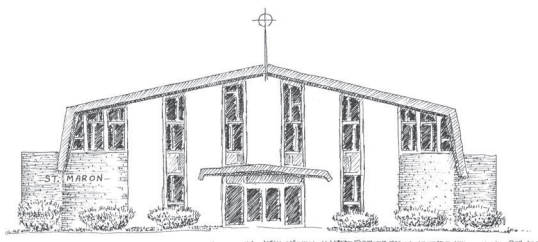


Birth of John the Baptizer

DECEMBER 5, 2010

Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church



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Birth of John the Baptizer

The Church does not usually celebrate the earthly birthdays of the saints, but rather their birthdays in heaven, namely the day of their deaths when they obtain their crown of glory. However, in the case of John the Baptist, we celebrate his earthly birth-his coming into the world to announce the son.

John's coming was filled with marvels. The angel announced his birth. Because of his doubt Zechariah was struck dumb. John leaped with joy in the womb of his mother when visited by the virgin. He was sanctified at that time by the Holy spirit. As soon as John was born, Zechariah was able to speak and sing the beautiful song of "blessed be the lord, the God of Israel," a hymn the Church continues to sing even today.

The angel predicted that many would rejoice at John's birth and that he would be great in the sight of God, and holy, ascetic, and just before the people. He will bring many back to God. He will be the forerunner of the savior and return the hearts of parents to their children, and the unbelievers to the wisdom of the just. He will prepare for God a holy people.

Some months before the Lord began his preaching ministry, John came out of his solitude and appeared near the Jordan River, as the forerunner of the Lord predicted by the prophets. He impressed the crowds by his poverty, austerity of life, severity of preaching and the practicality of his exhortations. His ministry was quite successful. Many people came to him to receive his baptism and confess their faults as he announced the imminence of the messianic kingdom.

He was so humble that he declared himself unworthy to untie the sandals of the Lord. "I have baptized you in water; he will baptize you in the Holy spirit" (Mark 1: 8). He will separate the sinners from the just.

When Jesus came to be baptized, John wanted to withdraw, saying that it was he who should be baptized by the Lord, but Jesus insisted. John said, "Here is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world," and told his disciples to follow Jesus. When the disciples complained that Jesus was becoming more and more popular, John said, "He must increase and I must decrease." He reproached Herod for his scandalous conduct and was put in jail. In prison he sent his disciples to Jesus. He wanted them to follow him and to let Jesus declare himself as the savior predicted by Isaiah. John was praised as superior to all the faithful of the old testament.



Sunday, December 5, 2010

9:30a.m. [Lector: Robert Safadi]

- **Birthday Remembrance for Helen Solomon**, by Asmar Family
- **Victoria Helou Fares**, by Helou Family

11:30 a.m. [Lector: Don Howard]

- **Assad Amine**, by M/M George Kassis
- **For Peace on Earth**, by Msgr. Baz

Monday, December 6, 2010

9:00 a.m. George Thompson by Yolanda Robinson

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

9:00 a.m. Luz Mocapogal by Rowena & Dustin Parks

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

9:00 a.m. Werner Schmidt by Johnell McKee

7:00 p.m. All Parishioners by Msgr. Baz

Thursday, December 9, 2010

9:00 a.m. Tony Labarbera by Lena Labarbera

Friday, December 10, 2010

9:00 a.m. Jim Lacy by Carolyn & Deacon Joe Crowley

Sunday, December 12, 2010

9:30 a.m. [Lector: Robert Safadi]

- **For Peace on Earth**, by Msgr. Baz
- **For all the sick people**, by Msgr. Baz

11:30 a.m. [Lector: Don Howard]

- **For Peace on Earth**, by Msgr. Baz
- **For all the sick people**, by Msgr. Baz
- **Assad Amine** by Susan Pylar and Trudy Ponkly
- **Antonio Malkoun**, by the family

Parish Staff

Secretary.....Ms. Inaam Tamer
 Parish Council President.....Dr. George B. Ghanem
 Stewardship Committee President...Dr. G. Ghafari
 Church Attorney.....Mr. Don Howard
 Director of Public Relation.....Dr. Daher Rahi
 Church Accountant.....Mr. Peter Jabbour
 Hall Manager.....Mr. Rodolphe Jabbour
 Church Business Manager.....Mr. Edward O'Brien
 Ladies Altar Society President Ms. Veronica Asmar
 Ushers Coordinator.....Mr. Raymond Mabarak
 Language Classes Director....Mrs. Theresa Ghafari
 Arabic Choir Director
 English Soloist.....Ms. Mary Anderson
 History & Archive Coordinator. Ms. Veronica Asmar

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. & 11:30a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 The Office is closed on Weekends.

MYSTERY OF BAPTISM & CHRISMATION

You must be a **registered** and **active** member of the parish. Please inform the church office when your child is born. Arrangements should be made **between the parents and the church three weeks in advance of the date** you desire to have your child Baptized and Chrismated. Godparents must be baptized, at least age 14 and must provide a letter of "Good Standing" from their lawful pastor.

MYSTERY OF CROWNING

Allow a MINIMUM of SIX months for all necessary preparations including pre-marriage sessions. The new Code of Canons for the Oriental Churches (CCEO) makes this time frame an absolute necessity. No exceptions will be made unless for extreme reasons.

MYSTERY OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Notify the parish offices or the priest as soon as possible if a family member is in the hospital, nursing home, or is a shut-in, so that the priest can minister to them.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Our Offerings to God

**Our offerings for Sunday, November 28, 2010
for Collection is \$1,058.00 Candles \$155.00**

WISH LIST FOR THE CHURCH

**Please contact the Rectory to donate the
Host and Wine for \$50.00/month, we will be
accepting donations from two different
families each month.**

- **Bread and Wine for a special intention** for the month of December by Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Farrar.
- **Bread and Wine** for special intention for the month of December by **Carol Monsour**.
- **Bread and Wine For a special intention** by anonymous for the month of January 2011
- **Bread and Wine For a special intention** by **M/M Karam Karam** for the month of January 2011.
- **Bread and Wine** is in memory of **Habib and Muna Safadi**, by **Hanna Safadi & family** for the month of February 2011.
- **Bread and Wine in memory of Assad Amine** by **the family** for the month of February 2011.
- **Bread and Wine in memory of Ghassan Ghafari** by **Theresa Ghafari and family** for the month of March 2011.
- **Bread and Wine in memory of Assad Amine** by **the family** for the month of April 2011.
- **Bread and Wine in memory of Chemali and Mabarak families** by **Dolores & Ray Mabarak** for the month of May 2011.

LET US KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Maron's parishioners and friends who are **shut-ins:** Harriet Armaly, Josephine Johns, Victoria Peters.

sick: Julie Hakim, Ronald Hakim, Joyce Mabarak.

Dates to Remember

12-19-2010 Santa is coming & Christmas Luncheon

12-19-2010 Ladies Altar Society Annual Christmas Raffle

12-31-2010 New Year's Party

2-6-2011 St. Maron's Feast Day Banquet

St. Maron's Church Hundred year Celebration

We are having our 100 year Anniversary Celebration on the weekend of Sept 30, Oct 1, & Oct 2, 2011. Our Beloved Bishop Shaheen will be present among us. We will have the following events:

9-30-11 **Clergy Night Banquet**

10-1-11 **100 Year Anniversary Mass & Banquet**

10-2-11 **Family Day Celebration**

If you can help in any way, please see the Chair Person Theresa Ghafari.

We are looking forward to have a historical celebration.

MARONITE SYNAXARION

12-5-10 St. Saba the Hermit

12-14-10 St. Nemtallah El-Hardini

12-20-10 St. Ignatius of Antioch

12-25-10 The Glorious Birth of Our Lord

12-27-10 St. Stephen the First Martyr

Santa's Visit to St. Maron Church

On Sunday December 19, Santa is coming to St. Maron Church to visit our children. The Children will also serve as our Choir too. Please Join us and listen to our Angels sing. Afterward, a luncheon will be sponsored and served by LMD. Please invite your friends and other family members to join us too.

The Immaculate Conception Wednesday Dec. 8

It is a Holy day of Obligation. We have 2 masses for that day 9 am and 7 pm. Try to attend the mass on that day.

Second Collection 12-12-10

Next Sunday December 12, 10. The second collection will be for the Eparchial Christmas Appeal USCCB Charities request.