

# A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

MAKE ROOM IN YOUR HEART

AN EVENING OF PRAYER  
WITH THE MYO

DECEMBER 18, 2020

8-10 PM EST  
7-9 PM CST  
5-7 PM PST

Register online at  
[www.maroniteyouth.org](http://www.maroniteyouth.org)



Maronite Youth Organization

**PASTOR CONTACT**

To speak directly with Fr. Youssef on any matter contact him on his cell phone at (412-583-5702).

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Saturday, Nov 14, 2020 - \$566.00  
 Sunday, Nov 15, 2020 - \$409.00  
 Total Collection - \$975.00

**WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Dear Parishioners,

We are thankful to everyone who continues to financially support our parish. For those of you who are not attending church in person, you may mail your envelopes or go to our website, [ololeaston.org](http://ololeaston.org) and donate through our online donation portal.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Fr. Youssef



**Our Lady of Lebanon  
Maronite Catholic Church**

54 South 4th Street  
Easton, PA 18042  
610-252-5275



Week 47 - Week 49 Email: [abouna@ololeaston.org](mailto:abouna@ololeaston.org) website: [ololeaston.org](http://ololeaston.org) Nov 21 - Dec 6, 2020

## Announcement to the Virgin Mary



**The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.'

Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

**CLERGY**  
Fr. Youssef Keikati. Administrator  
Deacon Anthony Koury

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday through Thursday  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
No office hours on Fridays

**LITURGY:**  
Saturday: 5:00 PM  
Sunday: 10:00 AM  
Holy Days of Obligation: 7:00 PM

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**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

We are asking for volunteers to help decorate the altar and church for Christmas on Monday, Nov 30th beginning at 11:00 AM. Please contact Fr. Youssef at 412-583-5702 if you are able to help. Thank you in advance for your time and talents!



**BAPTISM**

Preregistration for Baptism is required. Catholic sponsor certificates must be received by the parish before the Baptism is scheduled.

**CONFESSION**

Saturday: 4:30- 4:50 PM, Sunday, 9:30 - 9:50 AM  
Also available by appointment

**MARRIAGE**

Please notify the pastor at least one year prior to date. Engaged couples need to register as parishioners and take required marriage classes.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Please inform us of the sick and shut-ins at 412-583-5702

**1ST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS**

October through April, Saturdays 3:45- 4:45  
Parents of children must be registered in parish.

**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

Letters will only be given to registered active parishioners.



**\*\*\*Sunday of the Announcement to the Virgin Mary\*\*\***

Saturday, Nov 21 - 5:00 PM NICHOLAS CIAMBRONE (Anniversary) by the Family

Sunday, Nov 22 - 10:00 AM FRANCES KOURY (1st Anniversary) by the Family

Tuesday	Nov 24	9:00 AM	ANTONINE SISTER HOUDA HADDAD by Fr. Youssef
Wednesday	Nov 25	9:00 AM	KATHRYN ISAAC by Rosemary Koury & Sons
Thursday	Nov 26	9:00 AM	VALERIE SAAD by Suzanne Baurkot Simon
Friday	Nov 27	NO MASS	NO MASS

**\*\*\*\*Sunday of the Visitation to Elizabeth\*\***

Saturday, Nov 28 - 5:00 PM SPECIAL INTENTION

Sunday, Nov 29 - 10:00 AM YOUSSEF & GHOSSOUN JACOB by Mr. & Mrs. Budwi Jacob & Family

**2nd Collection - Catholic University of America - Sunday, Nov 29th**

Tuesday	Dec 1	9:00 AM	HABOUK SHUMAR by Sam Canone
Wednesday	Dec 2	9:00 AM	GEORGE KOORIE by Deacon Anthony, Cheffie & Anthony Koury, Jr.
Thursday	Dec 3	9:00 AM	NORA DANIEL by the Ziegenhorn/Tone Families
Friday	Dec 4	9:00 AM	MARION ESTEPHAN by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Jabbour & Jessica

**\*\*\*Sunday of the Birth of St John the Baptist\*\*\***

Saturday, Dec 5 - 5:00 PM PETER MELAN (Birthday Remembrance) by the Family

Sunday, Dec 6 - 10:00 AM MICHAEL KOURY (Anniversary) by the Family

**MEMORIAL MASSES**

Fr. Youssef will offer a Monday evening Liturgy at 7:00 PM for any parishioners who want to memorialize the recent deaths of their loved ones who lived in Lebanon or Australia. Please contact Father directly at 412-583-5702 to make arrangements.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Sunday of the Announcement to the Virgin Mary

*Gal 3:15-22 / Lk 1:26-38*

Sunday of the Visitation to Elizabeth

*Eph 1:1-14 / Lk 1:39-45*

Birth of John the Baptist

*Gal 4:21-5:1 / Lk 1:57-66*



**CONDOLENCES**

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of

**JOYCE BOULOS**

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



**Thanksgiving**

This has been a difficult year and some people may be struggling with the idea of being thankful. Our choice to give God thanks should not rest on Him doing something for us - but for what He has already done through His Son and what He continues to do. Philippians 4:6. says: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

Now I want to speak very specifically to what some of us are facing. Our economy is not the best right now and people are worried. Jobs are being lost and families are worried. Some are in a crisis and wondering if the family unit will last. When you turn on the news there is always some report of something bad happening especially with Covid-19. With all of these things constantly bombarding our minds it is easy to wonder if we have a reason to give God thanks. But notice the first thing Paul says in Philippians: do not be worried (anxious) about anything. Our natural response to the things happening around us is to worry. We worry if something will or will not happen. If it will happen we worry how it will happen. If it will not happen we worry about why it will not happen. We worry about any and every thing and then we wonder why we struggle to pray and believe that God will answer the prayer. This is not by happenstance, it is by design.

Do you know that it is difficult to be thankful when you are worried? It is difficult to feel blessed when you are worried. It is difficult to give God true praise when you are worried. It is difficult to remember and reflect on the things God has already done when you are worried. Understand this if you do not understand anything else: Satan wants us to constantly operate in a state of worry because when we are worried, we are not giving thanks and praise to God. Generally when we worry we are focusing on the problem, not the answer. We are focusing on the failure, not the promise of victory. We are focusing on the giants, not the rock and the sling shot. We are focusing on the loss, not the gain. So Paul urges us to not worry and then he gives us the reason why. He said that with everything we face we should take it to God with thanksgiving. We can go to God with thanksgiving because of the promise! Because we have the guarantee! Because God has never failed us before! Because everything we have and will have comes through the grace of God. For every reason we can find to doubt and worry, we can find another reason to give thanks for things God has already done for us and what He continues to do for us!

Be thankful this week and have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving!

Contributed by Rodney Johnson

**HELP NEEDED!**

**"One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time."**

In the age of COVID 19, many families are forced to choose between paying rent or mortgages to putting food on the table, among other things. Community service organizations, both globally and locally, are stretched so thin and find it incredibly difficult to keep up with the demands of the families to which they minister.

Many in this parish community are blessed to not have to make those choices. Over the last several months, we have been called upon to give of ourselves to help others, whether it was here in Easton or in Lebanon, and we have answered that call with extreme compassion and generosity. That time has come again.

We have been asked by the administrators at ProJeCt of Easton to consider helping at their food pantry, a few hours a week. Due to COVID, they have found themselves with a dwindling pool of volunteers, as needs keep growing among families in our area.

If anyone would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities at ProJeCt of Easton, contact: Naomi Koerwitz: naomi.karam@gmail.com or at 201-232-2821.