَاءَ فَارِغِينَ.

عَضَدَ إِسْرَائِيلَ فَتَاهُ ذَاكِرًا رَحْمَتَهُ،

لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ وَنَسْلِهِ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ، كَمَا كَلَّمَ آبَاءَنَا.»



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