

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Cathedral
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For emergency call: (202) 829-4779
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The Most Reverend Gregory J. Mansour, Eparchial Bishop
The Very Reverend Dominique Hanna, Rector
The Reverend Chuck VanHeusen, Assistant Rector
Subdeacon Norbert Vogl
Subdeacon Adonis El-Asmar

NEW
SUNDAY

***New Sunday / Divine Mercy Sunday
April 7th, 2024***

Sun., April 7	New Sunday / Divine Mercy Sunday / St. John Baptist de la Salle 9 am for the living & deceased of the Perun & Mansour Families 11: 30 am for George Jebaily, Laurice Jebaily, Allen Stellato & Diane Stephan for Rosa Figuera	by Mr. & Mrs. Jorge Leon by the Jebaily Family by Belinda Ricketts
Mon., April 8	NO LITURGY The Second Council of Nicaea / St. Barlaam	
Tues., April 9	10 am Divine Liturgy for Salam Moussa El Chakar St. Hermas	by Mr. & Mrs. Charly Ayoub
Wed., April 10	NO LITURGY The Miracle of the Icon of Christ in Beirut / St. Agabus	
Thurs., April 11	NO LITURGY St. Antipas	
Fri., April 12	NO LITURGY Sts. Mennas, Hermogenes & Eugraphus	
Sat., April 13	10 am Divine Liturgy for Sonia Njeim St. Zosimas	by the Njeim Family
Sun., April 14	Third Sunday of the Resurrection / St. Hermenegild the King 9 am for the Intentions of the Parishioners 11: 30 am for Fadia Esper Zahran	by Mr. & Mrs. Salim Shaia

March 2024 Financial Standing

Ordinary Income

- ◆ Collections on Sundays & Holy Days: **\$13,970.44**
- ◆ Cathedral Stipends from Marriages & Funerals, Hall Rent, Candles, Breakfast, Luncheon, Raffle, Dues, Religious Education, Flowers**\$51,597.11**

Total Ordinary Income: \$65,567.55

Ordinary Expenses

- ◆ Payroll, Gas, Electricity, Building Insurance and Medical Insurance, Leasing Equipment, TV, Phone, Internet, Supplies for Church, Hall & Office, Postage, Regular Maintenance, Charity, Eparchial Appeal, Insurance....**\$44,874.35**

Total Ordinary Expenses: \$44,874.35

Total Ordinary Income vs Expenses: \$20,693.20

**Do you know? A couple of basic monthly expenses:
The Monthly Eparchial Assessment & Bishop's Appeal has increased from \$2,125 to \$2,670 a month starting January 2024.**

The Cathedral's Building Insurance increased 14.3% in 2023, and we paid \$46,122 for the year. It has gone up another 8% in 2024, so we pay \$49,313.00 . The Cathedral monthly building insurance is now \$4,109.41

**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, Saint Vincent de Paul or The Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Cross.

ONLINE:

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

**FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HELP
THROUGH CARITAS LEBANON**

In coordination with Caritas Lebanon, a family in the United States is now able to sponsor a family in Lebanon. The sponsorship varies from \$50 to \$100 per month depending on the size and the need of the family.

Please click [here](#) to sponsor a family.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Knights Easter Raffle

The Knights are sponsoring an Easter Raffle. Tickets are available from Edgard Abi Daher, William Abou Chrouh, Roger Shammas and Georges El Hage. The drawing will take place on Sunday, April 7th, after the 11:30 Divine Liturgy.

The 2023 Eparchial Lenten Appeal

Thanks for all your generous contributions. We were asked to raise \$8,000 to participate in this awesome mission of the Eparchy and we have collected the full amount.

Promoting Vocations

The Eparchy is trying to bring more awareness to the different vocations in life: priesthood, consecrated life, diaconate, married life and generous single life. For this reason, an icon of the Holy Family along with a prayer will be given to a different family each week for prayer every night so God may guide us to discern and promote the various vocations. Please register [here](#) and see Fr. Chuck for more information.

Beatification of Estephan El Douaihy

His Holiness Pope Francis has authorized the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints to promulgate the decree regarding the miracle attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God Estephan El Douaihy, Patriarch of Antioch of the Maronite Church (1670-1704). This decree will pave the way for his beatification which will be held in Lebanon some time in the coming months.

Interested in Joining the Choir?

The choir of the Cathedral would like to welcome anyone interested in joining them to praise the Lord in a more dedicated way. We are also looking for someone who knows the Maronite music to play the organ. Members of the Choir meet on Zoom every Wednesday to plan for Sunday. Please make sure to see Christiane Merhej after the 11:30 Divine Liturgy if you would like to join.

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl

It is time for all those who joined our faith community and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States in a life-changing Lenten journey to bring their CRS Rice Bowl back. Please deposit your family's Rice Bowl in the sacristy or give it to one of the ushers.

Reception for the Friends of the Lebanese Franciscan Sisters of the Cross

The Chargé d'Affaires Majdi Ramadan has the pleasure of inviting you to a reception for the Friends of the Lebanese Franciscan Sisters of the Cross on May 9, 2024, from 6pm to 8pm. The keynote speaker is Dr. Francois Nader, Chairman of BenevolentAI and Jersa Foundation, as well as board director of Moderna. He will share insights into the intersection of innovation, compassion, and support for humanitarian efforts.

Arab Bankers Association of North America Fellowship Award

Fellowships are open to students pursuing graduate studies in business at an American university. Applications will be taken annually for 5 fellowships to be granted annually for \$15,000 each year for two consecutive years for a total of \$30,000. Please apply [here](#).

St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center

The Grand Opening of the Saint Sharbel Spiritual Life Center in Pittsburgh will take place on Saturday, April 13, 2024! The Center is located in the former Epiphany Center and was recently acquired by and is operated under the direction of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn. The Cathedral contributed \$5000 to acquire the Center. Doctor Anne Borik serves as Director and Subdeacon Vincent Michael as Assistant Director. To register online for the Dedication and Open House, or to purchase tickets for the Dinner and Concert (\$50 per person), please click [here](#).

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](#). It was determined that a minimum of \$150.00 per household a month will help meet the Church's budget.

Sixth Pastoral Letter of Bishop Gregory Mansour

[*The Man of God Is a Man for Others*](#) is the most recent pastoral letter of Bishop Gregory. The Bishop said, "The words were born in my heart out of love from one man to another. But I hope my words will also be helpful to women as well." Please click [here](#) to read the letter.

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.

Easter Flower Donations

Mrs. Marion Ciaccia	In memory of the Sahadi & Ciaccia families
Mrs. Salma Vahdat	In memory of the Besheer, Azizi & Vahdat families
Elena Diamontopulos	In memory of Daisy Diamontopulos
Mr. Joseph Nassif	In memory of Bichara, Laurice & Marie Nassif
Mr. & Mrs. Chaouki El Adem	In memory of George Allaham & Haneh, Margo, & Josephine El Adem & Chebel Azar
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Chawki	In memory of Abdul Ahad Chawki
Mr. & Mrs. Adib El Howayek	In honor of their family
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick O'Sullivan	In memory of Georges T. Mouawad, Chantal Graux & Hneine Najjar
The Merhej Family	In memory of Michel Merhej
Mr. Donald Shakal	In memory of John & Helen Shakal
Mrs. Phyllis Simon	In memory of the Simon & Raphael families
The Shaia Family	In memory of Philip & Lorraine Shaia
Mr. & Mrs. Chehade Arnaout	In memory of Joseph Salim Arnaout
Ms. Ada Luz Torres	In memory of Emma Sanchez
Mr. & Mrs. William Safi	In memory of Joseph & Dalal El-Hawa
The Jabour Family	In memory of Elie Sarkis
Mr. & Mrs. Emile Ayli	In memory of Elias & Salimeh Ayli & Lambert, Vera & Norma Yueh
The Abi Habib Family	In memory of Youssef & Ghassan Abi Habib
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Tannousis	In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Caris
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Elhilow	In memory of the Elhilow & Phillips families
Mr. & Mrs. Antoine Atallah	In memory of the deceased members of the Atallah family
Mr. & Mrs. Fadi Hazar	In memory of the deceased members of their family
John & Nayda Kahaly	In memory of the Kahaly family
Mr. & Mrs. Fouad Rahme	In memory of the deceased members of their family

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE ON THE YEAR OF PRAYER

5 March 2024

Prot. No. 058/1/24
Cir.24.32

Dear Brother Priests, Deacons and Subdeacons, Consecrated Men and Women, Lay Faithful,

On January 21, 2024, Pope Francis opened the **Year of Prayer** in anticipation of the Jubilee Year 2025. The Holy Father's intention is to have us look closely at how we relate to the Church, to the family, and to the world, according to the wisdom of the Second Vatican Council, and then apply this practically to our own life of prayer.

As you know, Pope Saint Paul VI beatified Saint Sharbel at the end of the Second Vatican Council in 1965, along with a missionary priest martyr, Jacques Berthieu, who served in Madagascar. What an honor for us as Maronites, to have shared in this spotlight, and what a message the Saintly Pontiff gave to the world (and to us!) that prayer, silence, sacrifice, and a missionary spirit are the ways forward to the renewal of the Church, the family, and the world!

In the Apostolic Letter by which Sharbel was declared blessed, we read this:

"We should mention that we recently decreed the same honors (Beatification) for Jacques Berthieu, who won the prize by struggling in the action of life as though in a spiritual combat. Now, a monk, removed from all human association and given over to contemplation of divine things in solitude, is extolled. Both lives are commended by the Church.... Sharbel who represented anew the life, distinguished by the sanctity of the ancient hermits, kept his mind unperturbed... so that from the happiness of his soul would flow the cheerfulness of his countenance."

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, during this Year of Prayer, let us use this opportunity, in the same spirit that animated Pope Saint Paul VI at the end of the Second Vatican Council when he pointed to Saint Sharbel as a model of prayer and devotion, so that we may keep our "minds unperturbed" and thus from the "happiness of our soul" God will cause to "flow the cheerfulness of our countenance."

+ Gregory

Rafca Fares

A Lebanese Afternoon

Sunday
April 7
1:00 pm

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Subdeacon Adonis El-Asmar
To*

*The Order of Deacons
By The Imposition of Hands of
The Most Reverend Gregory J. Mansour
Bishop of The Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn*

On

*Saturday, May 11, 2024 @ 10:00 AM
Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral
113 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, New York*

Luncheon to follow in Church Hall



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Sunday Readings

قراءات الأحد

New Sunday

Second Letter to the Corinthians 5,11-21.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.

We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore, all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Gospel according to Saint John 20:26-31

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

الأحد الجديد

رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل كورنثس 5:11-21
يا إخواني، بما أننا نعرف مخافة الرب، نحاول أن نثبغ الناس. ونحن مغر وفون لدى الله، ولكني أمل أن نكون معروفين أيضًا في ضمائركم.

ولسنا نعود فنوصيكم بأنفسنا، بل نعطيكم فرصة للافتخار بنا تجاه الذين يفتخرون بالمظهر لا بما في القلب. فإن كنا مجابين فله، وإن كنا عقلاء فلاجلكم؛ إن محبة المسيح تأسرتنا، لأننا أدركنا هذا، وهو أن واحدًا مات عن الجميع، فالجميع إذا ماتوا. لقد مات عن الجميع، لكي لا يحيا الأحياء من بعد لأنفسهم، بل للذي مات عنهم وقام من أجلهم.

إذًا فمئذ الآن نحن لا نعرف أحدًا معرفة بشرية، وإن كنا قد عرفنا المسيح معرفة بشرية، فالآن ما عدنا نعرفه كذلك. إذًا، إن كان أحد في المسيح فهو خلق جديد: لقد زال القديم وصار كل شيء جديدًا. وكل شيء هو من الله، الذي صالحنا مع نفسه بالمسيح، وأعطانا خدمة المصالحة؛

لأن الله صالح العالم مع نفسه بالمسيح، ولم يحاسب الناس على زلاتهم، وأودعنا كلمة المصالحة. إذًا فنحن سفراء المسيح، وكان الله نفسه يدعوكم بواسطتنا. فنسألكم باسم المسيح: تصالحو مع الله! إن الذي ما عرف الخطيئة، جعله الله خطيئة من أجلنا، لنصير نحن فيه برًا لله.

إنجيل القديس يوحنا 20:26-31

بعد ثمانية أيام، كان تلاميذ يسوع ثابته في البيت، وثوما معهم. جاء يسوع، والأبواب مغلقة، فوقف في الوسط وقال: «السلام لكم.»

ثم قال لثوما: «هات إصبعك إلى هنا، وانظر يدي. وهات يدك، وضعها في جبتي. ولا تكن غير مؤمن بل كن مؤمنًا.»
أجاب ثوما وقال له: «ربي والهي.»
قال له يسوع: «لأنك رأيتني أمنت؟ طوبى لمن لم يروا وأمنوا.»

وصنع يسوع أمام تلاميذه آيات أخرى كثيرة لم تدون في هذا الكتاب.

وإنما دونت هذه لكي تؤمنوا أن يسوع هو المسيح ابن الله، ولكي تكون لكم، إذا آمنتم، الحياة باسمه.

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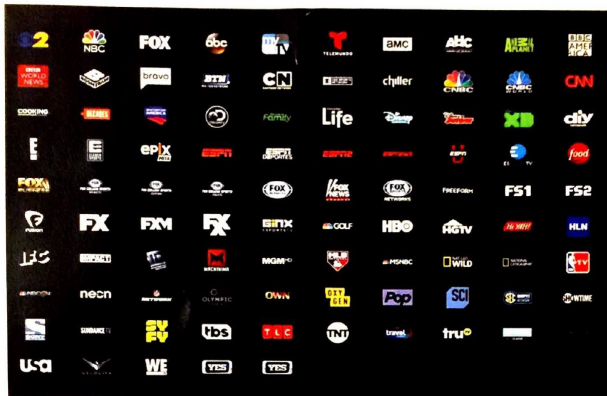
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