

# OUR LADY OF LEBANON

## MARONITE CHURCH NEWS

Our Lady Of Lebanon Maronite Church  
7164 Alaska Ave N.W.  
Washington DC 20012

Chor-Bishop Dominic F. Ashkar, Pastor  
202-829-5554 (O) 202-291-5153 (H)

[www.ourladyoflebanon-DC.org](http://www.ourladyoflebanon-DC.org)

*"Mary, Shield of our Maronite Faith"*

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Dear parishioners and Friends:

How often we hear ourselves and others say, "I very busy...I don't have time for this or for that...I don't have time to go to church because I am busy or because I am working..."

I wish to share with you the following text entitled *"The Enemy's Perfect Plan,"* by Unknown Author. Let's not allow the enemy to distract us...

Satan called a worldwide convention. In his opening address to his evil angels, he said, "We can't keep Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We can't even keep them from conservative values. But we can do something else. We can keep them from forming an intimate, abiding relationship experience in Christ. If they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken. So let them go to church, let them have their conservative lifestyles, but steal their time, so that they can't gain that experience in Jesus Christ. This is what I want you to do, angels. Distract them from gaining hold of their Savior and maintaining that vital connection throughout their "How shall we do this?" shouted his angels.

Keep them busy in the nonessentials of life and unnumbered schemes to occupy their minds" he answered. Tempt them to spend, spend, spend then borrow, borrow, borrow. Convince the wives to go to work for long

hours and the husbands to work six or seven days a week, ten to twelve hours a day so they can afford their lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children. As their family fragments, soon their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work.

"Over stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that small still voice. Entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive, to keep the TV, VCR, CD's and their PC's going constantly in their homes. And see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly. This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ."

Fill their coffee tables with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with news hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, sweepstakes, mail order catalogues, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering, free products, services and false hopes."

"Even their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted, disquieted, and unprepared for the coming week. Don't let them go out in nature to reflect on God's wonders. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts and movies instead. And when they meet for spiritual fellowship,

involve them in Gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences and unsettled emotion.”

Let them be involved in soul winning. But crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Christ.

Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family unity for the good of the cause.”

It was quite a convention in the end. And the evil angels went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to get busy, busy, busy and rush here and there.

Has the devil been successful at his schemes? You be the judge.

The following short passage entitled “*A Sign of the Times*,” Satan’s ways are working. The Sign of the Times says,

They lie on the table, side by side The Holy Bible and the TV Guide.

One is well worn, but cherished with pride (Not the Bible, but the TV Guide).

One is used daily to help folks decide. (Not the Bible: it’s the TV Guide.)

As the pages are turned, what shall they see Oh, what does it matter?... turn on the TV.

Then confusion reigns, they can’t all agree what they shall watch on the old TV.

So they open the book in which they confide (No, not the Bible...it’s the TV Guide.)

The Word of God is seldom read. Maybe a verse e’er they fall into bed.

Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be...not from reading the Bible; from watching TV.

So then back to the table, side by side, lay the Holy Bible and the TV Guide.

No time for prayer...no time for the Word. The plan of salvation is seldom heard.

But forgiveness of sin so full and free is found in the Bible ... NOT on TV!

*My Friends, it is up to every one of us to evaluate our spiritual life and see if it is pleasing to God.*

Your priest,  
Dominic Ashkar

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

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|---------------|--|
| September 3:  | Registration for Religious Education Classes           |
| September 10: | Religious Education Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.        |
| September 16: | ANNUAL CHURCH FESTIVAL                                 |
| September 17: | Catechetical Sunday                                    |
| ???           | Annual Raffle  |
| December 2:   | St. Barbara’s Hafli                                    |
| December 17:  | Children Christmas Party                               |
| February 11:  | St. Maron’s Feast Day Celebration                      |
| February 17:  | St. Valentine’s Hafli                                  |
| March 24:     | Day of Recollection                                    |
| March 25:     | Hosanna Sunday Bake Sale                               |
| May 6:        | Feast of our Lady of Lebanon<br>General Parish Meeting |
| May 20:       | First Communion  |
| May 27:       | Last Day of Religious Education Classes                |
| June 2: ????  | 5K Run/Walk and Parish Picnic                          |

**Reminder:** Your payment of a monthly dues of \$15 would be an expression of your willingness to help the church.

Your newsletter editor,

Laurie Smith