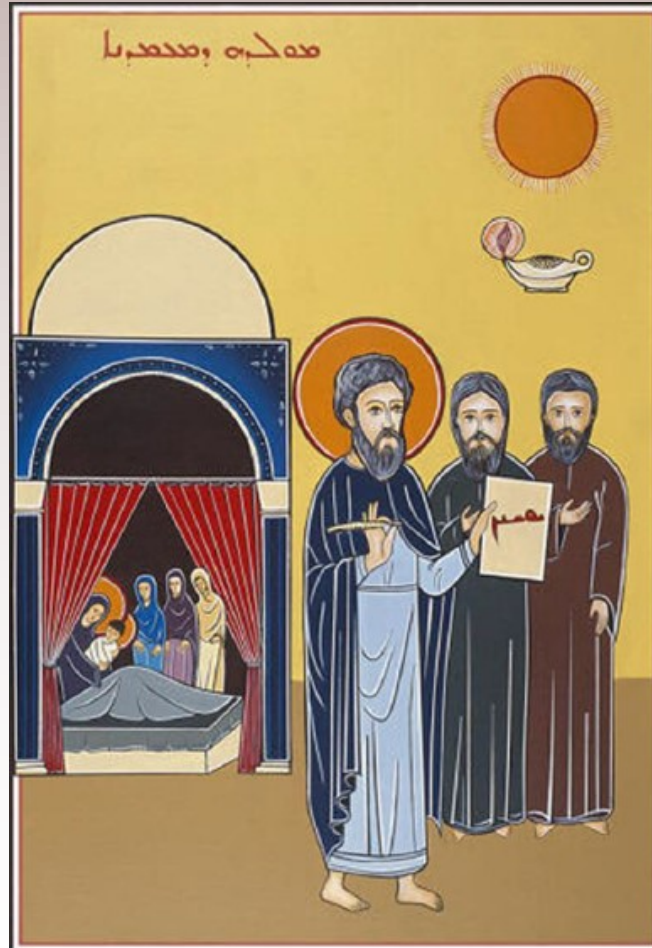


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The Most Reverend Gregory J. Mansour, Eparchial Bishop
The Very Reverend Dominique Hanna, Rector
The Reverend Chuck VanHeusen, Assistant Rector
Deacon Adonis El-Asmar
Subdeacon Norbert Vogl

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST



**Sunday of the Birth of John the Baptist / Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 8th, 2024**

Sun., Dec. 8	The Birth of John the Baptist / Feast of the Immaculate Conception 9 am for George Mansour 11:30 am for Michel Hitti for the Deceased Members of the Confraternity	Req. by Mark Stuczynski & May Anne Jalinos Req. by Antoine Hitti
Mon., Dec. 9	NO DIVINE LITURGY St. Francis of Paola	
Tue., Dec. 10	10 am Divine Liturgy Pope St. Miltiades	
Wed., Dec. 11	10 am Divine Liturgy St. Daniel the Stylite	
Thu., Dec. 12	10 am Divine Liturgy for Felipe & Lisa Leon & Family St. Spyridon the Wonderworker / Our Lady of Guadalupe	Req. by the Leon Family
Fri., Dec. 13	10 am Divine Liturgy St. Lucy	
Sat., Dec. 14	10 am Divine Liturgy St. Nemtallah El-Hardini	
Sun., Dec. 15	The Revelation to Joseph / St. Eleutherius and his Mother 9 am for the Intentions of the Parishioners 11:30 am for the Intentions of the Parishioners	

October 2024 Financial Standing

Ordinary Income

- ◆ Collections on Sundays & Holy Days: **\$8,152.71**
 - ◆ Cathedral Stipends from Marriages & Funerals, Hall Rent, Candles, Breakfast, Luncheon, Raffle, Dues, Religious Education, Flowers**\$16,176.00**
- Total Ordinary Income: \$24,328.71**

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....**\$22,565.66**
- Total Ordinary Expenses: \$22,565.66**

◆ **Total Ordinary Income vs Expenses: 1,763.05**

**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 7% 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!

Caritas Lebanon: Founded in 1972, Caritas Lebanon is the official socio-pastoral arm of the Catholic Church and is under the authority of the Assembly of Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops of Lebanon. Caritas Lebanon assists both individuals and communities through direct assistance to the poor, sick, refugees, victims of sex abuse and trafficking, and others in need. Caritas Lebanon is a member of Caritas International, one of the largest humanitarian networks in the world. Donate [here](#).

Tele-Lumiere / Noursat: Tele-Lumiere / Noursat, the "Television of Light," is the first Christian Television network in Lebanon and the Middle East. It was founded in 1991 by a group of committed lay people. Tele-Lumiere/Noursat has become the daily bread and hope for the Christian minorities in the Middle East, as well as a source of peace for many viewers from different denominations. Donate [here](#).

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul: Founded in 1833 by a group of young laymen, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization of women and men who put their faith into action. The Society is very close to the people. Most parishes and villages have a Society that is active. From the start, the Society has been under the patronage of Saint Vincent de Paul, a great saint, well-known for his works of charity. Donate [here](#).

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

MYO Christmas Get-together

The MYO will have a gingerbread decorating Christmas event is Saturday December 14th at 5:30 pm

Family Christmas Party

Sponsored by the Sunday School, the Cathedral invites all parishioners to a luncheon to celebrate Christmas on Sunday, December 15th, in the Church Hall. Families are welcome, especially the kids, for a fun afternoon with Santa and other surprises. During the 11:30 Liturgy that day, the children will enact the Christmas story.

Christmas Novena December 15th to 23rd

Starting on December 15th until December 23rd, the parish will pray the Christmas Novena every evening at 7:30 pm except Sunday. The tradition of praying nine days before Christmas is a great way to be prepared to welcome God among us.

The Knights Christmas Party

The Knights will have their annual Christmas Party on December 21st at the Cathedral. Please see the flyer on the next page.

Save the Date for the MYA New Year's Eve Party

The MYA will have a New Year's Eve Party on December 31st at the Cathedral. Please see the flyer on the next page.

Urgent Appeal for Lebanon

To meet the growing demands of the healthcare system in Lebanon, people can kindly help in two ways: Financially, by supporting a fundraising campaign that the Consulate is launching through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) USA. With your contributions, UNICEF and partners will procure and deliver medications and medical supplies to Lebanon. Your tax-deductible donation can be made on the following link: [UNICEF Support for Lebanon](#).

Donations in kind, by sending [medications](#), and [medical supplies](#) to 3 Empire Blvd., South Hackensack, NJ, 07696, in preparation for shipping them to Lebanon. The items can be dropped off at the location on weekdays anytime between 9am and 6pm and can also be shipped to the location at any time. For any needed assistance you can reach out to Mr. Imad Hassan at (917) 754-8666.

Women of Grace Bible Study

The Office of Family and Sanctity of Life will begin the Eparchy-wide Women of Grace Bible Study next month. The goal will be to encourage the Women of Grace Foundational Bible Study in the parishes of the Eparchy. Here are links to the study guide and book needed for anyone who would like to participate: Link for the Study Guide: [Women of Grace /](#) Link for the Book: [Women of Grace](#)

Promoting Vocations

The Eparchy is trying to bring more awareness to the different vocations in 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.

See Fr. Chuck for more information. To register, please click [here](#) or scan here



St. Maron Gala

Please join us for our 98th Annual St. Maron Day Gala. The event will be on Saturday, February 8th, at Dyker Beach Golf Course. Cocktail hour begins at 7pm followed by dinner, dancing and a Raffle. Entertainment will be by Eddie Ossama and band. Tickets are \$200 for adults and \$100 for children under 12. Please contact Darine Safi (347) 336-5265 or Georges Elhaje (646) 691-9925 to make your reservations and submit payment. For the upcoming 2025 Jubilee Year, the Commemorative Book will feature anniversaries, birthdays, memorials and events that took place 25 years ago. Please contact Mike Naber (917) 612-4004 if you would like to take an ad. Click [here](#) for more information.

Interested in Joining the Choir?

The choir of the Cathedral would like to welcome anyone interested in joining them to see Christiane Merhej after the 11:30 am Divine Liturgy. We are also looking for someone who knows the Maronite music to play the organ.

Finance Council Recommendation

The Finance Council has recommended that parishioners set up their Church donation as an automatic payment. 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.

Bulletin Advertisements

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.

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Please join us for our annual Christmas Party*

Sponsored by the Knights of St. Maron

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Sunday Readings

قراءات الأحد

Sunday of the Birth of St John the Baptizer

Letter to the Galatians 4:21-5:1

Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, 'Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children, burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than the children of the one who is married.' Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. But just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. But what does the scripture say? 'Drive out the slave and her child; for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance with the child of the free woman.' So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman. For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

The Gospel according to Saint Luke 1:57-66.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

أحد مولد يوحنا

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل غلاطية 4:21-5:1

يا إخوتي، قولوا لي، أنتم الذين تريدون أن تكونوا في حكم الشريعة، أما تسمعون الشريعة؟ فإنه مكتوب: كان لإبراهيم ابنان، واحد من الجارية، وواحد من الحرة.

أما الذي من الجارية فقد ولد بحسب الجسد، وأما الذي من الحرة فبقوة الوعد. وفي ذلك رمز: فسارة وهاجر تمثلان عهدين، عهداً من جبل سيناء يلد للعبودية، وهو هاجر؛ لأن هاجر هي جبل سيناء الذي في بلاد العرب، وتوافق أورشليم الحالية، لأنها في العبودية هي وأولادها.

أما أورشليم العليا فهي حرة، وهي أمنا؛ لأنه مكتوب: «إفرحي، أيتها العاقرة التي لم تلد؛ اندفعي بالترنيم واصرخي، أيتها التي لم تتمخص؛ لأن أولاد المهجورة أكثر من أولاد المتروجة». «أما أنتم، أيتها الإخوة، فإنكم أولاد الوعد مثل إسحق. ولكن، كما كان حينئذ المولود بحسب الجسد يضطهد المولود بحسب الروح، فكذلك الآن أيضاً. ولكن ماذا يقول الكتاب؟ «أطرد الجارية وأبنها، لأن ابن الجارية لا يرث مع ابن الحرة». «إذاً، أيتها الإخوة، لسنا أولاد جارية، بل أولاد الحرة.

إن المسيح قد حررنا لنبقى أحراراً. فانتبوا إذاً ولا تعودوا تخضعون لنير العبودية.

إنجيل القديس لوقا 1:57-66

تم زمان إيصابات لتلد، فولدت ابناً. وسمع جيرائها وأقاربها أن الرب قد عظم رحمته لها، ففرحوا معه. وفي اليوم الثامن جاؤوا ليختنوا الصبي، وسموه باسم أبيه زكريا. فأجابته أمه وقالت: «لا! بل يسمي يوحنا!» فقالوا لها: «لا أحد في قرابتك يدعى بهذا الاسم.»

وأشاروا إلى أبيه ماذا يريد أن يسميه. فطلب لوقا وكتب: «إسمه يوحنا». «فنعجبوا جميعهم. وافتتح فجأة فم زكريا، وأطلق لسانه، وجعل يتكلم ويبارك الله، فاستولى الخوف على جميع جيرانهم، وتحدثت الناس بكل هذه الأمور في كل جبل اليهودية.

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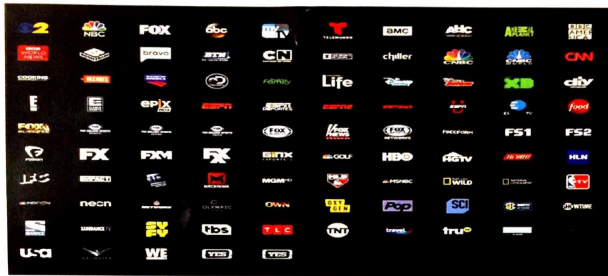
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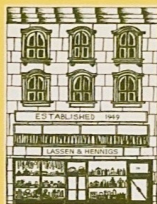
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