



Special Bulletin

Christmas 2022

Merry Christmas From all of us

Christmas Masses Schedule

Saturday, December 24:

4:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Mass

10:00 p.m.: Christmas Midnight Mass

Sunday, December 25th: Day of Obligation

10:30 a.m.: Christmas Day Morning Mass

New Year Masses Schedule

Saturday, December 31st, 2022:

4:00 p.m.: New Year's Eve Mass (No Midnight Mass)

Sunday, January 1st, 2023: New Year's Day (Day of Obligation)

10:30 a.m.: New Year's Day Mass

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

- ***Confession:** Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment
- ***Baptism:** Please call the Pastor as soon as baby is born; at least one Godparent must be Catholic
- ***Weddings:** Please make arrangements at least **six** months in advance before any other plans are made
- ***Sick Calls & Anointing of the Sick:** Please notify the Pastor at 304-233-1688
- ***Parish Council:** Lou Kourey, Mary Stees, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad
- ***Organist:** Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D.
- ***Choir Members:** Lou Kourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Holly Stahl
- ***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer
- ***Altar Server:** Earl Duffy and Joe Roxby
- ***Altar Boy:** Christopher AlKhouri
- ***Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President
- ***Women's Society:** Jeannette Wakim, President

Glorious Birth of our Lord

Readings: Is 8:23, 9:1-6; Heb 1:1-12 and Lk 2:1-20

Christmas: Jesus, our Light, Mary Mother of the Light.

The Divine Liturgy in the Maronite tradition often mentions the title, “Mary, Mother of the Light.” This title is rich in theological and spiritual significance and is indeed one of the treasures of the Maronite Church. The image of light conveys a sense of joy, festivity and life. Religion uses the image of light to express the notion of purity and the presence of God. Since light is the element that is proper to the Divine Being, from ancient times the pagans adored the sun. At the end of December, the pagans celebrated a feast dedicated to the “Unconquerable Sun.” In fact, on December 21st the nights, which had been becoming longer and longer, begin to shorten. The ancients celebrated this conquest of the light over the darkness.

When Constantine granted freedom for Christians to worship publicly, it was appropriate to replace the celebration of the Unconquerable Sun, with the Feast of the New Sun of the world, to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world (John :19). The image of light is found throughout salvation history. The Aramaic tradition teaches us that creation is a preparation for the incarnation of the Son of God. All was created by the Father, through the Son. Scripture tells us that the first thing that was created is the sun: it is the heavenly body that gives forth light, warmth and life itself. The sun is the image of the Son of God because Christ Himself is that Light which comes from heaven. As a ray of light coming through a cloud, He appeared from the Virgin Mary.

When God created the world, He separated the light from the darkness, and throughout the Old Testament, one finds the light and the darkness contrasted with one another. In the New Testament, there is a constant struggle between the light and the darkness. The genealogy in the gospel account of Matthew describes the human ancestry of Jesus and, as such, lists the sinners whose sins Jesus had to bear. This is the side of darkness in the spiritual realm. Saint John describes Jesus as coming from God, light from light: “I have come to the world as its light to keep anyone who believes in me from remaining in the dark” (John 12:46).

The account of the birth of Jesus contains the image of light throughout. The shepherds saw a great light, “The glory of the Lord shone around them” (Luke 2:9). The Magi saw a brilliant star in the skies, and followed it (Matthew 2: 9-11). The shepherds said, “let us go”, and the Magi said, “we saw a light and we came” (Luke 2:15; Matthew 2:2).

Throughout the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we find the image of light used to express His divinity. His baptism was a true revelation and, as such, a great enlightenment. During the transfiguration, Jesus was surrounded by light (Matthew 17:2-5). When Jesus died on the cross, darkness came upon the earth (Matthew 27:45) and the soldier, standing at the foot of the cross, was moved to say, “Truly, this was the Son of God” (Matthew 27:54).

The resurrection itself was blinding light (Matthew 28:2). The descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is described as “tongues of fire” (Acts 2:3). Upon seeing a great light and being thrown from his horse, Saul came to believe (Acts 9:3). While in prison, Peter saw a bright light and was freed from his chains (Acts 12:6).

Just as the shepherds and Magi saw and followed the light, we who have seen the Light must follow. Jesus told us, “Walk while you have the light” (John 2: 19). This is the feast of the Birth of Our Lord, the Light of the world, should be an incentive for us to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). “The night shall be no more. They will need no light from lamps or the sun, for the Lord God shall give them light and they shall reign forever” (Revelation 22:5). --(From the Synaxarion of Ramsho-Birth of Our Lord)

This Weekend, Dec 24-25: Glorious Birth of our Lord

Saturday, December 24:

At 4:00 p.m.: (Christmas Children Mass) (Choir will sing)

✠ Shirley Elias Nickerson and Deceased members of the Elias Family by their loving Family

✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

✠ Special Intention

At 10:00 p.m.: (Christmas Midnight Mass) (Choir will sing)

✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe & Frances Linton by Steve Linton

✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

✠ John Shibben by John & Tulane Mensore

Sunday, December 25 at 10:30 a.m.: (Christmas Day Mass) (Choir will sing)

✠ Chamse Rahi by Lou and Charlotte Kourey and Family

✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe & Frances Linton by Steve Linton

✠ John Shibben by John & Tulane Mensore

Next Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, December 26: No Mass. Pastor day off.

Tuesday, December 27: Mass at Noon

✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will

✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

✠ John Shibben by Marion Drews

Wednesday, December 28: No Mass. Office work

Thursday, December 29: Mass at Noon

✠ Chamse Rahi by Eva Lee Powell

✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe & Frances Linton by Steve Linton

✠ John Shibben by Marion Drews

Friday, December 30: No Mass. Visitation of the sick.

New Year Masses Schedule

Saturday, December 31st, 2022: at 4:00 p.m.: New Year's Eve Mass (No Midnight Mass)

✠ Chamse Rahi by the Women Society of OLOL

✠ Bob Sengewalt by his grandchildren: Jeff, Courtney and Patrick Sengewalt

✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe & Frances Linton by Steve Linton

Sunday, January 1st, 2023: New Year's Day (Day of Obligation)

10:30 a.m.: New Year's Day Mass (Choir will sing)

✠ Deceased of the Habdo Family by Carol Dougherty

✠ John Shibben by Marion Drews

✠ Chamse Rahi by the Jochum Family

Christmas Poinsettias in Memory of:

Please donate toward decorating the altar with poinsettias during Christmas. Every poinsettia cost \$25.00

☼ Louis N. & Louis H. Kourey, Sr. & Gladys Howard by Lou & Charlotte Kourey & Family

☼ In Memory of Leslie & Jerry Jr. by Jerry McGlumphy

☼ In Memory of Tom Ferris by his daughter Denise Ferris

☼ In Memory of Mary K. Ferris by her daughter Denise Ferris

☼ In Memory of Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt and Family

☼ In Memory of Ray, Sara, Nick & Gary McLaughlin by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

☼ In Memory Elias & Selma Joseph Family by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

☼ In Memory John & Mary Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

☼ In Honor of Mary Lish

☼ In Memory of Rita Strawn by Rex Strawn

☼ In Memory of the Strawn & Thomas Families by Rex Strawn

☼ In Memory of Danny & Milley Manners by NiNi Miller

☼ In Memory of Nimon & Mariam Joseph Family by the Joseph & Weisner Families

☼ In Honor of Frank, Anna Marie and Michael Duymich

☼ In Memory of the Wakim Family by Chris & Jeannette Wakim

☼ In Memory of the Yeater Family by Chris & Jeannette Wakim

- ☼ In Memory of the AlKhouri & AlAhmar Families by Dr Alkhouri and Family
- ☼ In Memory of my husband Rick Frazier by his wife Luane Frazier & my mother Cecilia Ann Murad
- ☼ In Memory of Ralph & Mary Joseph Shipley & Deceased Family by Thomasina Geimer
- ☼ In Memory of Phillip Geimer by his wife Thomasina Geimer
- ☼ In Memory of Adboo & Dorothy Saseen by Jim & Patty Saseen Connell
- ☼ In Memory of the Saseen & Schlog Families mainly Bob by Fran Saseen
- ☼ In Memory of Shirley Elias Nickerson & Deceased Members of the Elias Family by Tammy Strong
- ☼ In Honor of Ron Weisner
- ☼ In Memory of Mary Murad by Jay & Liz & Eva Murad
- ☼ In Memory of Rachel Farrah by Emily Kawas
- ☼ In Memory of Joe Kawas by Emily Kawas

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

December 25: Shelly Hancher

December 27: Luke Lenz, Jay Murad

December 29: Jeff Bentz

January 1: Nancy Joseph

January 3: Rosemary Coury

January 6: Gina Stees

January 7: Jacob Fadoul Wilson

January 10: Marjorie John, Mary Petros-Hill

January 11: Jennifer Klein

January 23: Dale Seidler Jr.

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$1,301.00	Sunday Collection
160.00	Bake sale
120.00	Bulletin Ads
50.00	Candles
220.00	Donation to the church
80.00	Raffles
70.00	utilities
\$2,001.00	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i> Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Mary Stees, Linda Duffy, Susan Burns, Liz Murad

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

(Note: Please call Msgr. Bakhos if you need your name added to our Prayer List. HIPPA regulations)

Bettie Jane Fadoul, Patrick Sengewalt, Julia Schiess (FL) daughter of Leo Bleifus, (Renee Beabout (daughter of Marge John), Mary Stees, Rex Strawn, Viola J. Yeater (mother of Jeannette Wakim), Mary Thomas, Jack Hogan (infant son of Mark & Michaela Hogan & great nephew of Lou Khourey), Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, John Shiben, Patty Fahey, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter),

What's New?

50/50 Christmas Raffles

The **50/50 Christmas Raffle** was drawn on **Sunday, December 18 in the Cedar Hall**. The winner was: Holly Stahl, the daughter of our organist Mary Lee Porter. Her net Prize was \$760.00. Congratulations

Discernment Weekend *(March 24-26, 2023)*

Wondering if the Lord is calling you to the priesthood in the Maronite church? Men aged 18-40 are invited for the weekend of fellowship, prayer, discussion and discernment on March 24-26, 2023 at the Maronite Seminary, Washington, DC. Information: 202-723-8831

Mahrajan Update (Sunday, August 13, 2023)

Next year's date:

Next year we will celebrate our 90th Lebanese Festival (Mahrajan) at Oglebay Park on Sunday, August 13, 2023.

Mahrajan Mailing List:

If you have a friend or know someone who would be interested in receiving correspondence about next year's Festival, please submit their addresses to Msgr. Bakhos.

Spirituality: B.V.Mary

Fulgens Corona

His Holiness Pope Pius XII

Encyclical Proclaiming a Marian Year, September 8, 1953 (*continued*)

41. Everybody knows what difficulties the Church is experiencing in many parts of the world; with what lies, detraction and spoliation she has to contend. All know that in many places pastors of souls are either unhappily banished or thrown into prison without just cause, or else are so harassed that they are unable to carry out their duties properly. Finally, all are well aware that in those same places they are not allowed to have their own schools and training colleges, that they cannot publicly teach, defend or propagate Christian doctrine in periodicals or commentaries, and cannot properly train the youth in accordance with the same doctrine.

42. Therefore, in this Encyclical Letter We earnestly repeat those exhortations made by Us more than once before as the occasion arose: and We firmly trust that during the celebration of this Marian Year fervent prayers be offered throughout the world to the most powerful Mother of God who is also our tender mother; and that in those prayers special requests be made of her efficacious and ever-present patronage, that the sacred rights which are proper to the Church, and which the very exercise of human and civil liberty demands, may be openly and sincerely recognized by all, and this without doubt will conduce to greatest common good and an increase of common concord.

43. We desire in the first place to direct Our exhortation, inspired by ardent charity, to those who, reduced to silence and trapped by all sorts of cunning snares, look with anguish of soul at the affliction and distress of their Christian community, left destitute of all human help. Let these, our dearly beloved brothers, also join with us and all other Christians in invoking before the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation (Cf. 2 Cor. 1. 3) the most powerful patronage of the Virgin Mother of God, our mother also, and let them ask her for heavenly aid and Divine consolation. Persevering in the ancient Faith with undaunted courage, let them take as their motto of Christian fortitude in this time of trial the words of the Mellifluous Doctor: "We shall stand and fight to death, if needs be, for (the Church) Our Mother, and with lawful weapons: not with the sword and shield, but with prayers and sighs to God (St. Bernard, Epistle 221. 3: Migne PL 182. 36, 387).

44. Furthermore, We call on those also who are separated from Us by ancient schism and whom none the less We love with paternal affection to unite in pouring forth these joint prayers and supplications, knowing full well how greatly they venerate the Mother of Jesus Christ and celebrate her Immaculate Conception. May the same Blessed Virgin Mary look down on all those who are proud to call themselves Christians, and who, being united at least by the bond of charity, humbly raise to her their eyes, their minds and their prayers, imploring that light which illumines the mind with heavenly rays, and begging for that unity by which at last there may be one fold and one shepherd (Cf. John 10. 16).

45. To these unanimous prayers, pious works of penance should be added. For the effect of devotion to prayer is this: "The soul is sustained, is prepared for arduous deeds and ascends to things Divine. The effect of penance is that we control ourselves, especially our body, which is, because of original sin, most rebellious against reason and the law of the Gospel. It is clear that these two virtues are intimately connected, help one another, and combine to withdraw man, who was born for Heaven, from transitory things, and carry him close to heavenly intimacy with God" (Leo XIII, encyc. Octobri mense, Sept. 22, 1891; Acta Leonis X01, XI, p. 312).

46. Since, however, solid, sincere and tranquil peace has not yet appeared in souls and among peoples, let all strive with pious prayer to fully and fruitfully obtain and consolidate it, so that, just as the Most Blessed Virgin

brought forth the Prince of Peace, so also may she, by her protection and patronage, unite men in friendly agreement. For then only can they enjoy whatever peaceful prosperity may be given to us during the course of this mortal life--when they are not divided by rivalries, not wretchedly torn by dissensions, not forced into opposite camps by threats and intrigues; but when, joining hands in friendly affection, they exchange the kiss of peace, that peace "which is tranquil liberty" (Cic, Phil. II. 44), and which, guided by justice and nurtured by charity, unites in one harmonious family the various classes of citizens, nations and people.

47. May the Divine Redeemer, moved by the favor and intercession of His most benign Mother, grant the widest and most fruitful effects to these Our most ardent desires, to which will correspond, We are sure, the wishes, not only of Our own children but also of all those who have at heart the interests of Christian culture and the progress of civil life.

48. Meanwhile, may the Apostolic Benediction which We impart most lovingly in the Lord to all of you, Venerable Brethren, as also to your clergy and people, be a pledge of heavenly gifts and a token of Our paternal benevolence.

49. Given at St. Peter's Rome, on the eighth day of September, on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the year 1953, the fifteenth of Our Pontificate. (*End*)

Wisdom: Life and its bounty

Lisa Beamer on Good Morning America - If you remember, she's the wife of Todd Beamer who said "Let's Roll!" and helped take down the plane that was heading for Washington, D.C.

She said it's the little things that she misses most about Todd, such as hearing the garage door open as he came home, and her children running to meet him. She now the Mom of a beautiful little girl, Mary Lisa. She recalled this story:

I had a very special teacher in high school many years ago whose husband died suddenly of a heart attack. About a week after his death, she shared some of her insight with a classroom of students. As the late afternoon sunlight came streaming in through the classroom windows and the class was nearly over, she moved a few things aside on the edge of her desk and sat down there.

With a gentle look of reflection on her face, she paused and said, "Class is over. I would like to share with all of you, a thought that is unrelated to class, but which I feel is very important. "Each of us is put here on earth to learn, share, love, appreciate and give of ourselves. None of us knows when this fantastic experience will end. It can be taken away at any moment. Perhaps this is God's way of telling us that we must make the most out of every single day."

Her eyes beginning to water, she went on, "So I would like you all to make me a promise. From now on, on your way to school, or on your way home, find something beautiful to notice. It doesn't have to be something you see, it could be a scent, perhaps of freshly baked bread wafting out of someone's house, or it could be the sound of the breeze slightly rustling the leaves in the trees, or the way the morning light catches one autumn leaf as it falls gently to the ground. "Please look for these things, and cherish them. For although it may sound trite to some, these things are the 'stuff' of life. The little things we are put here on earth to enjoy. The things we often take for granted. We must make it important to notice them, for at anytime it can all be taken away."

The class was completely quiet. We all picked up our books and filed out of the room silently. That afternoon, I noticed more things on my way home from school than I had that whole semester.

Every once in a while, I think of that teacher and remember what an impression she made on all of us, and I try to appreciate all of those things that sometimes we all overlook.

Take notice of something special you see on your lunch hour today. Let someone that is special to you, know how you feel about them. Go barefoot, or walk on the beach at sunset. Stop off on the way home tonight to get a double dip ice cream cone. For as we get older, "It is not the things we did that we often regret, but the things we didn't do." The sharing of life itself.

Story: Miraculous Photo

A picture began circulating in November. It should be "The Picture of the Year," or perhaps, "Picture of the Decade." It won't be. In fact, unless you obtained a copy of the US paper which published it, you probably would never have seen it.

The picture is that of a 21-week-old unborn baby named Samuel Alexander Armas, who is being operated on by surgeon named Joseph Bruner. The baby was diagnosed with spina bifida and would not survive if removed from his mother's womb. Little Samuel's mother, Julie Armas, is an obstetrics nurse in Atlanta. She knew of Dr. Bruner's remarkable surgical procedure. Practicing at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, he performs these special operations while the baby is still in the womb.

During the procedure, the doctor removes the uterus via C-section and makes a small incision to operate on the baby. As Dr. Bruner completed the surgery on Samuel, the little guy reached his tiny, but fully developed hand through the incision and firmly grasped the surgeon's finger. Dr. Bruner was reported as saying that when his finger was grasped, it was the most emotional moment of his life, and that for an instant during the procedure he was just frozen, totally immobile.

The photograph captures this amazing event with perfect clarity. The editors titled the picture, "Hand of Hope." The text explaining the picture begins, "The tiny hand of 21-week-old fetus Samuel Alexander Armas emerges from the mother's uterus to grasp the finger of Dr. Joseph Bruner as if thanking the doctor for the gift of life." Little Samuel's mother said they "wept for days" when they saw the picture. She said, "The photo reminds us pregnancy isn't about disability or an illness, it's about a little person."

Samuel was born in perfect health, the operation 100 percent successful.

Don't tell me my God isn't an awesome God!!!!

A Time to Laugh (42)

Human Nature

A couple were wondering how to dispose of five attractive puppies they had just acquired. The man drove all around town attempting to give them away but no one would have them.

They announced over the local radio that they had pedigree puppies to give away.

No one seemed interested. Finally a neighbor advised them to advertise. They went back to announce on the radio that they would sell the pups at twenty-five dollars each. Before the day was out every one of the puppies had been sold!

Business

A young business executive phoned his foreign representative one day and tersely announced: *"I am calling to give instructions. This call will last no more than three minutes. I shall speak and you are not to interrupt. Any comments or queries you have are to be cabled to me later."*

With that he went on to deliver his message. His delivery was so rapid that he finished a little ahead of time.

"We have twenty seconds left," he told the man at the other end. *"have you anything to say?"*

"Yes," came the reply. *"You spoke so fast I couldn't understand a word."*

Relationships

When Calvin Coolidge was President of the United States, he saw dozens of people each day. Most had complaints of one kind or another.

One day a visiting Governor told the President that he did not understand how he was able to meet so many people in the space of a few hours.

"Why, you are finished with all your visitors by dinner time," said the Governor, *"while I am often in my office till midnight."*

"Yes," said Coolidge. *"That's because you talk."*

Human Nature

A man in Las Vegas approached a wealthy-looking stranger and said, *"Can you spare me twenty-five dollar, sir? I haven't eaten for two days and I have no place to sleep."*

"How do I know you won't take the money and gamble with it?"

"No way," said the man. "*Gambling money I already have with me.*"

Human Nature

Two prospective buyers walked into a used-car lot and began to look around. The attendant began his sales talk when one of them produced a card which said, "*Sorry, we're deaf-mutes.*"

So the salesman pulled out a pad and began to jot down, for their benefit, all the advantages of any car they showed interest in. They finally settled on a neat little Volkswagen.

They took it round the block on a trial run and seemed so pleased that the sale was as good as made. But when they got back to the lot, they both shook their heads emphatically. No good.

The salesman scribbled on the pad, "*Why? What's wrong?*"

One of the men took the pad and wrote, "*No radio!*"

Relationships

Two trucks were standing back to back and a truck driver was struggling to get a huge crate from one truck to the other.

A passer-by, seeing his desperate situation, volunteered to help. So the two of them huffed and puffed and struggled for well over half an hour with no result at all.

"*I'm afraid it's no use,*" panted the passer-by. "*We'll never get it off this truck.*"

"*Off!*" yelled the driver. "*Good God, I don't want it off. I want it on!*"

<h2><i>Famous Quotes (42)</i></h2>

Jesus:

--Do not lay up treasure for yourselves on earth, where there is moth and rust to consume it, where there are thieves to break in and steal it; lay up treasure for yourselves in heaven, where there is no moth or rust to consume it, no thieves to break in and steal. Where your treasure-house is, there your heart is too.

The eye is the light of the whole body, so that if thy eye is clear, the whole of thy body will be lit up; whereas if your eye is diseased, the whole of your body will be in darkness. And if the light which you have in you is itself darkness, what of your darkness? How deep will that be!

A man cannot be the slave of two masters at once; either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will devote himself to the one and despise the other. You must serve God or money; you cannot serve both.

I say to you, then, do not fret over your life, how to support it with food and drink; over your body, how to keep it clothed. Is not life itself a greater gift than food, the body than clothing? See how the birds of the air never sow, or reap, or gather grain into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them; have you not an excellence beyond theirs? Can any one of you, for all his anxiety, add a cubit's growth to his height? And why should you be anxious over clothing? See how the wild lilies grow; they do not toil or spin; and yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If God, then, so clothes the grasses of the field, which today live and will feed the oven tomorrow, will he not be much more ready to clothe you, men of little faith? Do not fret, then, asking, what are we to eat? or What are we to drink? or how shall we find clothing? It is for the heathen to busy themselves over such things; you have a Father in heaven who knows that you need them all. 33 Make it your first care to find the kingdom of God, and his approval, and all these things shall be yours without the asking. (Matthew 6:19-33)