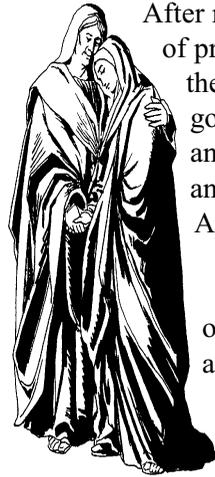


Visitation to Elizabeth

The third Sunday of the Season of the Annunciation commemorates another important event in the unfolding of the Promise of God: Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth.



After receiving such a tremendous good news, Mary could have secluded herself in a life of prayer and contemplation. However, after the angel of the Lord communicated the news of Elizabeth's conception to her, Mary perceived it as the Lord's will that she goes to be with Elizabeth, and thus chose to share the divine life within her with another. Mary shared Jesus with others even before His birth. The fundamental task of an apostle is to share Jesus with others, and so, Mary is called the Queen of the Apostles.

Impelled by the Spirit of God, Mary left on a journey that required four days of difficult travel, especially for a poor girl such as herself. Yet, as the Mother of God and our Mother, she was already concerned for the welfare of others.

When Mary encountered Elizabeth, the unborn infant in her womb leapt for joy, and Elizabeth herself was filled with the Spirit and sang of the blessedness of Mary.

Mary is blessed, not simply because she was to be the Mother of God, but also because of her own personal faith. She heard the words of the angel and accepted everything that was to happen with humility. For this reason, she is blessed throughout the ages.

The hymn of Mary differs from that of Zachariah. Zachariah's hymn is communal: He is proclaiming gratitude to God on behalf of all the people of Israel. On the other hand, Mary's hymn is personal, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord. . . ." She is humbly proclaiming the great things that God has done for her. In humility, the Virgin of Nazareth proclaims how great the Lord has made her by choosing her to be the Mother of His Son. The hymn of Mary announces a three fold revolution which God will bring about through His Son: It is moral "He has confused the proud."; social "He has deposed the mighty from their thrones.... "; and economic ". . . The hungry He has given every good thing. . . .".

To be called by God for any task, brings with it a crown of sorrow and a crown of joy. God chooses us not for our own glorification, but in order to use us to bring about His Kingdom. Like Mary, Let us respond with humility and be grateful to God for choosing us as His instruments.



Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church
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Pastor's Email: Gmsebaali@aol.com
Pastor's cell number: (804) 240-9820

December 2, 2018, Visitation to Elizabeth

Sunday, December 2, 2018

December 9, 2018

- For the Helou and Wehbe families
- For Anthony Korkemaz

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

- Private Intention

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Every Sunday at 10:15 a.m., a group of people meet to pray the Rosary.

Every Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m., there will be an evening prayer service in honor of St. Sharbel followed by the Divine Liturgy and benediction with the icon of St. Sharbel sponsored by *Saint Sharbel Family*.

Last Sunday of every month, a Holy Hour of Adoration and Prayer for Vocations will take place after the 11:00 a.m. Liturgy.

Altar Servers

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Anthony Philippe, Peter Epperly, Chady Nasr and Yoshua Rizk

Are You Interested?

The In Defense of Christians (IDC) is sponsoring its Fifth Annual Solidarity Dinner on **December 5, 2018** at the Hamilton, 600 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC Reception will begin at 6:00 p.m. and Dinner at 7:00 p.m. To register please log in at: <https://indefenseofchristians.org/2018-fifth-annual-solidarity-dinner-registration>, or call the IDC at (202) 351- 6195.

The IDC is a non-profit, non-partisan 501 (c) (3) organization that seeks the protection and preservation of Christians and Christianity in the Middle East through raising global awareness, mobilizing international support, and educating policymakers toward constructive international policies on their behalf.

Holy Day of Obligation

Saturday, December 8, 2018, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated **at 12 noon.**

Attention All Religious Education Teachers

On Saturday, December 8, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. there will be a training seminar for all religious education teachers. Teachers are asked to make every effort to attend. Please let me know if you can not make it. Thank you.

Mark Your Calendar

Our Lady of Lebanon Youth Organization (MYO) will sponsor a Christmas party on Sunday, **December 23, 2018**, following the Divine Liturgy.

Scripture Readings

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Birth of John the Baptizer

Gal 4:21- 5:1; LK 1:57 - 66

Thank you for your generosity

Summary of Collection for **Sunday, November 25, 2018**

Regular Sunday Collection:	\$1034
Tuesday Evening:	\$ 110
Mail Donation	\$ 515
Total:	\$ 1659

Christmas Poinsettias



**ORDER
YOUR
POINSETTIAS**

If you would like to contribute toward flowers for the Church at Christmas, please let me know on or before **December 16, 2018**. To avoid any confusion please **give your check and order form directly to the Pastor** (Please do not bring or have poinsettias delivered). The check should be made payable to Our Lady of Lebanon and should be marked "**Christmas Flowers.**" Cost: **Poinsettias \$20 each**. All flower contributions will be acknowledged in the Christmas Bulletin. Flowers could be in memory of deceased loved ones, or in honor of a loved one, or even in thanksgiving for special graces. Monetary contribution is also appreciated and acknowledged.

Poinsettias Order Form:

Donor's Name: _____

Number of Poinsettias: _____

In memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Thanksgiving: _____