

52 South 4th Street Renovation

We are currently seeking bids for the renovation of 52 South 4th Street. If you would like to bid or know of someone who may be interested, please contact Father Simon or Shawki Milan.

Maronite Christian Formation (MCF)

MCF classes are held every Saturday at 3:45PM in the church hall. THERE WILL BE NO CLASSES BEGINNING SATURDAY DEC 17 TH. THROUGH SATURDAY, JAN 1ST. CLASSES WILL RESUME ON JAN 7.

All second grade students who have not made their First Communion are asked to attend every week in order to prepare for their First Communion in Spring 2017. Parents please make it a priority to help your children by ensuring students are present for all classes.

2017 PASTORAL COUNCIL

Patrice Boulous, Liturgy & Sacraments Leader

Samuel Elias

Keene Jabbour, Esq.

Michael Karam, Pastoral Outreach Leader

Steve Koorie

Judge Michael Koury

Peter Melan

Leonard Symia

Dr. Charlene Symia, Formation Leader

Rosie Touma

Mary Sue Tumminello

2017 STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Nehme Nehme, President

Martha Badway

Owtil J. Koury

Marta Gabriel

Maynard Melhem

Joseph Moussa

PIONEERS OF MARY

Meetings will be held every Sunday in the hall at 6:00 PM.



ST. THERESA SODALITY MEETING

The monthly meeting will be held in the church hall on Thursday, January 5, 2017 at 6:00 PM. Please call 610-905-6209 if you are in need of transportation.

PARISH MISSION:

To live our Antiochene Catholic faith and nurture our Maronite heritage in order to grow and flourish as a family of Christ in the local community.

BINGO COMMITTEE	Eva Farhat, Patty Boulous, Anthony Koury, Jr.
MCF COORDINATOR	Deanna Baurkot
ST. THERESA SODALITY	Rosie Touma
FINANCIAL AUDITOR	Ferris Koorie
HOLY NAME SOCIETY	Leonard Symia
HERITAGE DAY CHAIRPERSON	Steve Koorie
MYA	Selana Koorie
PARISH ORGANIST	Patty Boulous
MYO/PIONEERS	Alexa Koorie
ARABIC CLASS COORDINATOR	Rita Bassil

CONFESSIONS:

SUNDAY: 9:30 am to 9:50 am (before mass)
SATURDAY: 4:30 pm to 4:50 pm (before mass)
Also Available by Appointment

OCTOBER TO MAY

Religious Education: Saturday 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm

BAPTISMS:

Please Call The Parish Rectory
(non-parishioners sponsors must provide a certificate from their Catholic church)

MARRIAGES:

Please Notify The Pastor
At Least 6 Months Ahead of Time



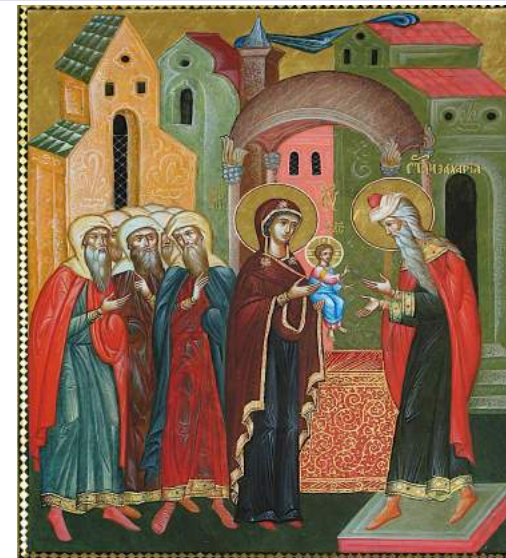
Week 1 - 3

Email: abouna@oleleaston.org

Website: oleleaston.org

Dec 31 - Jan 15, 2017

Season of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord The Circumcision of Jesus



The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 2:41-52

Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

CLERGY

Father Simon El Hajj, Pastor
Deacon Anthony Koury

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Thursday
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
No office hours or Liturgy on Fridays.

LITURGY:

Saturdays: 5:00 PM
Sundays: 10:00 AM and 12 Noon

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Happy New Year!

On the threshold of the New Year 2017 we greet you and convey our felicitations on this blessed occasion. We extend our wishes that the New Year be one filled with faith, hope, love, joy, and prosperity for us all. In the year 2017 we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of our Lebanese Heritage Days. May this anniversary be an occasion to celebrate our history and to look forward in anticipation to our future. Inshallah we will continue to grow both spiritually and as an all embracing community for many years to come. May our Lord and Savior be someone to whom we can turn in our weak, joyful and painful moments. May He be our rock, our shelter and our strength.

Father Simon & Deacon Anthony

WEEKEND of Dec 31 - Jan 1 ****The Circumcision of Jesus****
Saturday, Dec 31 - 5:00 PM - ELIAS & ANNA SHUMAR by Daughters, Maureen Geosits & Renee Carrigan
Sunday, Jan 1 - 11:00 AM - WORLD DAY OF PEACE

Monday	Jan 2	6:00 PM	No Mass
Tuesday	Jan 3	6:00 PM	No Mass
Wednesday	Jan 4	6:00 PM	No Mass
Thursday	Jan 5	7:00 PM	VIGIL MASS - FEAST OF THE GLORIOUS EPIPHANY (Holy Day of Obligation) DIMITRA GIACOUMOPOULOS ACHI by Deacon & Mrs. Anthony Koury & Family

WEEKEND of Jan 7 - Jan 8 ****First Sunday after Epiphany****
Saturday, Jan 7 - 5:00 PM - ANDREW & MARY BAKA by Mr. & Mrs. John J. Melhem & Family
Sunday, Jan 8 - 10:00 AM - RACHIDI GHANEM & TONY SAADE by Bassil & Rouhana Families. Coffee hour to follow
Sunday, Jan 8 - 12 Noon - AMIN ABI SAMRA (Anniversary) by the Family

Father Simon will be attending the 2017 Diocesan annual priests' retreat from Monday, January 9th to Friday, January 13th. There will be no daily mass. Please contact Deacon Anthony at 610-653-6294 in case of emergency.

WEEKEND of Jan 14 - Jan 15 ****Second Sunday after Epiphany****
Saturday, Jan 14 - 5:00 PM - Available
Sunday, Jan 15 - 10:00 AM - NORA DANIEL (40 Day Mass) by the Family. Coffee hour to follow Liturgy
Sunday, Jan 15 - 12 Noon - Available

LECTORS

Saturday, Dec 31	Family
Sunday, Jan 1	TBD
Saturday, Jan 7	Family
Sunday, Jan 8	Family
Saturday, Jan 14	TBD
Sunday, Jan 15	Family

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Circumcision of Jesus
Eph 2:11-22 / Lk 2:41-52
First Sunday after Epiphany
2 Cor 10:1-11 / Jn 1:29-34
2nd Sunday after Epiphany
2 Cor 4:5-15 / Jn 1:35-42

BINGO	FLOOR - 7:00 PM START TIME	KITCHEN - 5:30 PM START TIME
Jan 3	Mike Boulos	Volunteer
Jan 10	Elaine Koury	Minerva Jacob

2016 ADD'L CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DONATIONS

In Honor/Memory	From
Cheffie Melhem	Pat Mosellie & Rosann Constantine
	Jackie Nehme
	Mary Najjar

THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY ANNUAL FAMILY BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

The Holy Name's annual breakfast fundraiser will be held on
Sunday, January 22, 2016 from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

\$20.00 per Family
\$5.00 for individuals ages 12 and over
\$3.00 for children ages 5 to 12
Free for kids under 5 years old.

Tickets will be available after weekend masses or by contacting a HNS member. Please try and purchase your tickets prior to the event so that an ample supply of food is available.

Breakfast

Condolences

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of
SIMON (SEMAAN) TANOUS FARHAT

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

AWAMAT (Lebanese Donuts) & ZA'ATAR BREAD SALE

Awamat & Za'atar bread will be available for sale after the 10:00 AM & 12 Noon Liturgies on Sunday, Jan. 8th. Volunteers are welcome to help beginning at 8:00 AM
Proceeds will benefit Catholic Education.

THE GLORIOUS EPIPHANY

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated on the 6th of January. The origin of the word is from Greek which means "appearance" or "manifestation".

What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him.

The commemorations defer between the western churches and the eastern ones. In the west, it is the visitation of the Biblical Magi to the Baby Jesus which is celebrated. While in the east it is the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan river in which he was manifested as the son of God. Formerly the Epiphany was an additional day for solemn baptisms.

In Lebanon the feast is very popular among Lebanese Christians, as eastern Christians the traditions reflect the importance of the baptism of Jesus. That's why people bring bottles of water to the church to be blessed, also the priests visit the houses and schools and pour blessed water all around in the house and the rooms to give the blessings of Jesus. It is also believed that Jesus passes by the houses at midnight and the trees incline in front of the Lord, that's why some families leave the doors open at midnight, and they also go pray outside waiting for Jesus' passing and some make the dough and leave it to the morning after so that Jesus can bless it at midnight.

THANK YOU OUTGOING PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS!

Thank you to the council members who have given their precious time and talents over the past year to help shape our Parish for the future as well as the present. Your commitment and support were greatly appreciated. We look forward to your continued participation in the church.