

**Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church**  
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Washington, DC 20012  
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*Msgr. George M. Sebaali, Pastor*  
*Pastor's Email: Gmsebaali@aol.com*  
*Pastor's cell number: (804) 240-9820*

**January 6, 2019, Baptism of the Lord**

**Sunday, January 6, 2019**

- Faten Abou Chabke

**Sunday, January 13, 2019**

- The Haydak Family

**Sunday, January 20, 2019**

**Sunday, January 27, 2019**

**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, January 13, 2019**

Simon Chahine, Peter Epperly, Peter Touma, Jason Pitzer and Ryan Kazzi

### **Ushers**

**Sunday, January 13, 2019**

**Fawzi Abou Chabke, Victor Beasley, Kevin Pitzer and Tony El-Khouri** (If you will not be attending the Liturgy on that day, please get in touch with **Halim Younes** to find a replacement. The ushers will also help Tom Karam count the collection and make the deposit before they give it to the priest to take it to the bank.)

### **Meeting**

The Our Lady of Lebanon Youth Organization (MYO) will hold its meeting on **Sunday, January 13, 2019**, following the Divine Liturgy.

### **Second Collection**

**On Sunday, January 27, 2019**, a second collection will be taken for the Catholic Bishops' Worldwide Charities (this collection combines the four USCCB collections: Central & Eastern Europe, the Church in Latin America, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Operation Rice Bowl which is a part of CRS). The total is divided evenly. All funds collected will be forwarded to the Chancery for transfer to the USCCB.

### **Thank you for your Generosity**

Summary of the Collections for **Christmas** and for **Sunday, December 30, 2018**

Christmas Collection:	\$	957
December 30:	\$	660
Mail Donation	\$	50
End of the Year Contributions	\$	1300
Total:	\$	2967

### **March For Life**

**The Office of Family and Sanctity of Life** of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn would like to invite you to the sixth Maronite Vigil For Life on Thursday January 17, 2019, at Our Lady Of Lebanon Maronite Church in Washington, D.C. Evening prayer, dinner, Eucharistic Adoration, fellowship and movie will start at 6:30

p.m. The Sisters of Life will be the guest speakers this year. Bring your sleeping bags if you are planning to spend the night in the Church.

On Friday January 18, 2019: The Divine Liturgy at 8:30am followed by breakfast, the group will meet at 11:00 am at the Starbucks at the corner of Indiana Ave. and 7th Street to join the March For Life.

Please RSVP no later than Monday January 14, 2019. For more information, Contact Simona Hallal at 540-798-8450, or by email at [jhallal@verizon.net](mailto:jhallal@verizon.net).

### **Liturgical Schedule**

If you wish to schedule a Liturgy please do it soon and in advance. You are kindly asked to contact the **pastor directly**. He **alone** can schedule a Liturgy. Now that we have more than one priest celebrate the Divine Liturgy every Sunday, the Pastor can assign a separate intention for each priest if needed. It is customary that a **voluntary donation (stipend)** is given to the priest who celebrates the Liturgy.

### **Why do we hand on the faith?**

We hand on the faith because Jesus commands us: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19).

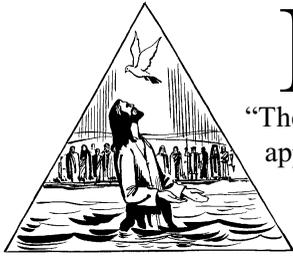
No genuine Christian leaves the transmission of the faith exclusively to specialists (teachers, pastors, missionaries). We are Christ for others. This means that every genuine Christian would like God to come to other people, too. He says to himself, "The Lord needs me! I have been baptized and confirmed and am responsible for helping the people around me to learn about God and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2:4b)." Mother Teresa used a good comparison: "Often you can see power lines running alongside the street. Unless current is flowing through them, there is no light. The power line is you and I! The current is God! We have the power to allow the current to flow through us and thus to generate the light of the world: JESUS - or to refuse to be used and, thus, allow the darkness to spread" (YOU CAT question 11).

### **Scripture Readings**

**Sunday January 13, 2019, First Sunday of Epiphany**

2 Corinthians 10:1-11; John 1:29 - 34

## Epiphany of the Lord



In the Eastern Church the feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ is known by two names : Epiphany and Theophany. The Greek word, “Epiphany” means “ a manifestation” or “ an apparition” and the word, “Theophany”, means “ an appearance of God.” On this day we celebrate the appearance or manifestation of Christ among us as God’s Son.

The feast of Epiphany was first celebrated in the East around the third century and eventually was adopted by the Western Church. In the Eastern Churches the celebration of the Epiphany originally centered on both the Birth of our Lord and his Baptism. When the later Western feast of Christmas was introduced into the East, Christmas became the feast of the Birth of our Lord and the Epiphany, that of his Baptism.

The feast of Epiphany is intimately connected with the mystery of our Lord’s birth. The Child who was born for us and the Son who was given to us is manifested before us to be the Son of the Most High. Christ begins his public life with his baptism by John in the Jordan river. At his Baptism Christ is seen as the fulfillment of John’s preaching: He is the Messiah and the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, The Father and the Holy Spirit are witnesses to Christ for he is the beloved Son of the Father and upon him the Spirit rest. Thus at the baptism of the Lord we have not only an epiphany or manifestation of Christ as God’s Son, but also a Theophany or manifestation of the Holy Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The feast of the Epiphany reminds us not only of the baptism of Christ, but also of our own baptism. St. Ephrem in his hymn on Epiphany says :” ... *our blessed Lord came to be baptized with sinners and because of his glory the heavens were opened. The One who purifies all creatures, desiring to cleanse them, went into the waters and sanctified them for our baptism.*” It is for this reason that we bless water on the day. Originally, the mystery of Baptism was celebrated on this feast and the waters blessed were those of baptism.

Today, we celebrate the manifestation or epiphany of the Trinity at the baptism of Christ as well as the manifestation of the glory of God in the person of the Lord come into the world, that is to say, the manifestation of Christ, the Word of God, among us. Let us then call to mind the grace of God who has appeared for the salvation of all, and thank him for the baptism through which we have been begotten in the Spirit and through which we have put on Christ and become children of the Father.

