

2020 PASTORAL COUNCIL
Judge Abraham Kassis - Chairperson
Maynard Melhem - Vice-Chairperson
Patty Boulous - Secretary
Mike Boulous
Elias Chadd
David Elias
Antonios Jabbour
Naomi Koerwitz
Steve Koorie
Judge Michael Koury
Schawki Milan
Leonard Symia
Rosie Touma

2020 FINANCE COUNCIL
George Daniel, Esq.
Marta Gabriel
Jody Piagesi

ORGANIZATION LEADERS	
BINGO COMMITTEE	Eva Farhat, Patty Boulous, Anthony Koury, Jr.
ST. THERESA SODALITY	Naomi Koerwitz
FINANCIAL AUDITOR	Ferris Koorie
HOLY NAME SOCIETY	Leonard Symia
HERITAGE DAYS CHAIRPERSON	Steve Koorie
PARISH ORGANIST	Patty Boulous / Paul Boulous
MYA	Jennie Melhem
MYO/PIONEERS	Katerina Nehme

WEEKLY COLLECTION	
Friday 1-1-2021 -	\$345.00
Saturday 1-2-2021 -	\$607.00
Sunday, 1-3-2021 -	\$117.00
Mail-In -	\$1,402.00
Yearly Dues -	\$500.00
<b>Jan-1st week collection -</b>	<b>\$2,971.00</b>
December Online donations -	\$1,325.00

**PASTOR CONTACT**  
 In the case of any needed pastoral assistance, we ask that only the family contact Fr. Youssef on his cell phone at **(412-583-5702)**.

<p><b>BAPTISM</b>            Preregistration for Baptism is required. Catholic sponsor certificates must be received by the parish before the Baptism is scheduled.</p>	<p><b>CONFESSION</b>            Saturday: 4:30- 4:50 PM, Sunday, 9:30 - 9:50 AM            Also available by appointment</p>
<p><b>MARRIAGE</b>            Please notify the pastor at least one year prior to date. Engaged couples need to register as parishioners and take required marriage classes.</p>	<p><b>ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b>            Please inform us of the sick and shut-ins at            412-583-5702</p>
<p><b>1ST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS</b>            October through April, Saturdays 3:45- 4:45            Parents of children must be registered in parish.</p>	<p><b>LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION</b>            Letters will only be given to registered active parishioners.</p>



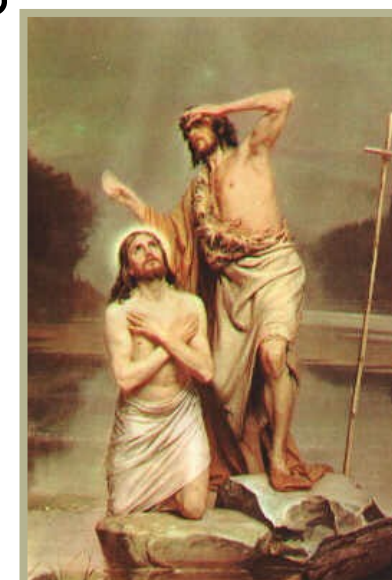
## Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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



Week 2 - Week 4 Email: [abouna@ololeaston.org](mailto:abouna@ololeaston.org) website: [ololeaston.org](http://ololeaston.org) Jan 9, 2021 - Jan 24, 2021

# 1st Sunday after Epiphany



## The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint John 1:29-34

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."

And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

### 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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## MASKS REQUIRED FOR ALL CHURCH EVENTS

Everyone who attends any church function will be required to wear a mask. This includes, but is not limited to Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and Liturgies.

We are taking this stance for the protection of all parishioners. We are not restricting your freedom to decide what is best for you, we are ensuring the safety of the majority who want to attend and are willing to mask up!

If you do not agree with our position, we ask that you stay home until we can all gather safely once this pandemic is over.

**\*\*\*1st Sunday after Epiphany\*\*\***

**Saturday, Jan 9 - 5:00 PM**     **DAOUN BOULOS** by Dr. & Mrs. George Nassoor  
**Sunday, Jan 10 - 10:00 AM**     **JOSEPH MELHEM JR. (3rd Anniversary)** by his wife Joumana & Children

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Jan 12</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>KATHRYN ISAAC</b> by the children of Oscar & Christine Canone
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Jan 13</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>PATRICE BAURKOT</b> by Kate & Jack Kollet
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Jan 14</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>MICHAEL JABBOUR</b> by Marlene Bedway
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Jan 15</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>MELHEM MELHEM</b> by Mr. & Mrs. Badwi Jacob

**\*\*\*2nd Sunday after Epiphany\*\*\***

**Saturday, Jan 16 - 5:00 PM**     **DIMITRA GIACOUMOPOULOS ACHI(5th Anniversary)** by Jackie Nehme & Family  
**Sunday, Jan 17 - 10:00 AM**     **JENNIE MELHEM** by the Mosellie Family

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Jan 19</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>MASS IN HONOR OF ST. JOSEPH FOLLOWED BY ZIYAH</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Jan 20</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>MARY SHUMAR</b> by Gerald & Kathleen Tone
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Jan 21</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>FR. ETIENNE BARAKAT</b> by Fr. Youssef Keikati
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Jan 22</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>MARY JABBOUR</b> by Carol Survdoval

**\*\*\* Sunday of the Priests\*\***

**Saturday, Jan 23 - 5:00 PM**     **PETER & LILLIAN KARAM (6th Anniversary)** by Jackie Nehme & Family  
**Sunday, Jan 24 - 10:00 AM**     **GEORGE JABBOUR (40 Day Mass)** by the Family

**2nd Collection - United States Catholic Bishops' Worldwide Charities - Jan 24, 2021**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**1st 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*

**Sunday of the Priests**  
*1 Tim 4:6-16 / Lk 12:42-48*



**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Thursday, January 14, 2021**

**7:00 - 8:00 PM**



**THE LAMB OF GOD**

A tourist who had visited a church in Norway said that he was surprised to see the carved figure of a lamb near the top of the church's tower. He learned that when the church was being built, a workman fell from a high scaffold. His co-workers rushed down, expecting to find him dead. But to their surprise and joy, he was alive and only slightly injured.

How did he survive? A flock of sheep was passing beneath the tower at the time, and he landed on top of a lamb. The lamb broke his fall and was crushed to death, but the man was saved. To remember that miraculous escape, someone carved a lamb on the tower at the exact height from which the workman fell."

To "take away" literally means "to relieve," "to take upon oneself." Jesus takes humanity's faults upon himself by his love and death on the cross. He got in line with sinners to be baptized even though he did not need to.

Think of this in contrast to a recent Supreme Court decision, where a Justice of the Court wrote: "At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life."

So what is the goal of life? From the old Baltimore Catechism, the goal of life here on earth is:

**TO KNOW, LOVE, AND SERVE GOD IN THIS LIFE, SO THAT WE CAN BE HAPPY WITH HIM IN HEAVEN.**

Today's gospel addresses the need for a transcendent source of meaning that points beyond the autonomy of the individualist self. "Behold the Lamb of God!" That means look at this objective thing, a lamb, who is the Lamb of God. Allowing oneself to be rearranged by objective value is what makes life worth living.

Jesus takes away the "sin" of the world [singular], which is from John 1:29. But 1 John 3:5 has the plural, i.e. Jesus takes away the "sins" of the world. The plural refers to sinful acts, while the singular refers to a sinful condition. There is absolutely no reason for someone to have a certain disease or lack of well-being that arises from a general state of sinfulness because Jesus takes away that condition for those baptized and in the state of grace (saved).

Regarding the plural, that Jesus takes away the "sins" of the world, a nationally recognized expert on depression, a psychiatrist named Doctor Aaron Kheriaty, says that the Sacrament of Confession addresses our emotional life by concretizing the things that are keeping us from God. Confession allows us to verbalize our wrongdoing, getting it "off our chest." Verbalizing our sin before the priest, who represents both God and the Christian community breaks the isolation and despair that sin produces. Guilt is taken away by the Lamb of God and reconciliation is achieved.

We pray that God remove defects which stand in the way of making us useful to Him and others." There is a willingness to want to do God's will. John the Baptist says in our Gospel text today that Jesus "ranks ahead of me because he existed before me." This refers to the preexistence of Jesus as the Second Person of the Holy Trinity so He is and always has been essentially our superior.

The Lamb of God has taken away all motivation for resentment. The ultimate vengeance has already been exacted. The Passover Lamb, Jesus, died once and for all to deal with the sin of the world. That has been act of violence against God. No further, individual, human acts of retribution are necessary on our individual part and none are justified. The covenant of the blood of the Lamb promises victory to those who surrender their resentments.

*Contributed by Paul Andrew*

**MEMORIAL MASSES**

Masses that are given in memory of a deceased parishioner at the time of their death are scheduled by the Pastor at his convenience. As much as we would like to accommodate your preferences for when a Mass is said we have a rotation schedule and need to fill in empty Mass intentions on weekdays and weekends.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**Condolences**

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of

**SONYA SHAHEEN**

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



**Thank You...**

...to the Morello Funeral Home for their donation of the 2021 Liturgical Calendars and to the Isaac family at Bell Apothecary for their donation of bottles for Holy Water distribution at Epiphany. May God reward them for their continued generosity.