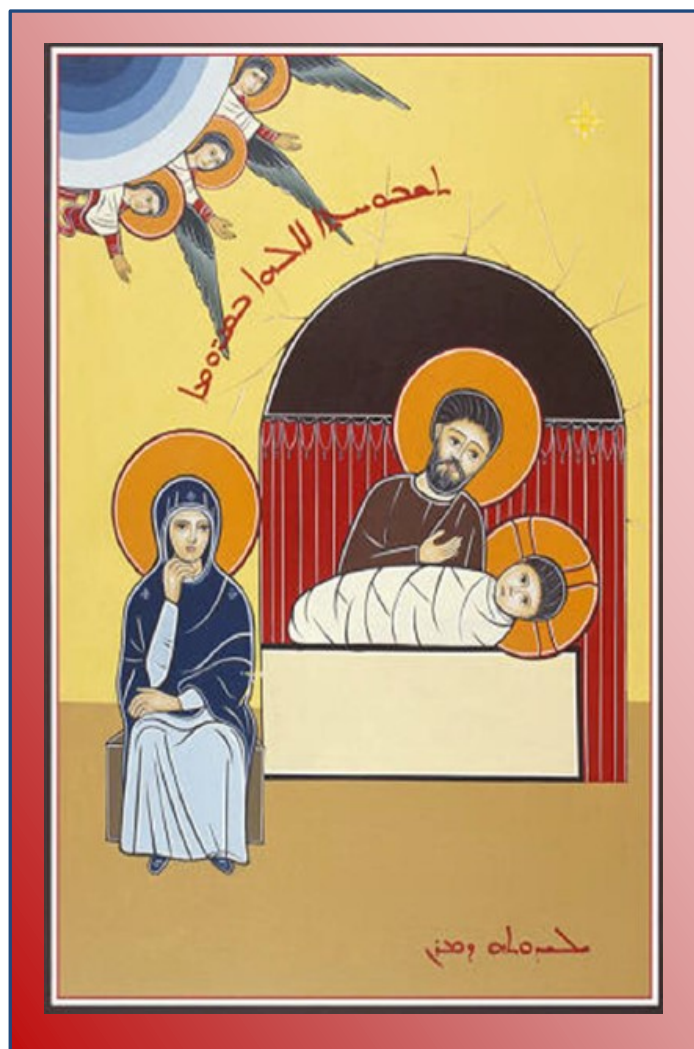


SUNDAY
AFTER
CHRISTMAS

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For emergency call: (202) 829-4779

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



GLORIOUS
BIRTH
OF
OUR
LORD

Sunday after the Birth of Our Lord December 27th, 2020

Sun., December 27	Sunday after the Birth of Our Lord 11: 30 am Forty Day for Marlena Azzi	Req. by the Hache Family
Mon., December 28	NO DIVINE LITURGY The Adoration of the Magi	
Tues., December 29	10 am Divine Liturgy for Jorge Leon's Intentions The Flight into Egypt & the Killing of the Holy Innocents	Req. by Barbara Leon and Family
Wed., December 30	10 am Divine Liturgy for Thomas Chimienti The Return from Egypt to Nazareth	Req. by Mrs. Susan Lopez
Thurs., December 31	10 am Divine Liturgy for Simon Besheer	Req. by Mrs. Salma Vahdat
Fri., January 1	11:30 am Divine Liturgy of the Circumcision of Jesus (Holy Day of Obligation)	
Sat., January 2	10 am Divine Liturgy	
Sun., January 3	Sunday of the Finding of Our Lord in the Temple 11: 30 am for the Intentions of the Parishioners	

Financial Standing November 2020

Ordinary Income

- ♦ Sundays & Holy Days Collections: **\$9,305.33**
- ♦ Cathedral Stipends from Marriages & Funerals, Lower Hall Rent, Candles, Breakfast, Luncheon, Raffle, Dues, Religious Education, Flowers **\$8,668.00**

Total Ordinary Income: \$18,012.15

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: \$14,343.96

Total Ordinary Income vs Expense: \$3,669.19

Do you know? A couple of basic monthly expenses:

Cathedral monthly building insurance: \$3,484.00

Monthly Eparchial Assessment & Bishop's Appeal: \$2,125.00

No income was brought in as extraordinary income. The Library did not pay the May, June, July, August, September and October rents. They vacated the Church Hall at the end of October.

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

HELP LEBANON!



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 & Friends:

Let me start my reflection by wishing all of you, your families and friends a blessed, joyful and holy Christmas season. We have come to this Christmas amid a lot of pain and doubts. Some of us are burdened by conflicts, confusion, deaths, misunderstandings, economic uncertainties, health problems and worries about the future and that of our children. The sad feelings of missing someone, being missed, or being away from family and friends are being combined with the joy of the birth of the Lord. I am mentioning all this to assure you that what we are experiencing today is not far from what the characters we encountered in the Gospels throughout the Season of the Birth of Our Lord went through.

Will the joy of Christ's incarnation overcome the sadness of today's world?

Let us look back to see how our experience pretty much matches the experience of those we met while we were moving from one Sunday to another during this Season of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord. Zechariah doubted the Archangel Gabriel, but Elizabeth conceived. Elizabeth went into seclusion and hid herself from the people for nine months, but in the end her neighbors and relatives knew and rejoiced at the birth of John. Mary was afraid and questioned the angel, but she conceived the Son of God. Joseph, at first, felt betrayed, but the angel, in a dream, assured him that the one to be born of Mary was from the Holy Spirit and was the Son of God Most High. The shepherds were first terrified when the glory of the Lord shone around them, but they went anyway to see if what the angel told them was true. As the angel was speaking to them, Luke 2: 13 states, "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'" When the shepherds saw Mary, Joseph, and the child lying in the manger, they made known what had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds recounted. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Those who were terrified were now chanting, praising and glorifying God. The shepherds became like the angels. Not only that, but at the incarnation, the earth became the dwelling place of God and the cave served as heaven with the manger as the new angelic throne.

Even if we refuse, doubt, decline or reject God's initiative in our lives, his plan is going to be fulfilled, if not in us, in other people and through different means. God had spoken through various signs in the past and people did not follow him, but in due time he spoke through his only Son who took flesh and dwelt among us. A few years ago the United States Senate was able to pass a health bill forcing the insurance companies to accept people with pre-existing conditions. If the government was able to do that, imagine what God could do. God accepts us with pre-existing conditions and with post-existing conditions. He knows our weaknesses, but he accepts us anyway. He knows our comings and goings and he stands at every turn in our life waiting for us to call on him.

My friends, the joy of Christ's incarnation surpasses by far the sadness of today's world. On this blessed night may our fears be transformed to praises, our confusions to certainties, our conflicts to peace, our divisions to unity. Like the shepherds, let us make known the message that we have been told about this Child, the Ancient of Days.

Christ is born! Alleluia!



Sloan Kettering Gift Card Drive

Instead of the usual toy drive for Christmas, a Christmas Gift Card Drive for the children (newborn and up) of Sloan Kettering Cancer Center will be in effect through January 10th. This is the best way to keep the children at Sloan safe during the pandemic. Please bring your Amazon \$25 gift card to Church and give it to Chris Safi. For more information please see Chris Safi.

Salaam Club Scholarship

The Salaam Club of New York has extended the deadline to apply for its scholarships to December 31st. High school graduates and college freshmen are welcome to apply. Please [click here](#) for the application.

Altar Server Schedule

Subdeacon Norbert is putting together a schedule for the altar servers. We will only have two servers each Sunday helping on the Altar. Please register your children with Subdeacon Norbert.

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 the 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 has recommended that parishioners set up their Church donation 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](#).

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@verizon.net



Christmas Flower Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Samir Hosri	In memory of Najla Abi Hanna and Fahme & Edward Hosri
The Abi Habib Family	In memory of Youssef Abi Habib
Mr. & Mrs. Antoine Faisal	In memory of Michel Faisal
Mrs. Phyllis Simon	In memory of the Simon and Raphael families
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Hachiti	In thanksgiving for the living and deceased members of their family
Mr. Joseph M Caram	In memory of Manuel and Mannelia Caram
Mrs. Barbara Jebaily Stellato	In memory of the Jebaily family
Mrs. Marian Ciaccia	In memory of Ronald Ciaccia and Joseph & Helen Sahadi
Mr. & Mrs. Charly Ayoub	In memory of Salam Moussa Chakar
Mrs. Salma Vahdat	In memory of Simon and Hasna Besheer
Mr. Michael Boulos	In memory of Lynne Boulos
Mrs. Marie Schepis	In memory of Violet and Mike Owen
Marleine Aflak	In memory of Elie R. Safi
Mr. & Mrs. William Safi	In memory of Joseph and Dalal El-Hawa
Mr. & Mrs. Chaouki Eladem	In memory of George & Margret Allaham & Haneh & Josephine Eladem
Mary Lee Andronaco	In memory of Josine Pangallo
Pierre & Norma Haddad	For a special intention and for all Covid-19 deceased
Mrs. Gloria Faour	In memory of Mrs. Marie Rouadi
The Merhej Family	In memory of Michel Merhej
Mr. & Mrs. Adib El Houayek	In memory of their beloved family
Mrs. Lydia Gordon	In memory of the deceased members of Nofil and Gordon families
Lorraine Padalino	In memory of Najib and Linda Akel
John & Sonia Abi Habib	In memory of Youssef & Ghassan Abi Habib & Mazen & Nabila Suweidan
Joseph & Joy Nassif	In memory of Laurice, Bichara and Marie Elizabeth Nassif
Mrs. Carol Hamid	In memory of Henry & Rachel Hamid
The Shaia Family	In memory of Philip & Lorraine Shaia
Mary Ann Joulwan	In memory of the Joulwan family
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Tannousis	In honor of John Maurides, M/M Michael Tannousis & M/M Michael Kari
Mr. & Mrs. John Shaia	In memory of Philip & Lorraine Shaia
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick O'Sullivan	In memory of their deceased family members

Sunday Readings

قراءات الأحد

The Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 11: 1-9.

I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I promised you in marriage to one husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by its cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you submit to it readily enough. I think that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. I may be untrained in speech, but not in knowledge; certainly in every way and in all things we have made this evident to you. Did I commit a sin by humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I proclaimed God's good news to you free of charge? I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for my needs were supplied by the friends who came from Macedonia. So I refrained and will continue to refrain from burdening you in any way.

The Gospel according to Saint Matthew 23:29-24: 2

‘Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous, and you say, "If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets." Thus you testify against yourselves that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your ancestors. You snakes, you brood of vipers! How can you escape being sentenced to hell? Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation. ‘Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."’ As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. Then he asked them, ‘You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.’

رسالة بولس الثانية إلى أهل كورنثس 11:1-9

يا إخوتي، لئنكم تحتملوني قليلاً لأنطق بالجهالة! نعم، أحتملوني! فإني أعار عليكم غيرة الله، لأني خطبتكم لرجل واحد هو المسيح، لأقدمكم إليه عذراء طاهرة. لكنني أخاف لعلكم، كما أغوت الحية بمكرها حواء، كذلك تفسد أفكاركم وتتحوّل عن بساطتها وإخلاصها للمسيح! فلو جاءكم أحد يبشّر بيسوع آخر غير الذي بشّرناكم به، أو نلتّم روحاً آخر غير الذي نلتّموه، أو إنجيلاً آخر غير الذي قبلتموه، لكنكم تحتملونه راضين! وأظن أني لم أنقص في شيء عن أكابر الرسل. فإن كنت ساذجاً في كلامي، فليست كذلك في معرفتي، ولقد بينّا لكم ذلك في كل شيء أمام الجميع. أتراني ارتكبت خطيئة، لأني واضعت نفسي ليرتفعوا أنتم، عندما بشّرناكم بإنجيل الله مجاناً؟ لقد سلّبت كنائس أخرى، أخذاً منها النفقة لخدمتكم. ولما كنت عندكم، وأنا معوز، لم أنقل على أحد منكم، لأن عوزي قد سدّه الإخوة الذين جاؤوا من مقدونية. وقد حرصت في كل شيء ألا أنقل عليكم، وسأحرص أيضاً.

انجيل القديس متى 23:29-24:2

قال الرب يسوع: «أوليل لكم، أيها الكتبة والفريسيون المراءون! لأنكم تبنون قبور الأنبياء، وترثيئون مدافن الأبرار، وتقولون: لو كنا في أيام آبائنا لما شاركناهم في دم الأنبياء. فأنتم تشهدون على أنفسكم أنكم أبناء قتلة الأنبياء. فاملأوا أنتم أيضاً كيل آبائكم! أيها الحيات نسل الأفاعي! كيف تهزبون من دينونة جهنم؟ لذلك ها أنا أرسِل إليكم أنبياء وحكماء وكتبة، تقتلون بعضهم وتصلبون، وتجلدون بعضهم في مجامعكم، وتطاردونهم من مدينة إلى مدينة، حتى يقع عليكم كل دم زكي سفك على الأرض، من دم هابيل البار إلى دم زكريّا بن بركيّا، الذي قتلتموه بين المقدس والمدبح. ألحق أقول لكم: سيقع كل ذلك على هذا الجيل! أورشليم، أورشليم، يا قاتلة الأنبياء، وراجمة المرسلين إليها! كم مرّة أردت أن أجمع أولادك كما تجمع الدجاجة فراخها تحت جناحها، ولم تريدوا! هوذا بينكم يُترك لكم حراباً! فإني لأقول لكم: لن تروني من الآن إلى أن تقولوا: مبارك الاتي باسم الرب». «وخرج يسوع من الهيكل ومضى. فدنا منه تلاميذه ليُفتون نظره إلى أبنية الهيكل. فأجاب وقال لهم: «ألا تنظرون هذا كله؟ ألحق أقول لكم: لن يُترك هنا حجر على حجر إلا ويُنقض.»

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