



Our Lady of Victory Maronite Catholic Parish

At Saint Pamphilus

1000 Tropical Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15216

November, 2022 Monthly Bulletin

YOU ARE THE CHURCH AND THE CHURCH IS YOU

Rev. Samir Chebli, Pastor

Chorbishop Michael Kail, Adviser

Rev. Deacon Bahige Alchoufete

Anne Ayoob, Financial Administrator

Judi Perry, Office Administrator & Victory Hall Manager

Lori Evans, Religious Education Director

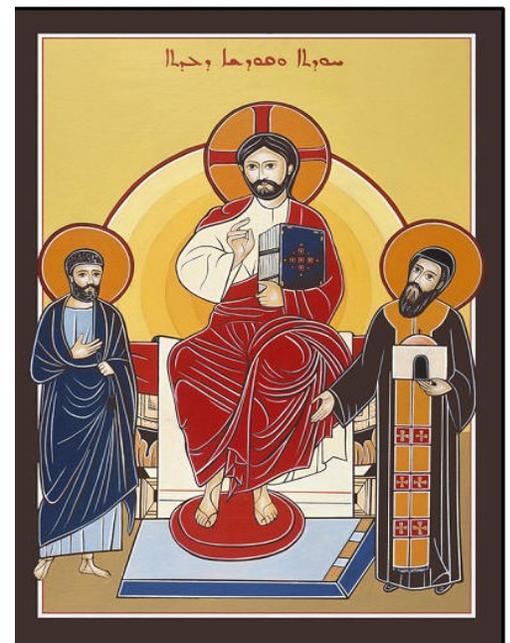
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**SUNDAY/S OF THE CHURCH &
SEASON OF ANNOUNCEMENT**

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday—Friday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm

Liturgy Intentions-November 2022

7TH SUNDAY OF HOLY CROSS

Saturday	Oct 29	4:00 PM	Souls of Patrick & Marilyn Torchia	Family
Sunday	Oct 30	8:30 AM	Soul of Madge McDonough	Theresa Basil & Family
		11:00 AM	Soul of Tom Ferris	Joe & Jocelyn Chahine
Monday	Oct 31	6:00 PM	Soul of Chorbishop William Lesser	The Pastor
Tuesday	Nov 1	6:00 PM	Living & Deceased Members of OLOV	The Pastor
Wednesday	Nov 2	6:00 PM	Eldaher Family	Ghada Sassine
Thursday	Nov 3	6:00 PM	Nahme Family	Ghada Sassine
Friday	Nov 4	6:00 PM	Sarkis & Thomas Families	Sadie Thomas

SUNDAY OF THE CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH

Saturday	Nov 5	4:00 PM	Soul of Peter Anthony (Anniversary)	Family
			Joseph & Bernadette Kovach,	Ken & Marianne Kovach
			Sonia Hoskowitz (Anniversary)	
Sunday	Nov 6	8:30 AM	Soul of Paul F. Mages	Dick & Shirley Kail
		11:00 AM	Soul of Jean Sidoruk	Bill Eassie
Monday	Nov 7	5:00 PM	Kazour Family	Ghada Sassine
Tuesday	Nov 8	5:00 PM	Ayoub Family	Ghada Sassine
Wednesday	Nov 9	5:00 PM	Chahine Family	Ghada Sassine
Thursday	Nov 10	5:00 PM	Boulos Family	Ghada Sassine
Friday	Nov 11	5:00 PM	Soul of Chorbishop William Lesser	The Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZACHARIAH

Saturday	Nov 12	4:00 PM	Soul of Moses Romah (Anniversary)	Rosemary Romah
			Souls of Eugene Mueck & Mario Menkle	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Joseph
			Soul of Janet Anthony (Anniversary)	Anthony Family
			Souls of Tony Barack & Elidio Monoriti	Frances Barack & Family
			(Birthday, Anniversary & Veterans Day)	
Sunday	Nov 13	8:30 AM	Borik Family	Ghada Sassine
		11:00 AM	Souls Joe & Wadad Budway (Anniversary)	Norma Borik
Monday	Nov 14	5:00 PM	Soul of Joseph Sassine	Debbie Raymond
Tuesday	Nov 15	5:00 PM	Raymond Family	Ghada Sassine
Wednesday	Nov 16	5:00 PM	Molinaro Family	Ghada Sassine
Thursday	Nov 17	5:00 PM	Romah Family	Ghada Sassine
Friday	Nov 18	5:00 PM	Perry Family	Ghada Sassine

ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE VIRGIN MARY

Saturday	Nov 19	4:00 PM	Soul of Pietro Molinaro	Molinaro Family
Sunday	Nov 20	8:30 AM		
		11:00 AM	Michael Therese Zischkau-40 day	Mom & Dad, Sarah & Joe
			Commemoration	
Monday	Nov 21	5:00 PM	Mecca Family	Ghada Sassine
Tuesday	Nov 22	5:00 PM	Basil Family	Ghada Sassine
Wednesday	Nov 23	5:00 PM	Mejalli Family	Ghada Sassine
Thursday	Nov 24	10:00 AM	Thanksgiving Day—For the Parish	The Pastor
Friday	Nov 25	5:00 PM	Soul of Joseph Sassine	Molinaro Family

VISITATION TO ELIZABETH

Saturday	Nov 26	4:00 PM	Soul of Tom Ferris	Theresa Basil
Sunday	Nov 27	8:30 AM	Kail Family	Ghada Sassine
		11:00 AM	Souls of Aziz & Mahassan Kazour	June Sarkis
Monday	Nov 28	5:00 PM	Soul of Chorbishop William Lesser	The Pastor
Tuesday	Nov 29	5:00 PM	Anthony Family	Ghada Sassine
Wednesday	Nov 30	5:00 PM	Muscarella Family	Ghada Sassine
Thursday	Dec 1	5:00 PM	Kassouf Family	Ghada Sassine
Friday	Dec 2	5:00 PM	Sarkis & Thomas Families	Sadie Thomas

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Saturday	Dec 3	4:00 PM	Soul of Joseph Sassine	Borik Family
Sunday	Dec 4	8:30 AM		
		11:00 AM	Soul of Jean Sidoruk	Bill Eassie

If you want to schedule a liturgy for open times in November, please call the office as soon as possible. Please call the office to schedule liturgies for December 2022 no later than November 22, 2022. We will email an updated Liturgy Schedule weekly as needed.

2022 Festival Sponsors

ROHRICH TOYOTA
MARK PODROSKY - GENERAL MANAGER

CITIZENS BANK - COCHRAN ROAD

REFRIGERATED TRUCK SPONSOR:
THERESA KAIL SMITH

LEBANESE BAND SPONSORS:
DANNY CHAHINE & GEORGE JABRA

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ALICE ZISCHKAU
BY JOSEPH ZISCHKAU

2022 Festival Report

Income

Cash & Credit Card Sales 9/9 to 9/11	\$125,492.00
Sponsorships	9,470.00
Donations	<u>1,525.00</u>
Total Income	\$136,487.00

Expense

Bakery	\$2,785.00
Beverages	4,369.00
Entertainment	5,000.00
Equipment	11,505.00
Food Supplies	27,811.00
Hookah Vendor	1,180.00
Janitorial	515.00
Paper Supplies	4,779.00
Banners & Signs	<u>6,525.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 64,469.00

We thank all those who volunteered to prepare food, set up and tear down for the Festival and those who manned the various stations during the event. Your hard work and spirit of volunteerism is most appreciated. Thank you.



A special note of thanks to our Sponsors whose generosity and support helped offset our increasing costs for the Annual Lebanese Festival.

Clearly we need to reach out to even more sponsors for future Festivals. Increasing costs cannot be absorbed without more sponsors.

† STEWARDSHIP

God will give back to us. The lad who gave his loaves and fishes did not have to go without his dinner.

OCTOBER 2022 COLLECTIONS

	2-Oct	9-Oct	16-Oct	23-Oct	Total
Collection	\$2,006.00	\$2,256.00	\$1,289.00	\$2,032.00	\$7,583.00
Mail Collection	\$645.00	\$320.00	\$420.00	\$195.00	\$1,580.00
Online Giving	\$150.00	\$50.00	\$160.00	\$70.00	\$430.00
Help for Lebanaon	\$20.00	\$148.00	\$95.00	\$2.00	\$265.00
Individual Donation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
World Mission Day	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$231.00	\$231.00
Altar Bread & Wine	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sanctuary Lamps	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Candles	\$23.00	\$33.00	\$33.00	\$20.00	\$109.00
Hall Rental	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
Church Fund	\$297.00	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$312.00
Total	\$3,341.00	\$2,807.00	\$3,512.00	\$2,550.00	\$12,210.00

The report for the weekend of October 30th will be included with next month's report.

The Liturgies for All Saints Day will be on Monday, October 31, 2022 and Tuesday, November 1, 2022, both at 6pm.

Victory Hall Rental

Our Victory Hall is the perfect location for all of your Personal and Business Events.

Victory Hall has ample Free Parking. 300 Person Capacity. We allow the Renter to bring their own food or Caterer.

For more information or to tour the hall, please contact the Church at 412-278-0841.

Now is the time to book your company's Christmas Party!

OUR LADY OF VICTORY PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2022—2023

Attached is a Calendar of Events for Our Lady of Victory Parish for the remainder of 2022 and all of 2023. We will add to this list of events as needed. We ask that you do not schedule individual family events at the same time we are having a parish event. This diminishes participation in our parish celebrations and also keeps some of our parishioners from attending your family events because they are involved in our activities. A little coordination is most appreciated. Thank you.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY PARISH EVENTS FOR 2022-2023

VETERANS DAY LITURGY & DINNER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2022

The Veterans Day celebration here at Our Lady of Victory is a very special celebration, a feast day. We celebrate our men and women who served in the various Armed Forces of the United States during World War II and Korea and came home to us safely through the intercession of Our Lady of Victory. It is a time to celebrate their memories and sacrifices, but also to salute our present-day veterans for their years of service to our Country.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022

Our Annual Christmas Party is a FAMILY event to enjoy with our children and socialize as adults. It is a time to share food and fun for everyone as we prepare for the Birth of the Lord.

SAINT MARON FEAST DAY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023

Our Annual Saint Maron Day Celebration begins by praising God for the gift of Saint Maron with the Liturgy followed by a banquet honoring Saint Maron. It is a time for us to celebrate as a Parish Family and enjoy prayer, food, drink and dance.

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT & PARTY

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023

This is an opportunity for our children and their parents to gather for an Easter Egg Hunt, fun, games and some food.

ANNUAL LEBANESE FESTIVAL

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, SEPT 8-10, 2023

The Annual Lebanese Festival is the other major Church Fund Raiser. It requires both advance preparation and a hands-on attitude among parishioners to be successful. Your assistance is both needed and appreciated.

COOKIE & PASTRY DAY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2022

The Cookie Walk or Lebanese Pastry & Cookie Day is a chance for us to enjoy delicious homemade, authentic Lebanese Pastries and other cookies. We can purchase what we like individually or by the pound while we socialize with friends and family.

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE II

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2022

Sponsored by the MYO and MYA, all proceeds from this gathering will go to help Lebanon.

LENTEN MEATLESS MEALS

FRIDAYS OF GREAT LENT: 2/24 TO 3/31, 2023

OLOV Meatless Meals are a chance for us to gather for our meal before gathering in the Church for our Friday Night Lenten Services.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING (SHADOW LAKES)

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

Our Annual Golf Outing is a major Church Fund Raiser. The income funds many repair and improvement projects needed here in our new home.

NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

This is an opportunity to bring our neighbors and parishioners together for a picnic and social. This allows us to meet our neighbors and thank them for welcoming us to their neighborhood as well as allowing them to get to know us better.

MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

Confession is available before and after Liturgies on Saturday and Sunday, and by appointment during the week.



PRAYER BEFORE THE EUCHARIST

The church is open from Tuesday to Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM for prayer and meditation before the Eucharist in the Tabernacle.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Please keep in your prayers:

Maxine Schoen, Chuck Borik, Martha Kail, Peter DeSando, Angie Joseph, Michael Rattie, Alicia Hruby, Diana Kuzma, Elaine Moses, Dr. Adnan Abla, Ashley Ayoob, Frances Barack, David Ingrid Franklin, Donald Kovanis, Faten Fatfat, Sr. Mary Ann Karas, Franice Pattinato, Helen Mierski, Rebecca Rodgers, Rina Molinaro, Patty Doerzbacker, Anna Marie Mecca, Ken Kovach, Frank Joseph, Alex Joseph, Rosemary Thomas Hartman, Celeste Cancilla, Stephanie Vail, John Abbas (Youngstown), James Brocato, Fr. Tony Gargotta, Dalal Romah, Isaac Simon, Sue Cravens, Kim B., Chuck Joseph (Detroit) and Chrissy Coury.



Veterans Day Celebration

If you have not already done so, please send in the information on your veterans—living or deceased—within the next day or so. Many of you have already done so and your responses are much appreciated. We want to include ALL Veterans in our upcoming Veterans Day Program. Please send us the information. Also, if you plan on attending, please email or call the Church Office. Thank you.

Scripture Readings

All Saints Day (Nov 1st)

Heb 12:18-24

Mt 5:1-12

Consecration of the Church Sunday (Nov 6th)

Heb 9:1-12

Mt 16:13-20

Announcement to Zecharia (Nov 13th)

Rom 4:13-25

Lk 1:1-25

Announcement to the Virgin Mary (Nov 20th)

Gal 3:15-22

Lk 1:26-38

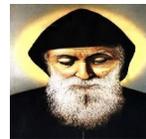
Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth (Nov 27th)

Eph 1:1-14

Lk 1:39-45

All Scripture Readings are taken from the Revised Edition of the New American Bible

Saint Sharbel Liturgy



Every 22nd of the month we will celebrate the Liturgy of Saint Sharbel which will be offered for the intentions of our parishioners, relatives and friends who need our prayers.

MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Altar Bread and Wine

In Memory of Josephine and Carl Hess requested by Barb Hess.

Sanctuary Lamps

In Memory of Joe & Wadad Budway requested by the Borik Family.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE FOR LEBANON

Shortly after our Veterans Day Celebration, we will set up our annual **Giving Tree for Lebanon**. This is an invitation for us to assist the needy of Lebanon and help give families there a better and more merry Christmas. You were very generous last year and we look forward to even better participation this year.



Envelopes on the tree range from \$10 to \$100 donations with several denominations in between. Our Christmas Tree donations will become part of our **Christmas Village II Project**. The deadline for donations will be **Sunday, December 18th**. Your envelopes and donations can be sent to the Church, dropped into the weekend collection basket, or simply brought to the Church Office.

As Americans, it is difficult to wrap our minds around just how bad the situation in Lebanon really is. If our donations can help a few families and children have a better Christmas, it is well worth it.

Think about it, pray about it, and let us do our best to help our brothers and sisters in Lebanon have a better Christmas.

THANKSGIVING DAY LITURGY

We will celebrate Liturgy at **10:00 AM** on Thanksgiving day. We hope you will be able to join us to begin our Thanksgiving Day celebrations by giving thanks to God from whom all blessings flow. Liturgy Intention: for Our Parishioners.

Please note: Thursday, December 8th is the Feast of the **Immaculate Conception of Mary**. It is a Holy Day which requires us to gather to worship the Lord and honor his mother on her feast day. It is also the patronal feast of the United States of America. You can attend Liturgy at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, December 7th or on Thursday, December 8th. Mark your calendars.

MARONITE CHRISTMAS NOVENA

The annual Christmas Novena will take place following the Weekday and Weekend Liturgies from December 15th through December 23rd. This series of hymns, prayers and procession form our final preparation for the Glorious Birth of the Lord on Christmas. We hope you will join us for both the Liturgy at 5:00 pm and the Christmas Novena which follows and following the 4:00 pm and 11:00 am on the weekend.

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

If you are not receiving the Monthly Bulletin via email, we do not have a correct email address for you. Please provide your email address to the Church Office by emailing us at: office@olovpittsburgh.org

THE MARONITE LITURGICAL YEAR

SUNDAY(S) OF THE CHURCH

A rule of thumb: If November 1st falls on either a Monday or a Tuesday, the feast of the Consecration of the Church is alone observed. If, however, November 1st falls on a day other than Monday or Tuesday, both the Consecration of the Church and the Renewal (Dedication) of the Church are observed. This year, we celebrate only the Sunday of the Consecration of the Church.



The **Maronite Liturgical Year** is divided into two parts or *cycles*. The **Temporal Cycle** of the Maronite Church always begins on the first Sunday of November. The word temporal—as the word itself implies—refers to “time.” The temporal cycle is the cycle or recurring series of the main times or seasons of the Church year. It presents the major events and mysteries of the life of Christ.

The **Sanctoral Cycle** refers to the “saints.” The sanctoral cycle is the recurring series of the feasts of the saints. It presents the lives of “other-Christ,” that is, the lives of the saints, including particularly the life of our Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of God.

The Temporal Cycle of the Maronite Liturgical Year is further divided into “Seasons” each commemorating a major milestone in the life of Jesus. These seasons remain the same year after year and seek to draw us into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ by meditating continually on his life and deeds on behalf of humankind. In a sense, the Maronite Temporal Cycle reminds the faithful that to know Christ is to love Christ ever more.

The Seasons of the Maronite Temporal Cycle are:

- **SEASON OF THE HAPPY ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE GLORIOUS BIRTH** (introduced by the Sunday(s) of the Church)
- **SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS EPIPHANY**
- **SEASON OF GREAT LENT & WEEK OF THE PASSION**
- **SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION**
- **SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS PENTECOST**
- **SEASON OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

The Sunday(s) of the Church in a sense, form an introduction to the Season of Happy Announcements (*Sooborey*, in Syriac) and the Glorious Birth of our Lord. Although the Sunday(s) of the Church are not directly attached to the liturgical cycle, they are celebrated during this period before the Season of Announcement mainly because the Jewish people commemorated the rededication of the Temple (*Chanuchah*) during this same time of year. The Christian community therefore remembers in a special way their own dedication, renewal and consecration to the Lord Jesus Christ during this same period.

The first Sunday of November is that of the CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH, and the second Sunday (when it is celebrated) is that of the RENEWAL (DEDICATION) OF THE CHURCH. It seems that this brief cycle of two Sundays--originally four or five in number--was first celebrated in Jerusalem on the occasion of the dedication of the newly-built Church of the Resurrection (The *Anastasis*) on September 13, 335. Outside of Jerusalem, these Sundays commemorated a general renewal or consecration of the local Church and the community of the faithful who worshipped there.

This is also a fitting and appropriate time for us to reflect on our uniqueness as a Maronite Syro-Antiochene Church. Each Catholic Church tradition is unique in its celebration of the Liturgical Year. For Maronites, the new Liturgical Year begins this first Sunday of November. It begins on the first Sunday of Advent for the Roman or Latin Church. Each Church--always one in faith--has its own traditions and customs for celebrating the life of Christ. Although we share a common faith and moral beliefs, we have our own traditions for the celebration of the Liturgical Year, our own calendar, our own Lectionary (Book of Readings & Gospels) and our own Liturgy.

Each Church in its uniqueness joins to form the **one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church**. The Church has always encouraged this uniqueness and celebrates its diversity of expression. As we end this Liturgical Year and begin a new one, it is my hope and prayer that every Maronite at Saint Maron will make every effort to rediscover who we truly are and what our legitimate traditions have to offer the Universal Church. To better know and understand our Maronite traditions will always lead to a deeper love for Jesus Christ and a better appreciation for the treasure chest which is our Maronite Church.

May the new Liturgical Year bring each of us to a deeper awareness of our Maronite spiritual heritage and a more profound appreciation of our unique place in the Catholic Church.



Remember:

Daylight Saving Time ends

Sunday, Nov. 6th

Turn your clocks BACK one hour!

Our Catholic Faith - November, 2022 Edition

This month, we are continuing our study of Our Catholic Faith by concentrating on the Catechism of the Catholic Church section on Social Justice.

Social Justice: Respect for the Human Person /Equality and Differences among Men / Human Solidarity

1943 Society ensures social justice by providing the conditions that allow associations and individuals to obtain their due.

1944 Respect for the human person considers the other “another self.” It presupposes respect for the fundamental rights that flow from the dignity intrinsic of the person.

1945 The equality of men concerns their dignity as persons and the rights that flow from it.

1946 The differences among persons belong to God’s plan, who wills that we should need one another. These differences should encourage charity.

1947 The equal dignity of human persons requires the effort to reduce excessive social and economic inequalities. It gives urgency to the elimination of sinful inequalities.

1948 Solidarity is an eminently Christian virtue. It practices the sharing of spiritual goods even more than material ones.

God’s Salvation: Law & Grace /The Moral Law / The Natural Moral Law / The Old Law / The New Law or the Law of the Gospel

1975 According to Scripture the Law is a fatherly instruction by God which prescribes for man the ways that lead to the promised beatitude, and proscribes the ways of evil.

1976 “Law is an ordinance of reason for the common good, promulgated by the one who is in charge of the community” (St. Thomas Aquinas, STh I-II, 90, 4).

1977 Christ is the end of the law (cf. Rom 10:4); only he teaches and bestows the justice of God.

1978 The natural law is a participation in God’s wisdom and goodness by man formed in the image of his Creator. It expresses the dignity of the human person and forms the basis of his fundamental rights and duties.

1979 The natural law is immutable, permanent throughout history. The rules that express it remain substantially valid. It is a necessary foundation for the erection of moral rules and civil law.

1980 The Old Law is the first stage of revealed law. Its moral prescriptions are summed up in the Ten Commandments.

1981 The Law of Moses contains many truths naturally accessible to reason. God has revealed them because men did not read them in their hearts.

1982 *The Old Law is a preparation for the Gospel.*

1983 *The New Law is the grace of the Holy Spirit received by faith in Christ, operating through charity. It finds expression above all in the Lord's Sermon on the Mount and uses the sacraments to communicate grace to us.*

1984 *The Law of the Gospel fulfills and surpasses the Old Law and brings it to perfection: its promises, through the Beatitudes of the Kingdom of heaven; its commandments, by reforming the heart, the root of human acts."*

1985 *The New Law is a law of love, a law of grace, a law of freedom.*

1986 *Besides its precepts the New Law includes the evangelical counsels. "The Church's holiness is fostered in a special way by the manifold counsels which the Lord proposes to his disciples in the Gospel" (LG 42 §2).*

Grace and Justification: Grace / Merit / Christian Holiness

2017 *The grace of the Holy Spirit confers upon us the righteousness of God. Uniting us by faith and Baptism to the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, the Spirit makes us sharers in his life.*

2018 *Like conversion, justification has two aspects. Moved by grace, man turns toward God and away from sin, and so accepts forgiveness and righteousness from on high."*

2019 *Justification includes the remission of sins, sanctification, and the renewal of the inner man.*

2020 *Justification has been merited for us by the Passion of Christ. It is granted us through Baptism. It conforms us to the righteousness of God, who justifies us. It has for its goal the glory of God and of Christ, and the gift of eternal life. It is the most excellent work of God's mercy.*

2021 *Grace is the help God gives us to respond to our vocation of becoming his adopted sons. It introduces us into the intimacy of the Trinitarian life.*

2022 *The divine initiative in the work of grace precedes, prepares, and elicits the free response of man. Grace responds to the deepest yearnings of human freedom, calls freedom to cooperate with it, and perfects freedom."*

2023 *Sanctifying grace is the gratuitous gift of his life that God makes to us; it is infused by the Holy Spirit into the soul to heal it of sin and to sanctify it.*

2024 *Sanctifying grace makes us "pleasing to God." Charisms, special graces of the Holy Spirit, are oriented to sanctifying grace and are intended for the common good of the Church. God also acts through many actual graces, to be distinguished from habitual grace which is permanent in us.*

2025 *We can have merit in God's sight only because of God's free plan to associate man with the work of his grace. Merit is to be ascribed in the first place to the grace of God, and secondly to man's collaboration. Man's merit is due to God.*

2026 *The grace of the Holy Spirit can confer true merit on us, by virtue of our adoptive filiation, and in accordance with God's gratuitous justice. Charity is the principal source of merit in us before God."*

2027 *No one can merit the initial grace which is at the origin of conversion. Moved by the Holy Spirit, we can merit for ourselves and for others all the graces needed to attain eternal life, as well as necessary temporal goods.*

2028 *“All Christians... are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity” (LG 40 § 2). “Christian perfection has but one limit, that of having none” (St. Gregory of Nyssa, De vita Mos.: PG 44, 300D).”*

2029 *“If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mt 16:24).”*

The Church, Mother and Teacher: Moral Life and the Magisterium of the Church / The Precepts of the Church / Moral Life and Missionary Witness

2047 *The moral life is a spiritual worship. Christian activity finds its nourishment in the liturgy and the celebration of the sacraments.*

2048 *The precepts of the Church concern the moral and Christian life united with the liturgy and nourished by it.*

2049 *The Magisterium of the Pastors of the Church in moral matters is ordinarily exercised in catechesis and preaching, on the basis of the Decalogue which states the principles of moral life valid for every man.*

2050 *The Roman Pontiff and the bishops, as authentic teachers, preach to the People of God the faith which is to be believed and applied in moral life. It is also incumbent on them to pronounce on moral questions that fall within the natural law and reason.”*

2051 *The infallibility of the Magisterium of the Pastors extends to all the elements of doctrine, including moral doctrine, without which the saving truths of the faith cannot be preserved, expounded, or observed.”*

The Ten Commandments: Teacher, What must I do...? / The Decalogue in Sacred Scripture / The Decalogue in the Church’s Tradition / The Decalogue and the natural law

2075 *“What good deed must I do, to have eternal life?” — “If you would enter into life, keep the commandments” (Mt 19:16–17).*

2076 *By his life and by his preaching Jesus attested to the permanent validity of the Decalogue.*

2077 *The gift of the Decalogue is bestowed from within the covenant concluded by God with his people. God’s commandments take on their true meaning in and through this covenant.*

2078 *In fidelity to Scripture and in conformity with Jesus’ example, the tradition of the Church has*

always acknowledged the primordial importance and significance of the Decalogue.

2079 The Decalogue forms an organic unity in which each “word” or “commandment” refers to all the others taken together. To transgress one commandment is to infringe the whole Law (cf. Jas 2:10–11).

2080 The Decalogue contains a privileged expression of the natural law. It is made known to us by divine revelation and by human reason.

2081 The Ten Commandments, in their fundamental content, state grave obligations. However, obedience to these precepts also implies obligations in matter which is, in itself, light.

2082 What God commands he makes possible by his grace.”

The First Commandment: “You shall Worship the Lord Your God and Him Only Shall You Serve” Faith / Hope / Adoration / Prayer / Sacrifice / Promises and Vows / The right to religious freedom / Superstition, Divinization and magic / Irreligion / Atheism & Agnosticism

2133 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deut 6:5).

2134 The first commandment summons man to believe in God, to hope in him, and to love him above all else.

2135 “You shall worship the Lord your God” (Mt 4:10). Adoring God, praying to him, offering him the worship that belongs to him, fulfilling the promises and vows made to him are acts of the virtue of religion which fall under obedience to the first commandment.

2136 The duty to offer God authentic worship concerns man both as an individual and as a social being.

2137 “Men of the present day want to profess their religion freely in private and in public” (DH 15).

2138 Superstition is a departure from the worship that we give to the true God. It is manifested in idolatry, as well as in various forms of divination and magic.

2139 Tempting God in words or deeds, sacrilege, and simony are sins of irreligion forbidden by the first commandment.

2140 Since it rejects or denies the existence of God, atheism is a sin against the first commandment.

2141 “The veneration of sacred images is based on the mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. It is not contrary to the first commandment.”

The Second Commandment: “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.” / The Name of the Lord is Holy / Taking the Name of the Lord in Vain / The Christian Name

2160 “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth” (Ps 8:1)!

2161 The second commandment enjoins respect for the Lord’s name. The name of the Lord is holy.

2162 *The second commandment forbids every improper use of God's name. Blasphemy is the use of the name of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Virgin Mary, and of the saints in an offensive way.*

2163 *False oaths call on God to be witness to a lie. Perjury is a grave offence against the Lord who is always faithful to his promises.*

2164 *"Do not swear whether by the Creator, or any creature, except truthfully, of necessity, and with reverence" (St. Ignatius of Loyola, Spiritual Exercises, 38).*

2165 *In Baptism, the Christian receives his name in the Church. Parents, godparents, and the pastor are to see that he be given a Christian name. The patron saint provides a model of charity and the assurance of his prayer.*

2166 *The Christian begins his prayers and activities with the Sign of the Cross: "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."*

2167 *God calls each one by name (cf. Isa 43:1).*

The Third Commandment: Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work. The Sabbath Day / the Lord's Day / Sunday--fulfillment of the sabbath / Sunday Eucharist / the Sunday obligation

2189 *"Observe the sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Deut 5:12). "The seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord" (Ex 31:15).*

2190 *The sabbath, which represented the completion of the first creation, has been replaced by Sunday which recalls the new creation inaugurated by the Resurrection of Christ.*

2191 *The Church celebrates the day of Christ's Resurrection on the "eighth day," Sunday, which is rightly called the Lord's Day (cf. SC 106).*

2192 *"Sunday... is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church" (CIC, can. 1246 § 1). "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass" (CIC, can. 1247)."*

2193 *"On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound... to abstain from those labors and business concerns which impede the worship to be rendered to God, the joy which is proper to the Lord's Day, or the proper relaxation of mind and body" (CIC, can. 1247).*

2194 *The institution of Sunday helps all "to be allowed sufficient rest and leisure to cultivate their familial, cultural, social, and religious lives" (GS 67 § 3).*

2195 *Every Christian should avoid making unnecessary demands on others that would hinder them from observing the Lord's Day."*

We will continue with the Ten Commandments in our December Monthly Bulletin...

THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZECHARIAH - NOVEMBER 13TH

We begin the Season of Announcement and the Glorious Birth of Our Lord—our Maronite preparation for Christmas. The Season of Announcement is a commemoration of those events surrounding and culminating with the Incarnation of Jesus. The season opens with the dramatic Announcement to Zechariah that John, the Forerunner of Jesus, was to be born.

Mention of the archangel Gabriel, whose name means “God is strong,” is found in the Old Testament. The archangel appeared to the prophet Daniel and spoke of the end of time when God will come to judge his people (Daniel 8: 16-26; 8: 21-27). In the New Testament, the appearance of Gabriel to Zechariah is an indication that Gabriel is completing his mission and that the final days have begun. Although almost two millennia have intervened since the birth of John the Forerunner, it must always be recalled that we are living in the “end times” -- the fulfillment of all that has been promised.

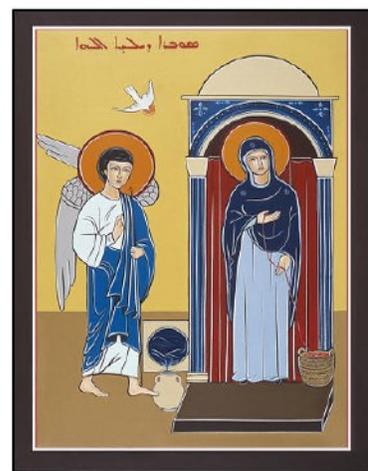
Gabriel appeared to Zechariah, a descendent of Aaron, a member of the priestly caste. This appearance took place while Zechariah was fulfilling one of the priestly functions, the offering of incense at the Temple altar.

The prophecy of a birth of a son was not only good news for Israel, but also good news for the aged Zechariah and Elizabeth. For years they had been living under the curse of having no children. Gabriel now told them that Elizabeth, in her old age, was to give birth to a son. The news given to Zechariah and Elizabeth recalls the promise given to Abraham and Sarah: they too were childless, but were promised descendants.

Although he knew that nothing is impossible for God, Zechariah doubted the message. In order to bring him to belief, Gabriel gave him a sign: Zechariah was to be mute until the birth of his son. This sign is intended for all of us. John the Forerunner is the link between the Old and New Covenants. With the coming of the Savior, the Old will be silenced and the New Covenant proclaimed. Filled with the spirit, we cry out with Zechariah, “Blessed are you, O God.”

The early Fathers provide us with an interesting epilogue to this account. They taught that Zechariah was martyred because he refused to disclose John’s hiding place to Herod’s soldiers (Matthew 23:35).

SUNDAY OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY - NOVEMBER 20TH



The Second Sunday of the Season of Announcement (next Sunday) commemorates the announcement to Mary that she is to be the Mother of God. The feast actually recalls two aspects of the same salvific mystery: the incarnation of the divine Word and the motherhood of Mary. For this reason, the feast was given different names according to the aspect which was being emphasized. With time, the incarnation of the Son of God was stressed on the feast of the Birth of our Lord and today’s feast became a Marian feast.

In addition to this second Sunday of the Season of Announcement, the Maronite Church celebrates the Annunciation on March 25th. The feast of the Annunciation appeared in the West, in Italy, during the fifth century, and was eventually adopted by the Maronite Church as an addition to this feast.

This great announcement to Mary, the fulfillment of the promises of the prophets, took place in the humble home of Mary in Nazareth. At the time, Mary was probably between fourteen and sixteen years old. Again it was Gabriel, the messenger of the end

times, who brought the wonderful message to the young girl.

In many ways, the announcement to Mary can be compared to the announcement to Zechariah. Both apparitions took place during the day and both Zechariah and Mary were to be found at prayer. Mary, the Queen, is speaking with her Lord in her own home. It was necessary for Zechariah to go to the Temple and encounter the Lord in the holy of holies. When the angel appeared to Zechariah, he was described as “standing.” During the announcement to Mary, the angel greets her with signs of respect, gives her the good news and departs. She is not described as “standing.” The angel himself praises Mary, “You have found favor with God.”

In the name of all humanity, Mary consented to be the instrument through which salvation was to be brought into the world. One recalls Eve, who consented to bring darkness and sin into the world. With Mary, the New Eve, salvation history is at a turning point. She is to be the “Mother of the Light.”

VISITATION TO ELIZABETH - NOVEMBER 27TH



The third Sunday of the Season of Annunciation commemorates another important event in the unfolding of the promises of God: Mary went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth.

After receiving such tremendous good news, Mary could have secluded herself in a life of prayer and contemplation. However, after the angel of the Lord had communicated the news of Elizabeth's conception to her, Mary perceived it as the Lord's will that she go to be with Elizabeth, and thus chose to share the divine life within her with another. Mary shared Jesus with others even before his birth. The fundamental task of an apostle is to share Jesus with others, and so, Mary is called the "Queen of the Apostles."

Impelled by the Spirit of God, Mary left on a journey that required four days of difficult travel, especially for a poor girl such as herself. Yet, as the Mother of God and our Mother, she was already concerned for the welfare of others. Our Maronite Liturgy today observes: As Elizabeth's child (John) leapt for joy at your coming, so did the mountains and hills leap and jump for joy as their Creator descended to dwell upon them." (Sedro of the Divine Liturgy for today). This takes us back to Old Testament times when God appeared on the mountains and hills (El Shaddai—God upon the mountains).

When Mary encountered Elizabeth, the unborn infant in her womb leapt for joy, and Elizabeth herself was filled with the Spirit and sang of the blessedness of Mary.

Mary is blessed, not simply because she was to be the Mother of God, but also because of her own personal faith. She heard the words of the angel and accepted everything that was to happen with humility. For this reason, she is blessed throughout the ages.

The hymn of Mary differs from that of Zechariah. His hymn is communal: he is proclaiming gratitude to God on behalf of all the people of Israel. On the other hand, Mary's hymn is personal, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord." She is humbly proclaiming the great things that God has done for her. In humility, the Virgin of Nazereth proclaims how great the Lord has made her by choosing her as the Mother of his Son.

The hymn of Mary announces a revolution which God will bring about through his Son. This revolution has a variety of aspects: it is moral ("He has confused the proud in their inmost thoughts."); social ("He has deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places.") and economic ("The hungry he has given every good thing, while the rich he has sent empty away").

To be called by God for any task, brings with it a crown of sorrow and a crown of joy. God chooses us not for our own glorification, but in order to use us to bring about his kingdom. Like Mary, all of us should respond with humility and be grateful to God for choosing us as his instruments.

Gabriel (Hebrew *gabri 'el*, "El [God] is strong") is the name given the angel who appears in the Christmas narratives of this Season of Annunciation. He is not called an archangel in the Bible; he is one of the seven archangels mentioned in the Apocryphal book of Enoch, probably one of the seven who stand before God (Tobit 12:15; Lk 1:19). In the Book of Daniel, Gabriel is an interpreter who explains the vision of the ram and he-goat (8:16-26) and the meaning of the 70 years of captivity of Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10 (Daniel 9:21-27). Gabriel is probably chosen as the announcer of the happy news of the mystical and marvelous Birth of Jesus because he is associated in the Old Testament with messianic fulfillment. His appearance in Luke is modeled after his mission in Daniel and is conceived as the completion of his mission in Daniel.

Dear Parishioners,

All veterans hold a special place in the heart of the Our Lady of Victory community, for our church's name hearkens back to World War II and the safe return of our servicemen.

Veterans Day has become a feast day for our church that we intend to celebrate every year.

Save the date:

Our Lady of Victory Veterans Day Celebration
Saturday, November 12th
4 pm Liturgy (with ceremony and dinner to follow)

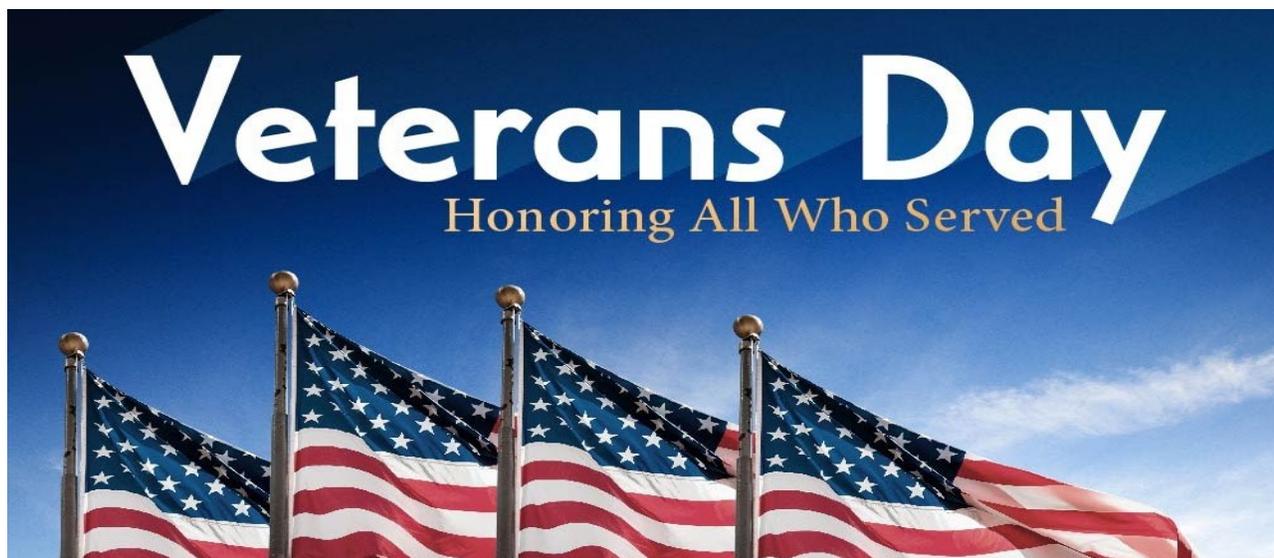
It's time that we create a comprehensive database of our parishioners who have served in the military, from World War II through the present day.

Please help us to honor our veterans by completing the attached form for yourself or your loved ones who have served, both living and deceased. We request your participation by **Tuesday, November 1, 2022** to ensure we can include all of our Veterans in our Veterans Day program booklet.

The questions may require a little research on your part, so please look at the form and fill out as much as you can as soon as possible.

More details and opportunities to get involved with the Veterans Day event will follow. In the meantime, please help us to assemble a comprehensive database of our church's veterans.

Reach out to Marianne Morgano Kovach at (412) 480-5019 or marianne.morgano@gmail.com with any questions.



A separate email will be sent with the emailed Monthly Bulletin which will allow you to simply click on the embedded link. This will take you directly to a page on which you can provide your information for your veteran/s. The form will be sent directly to us.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY VETERANS' DATA BASE

Thank you for helping us to honor our parish Veterans!

Please complete and return this form to the church office as soon as possible but no later than November 1, 2022.

Your Name: _____

Your Email: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Name of Veteran: _____

Veteran's Date of Birth: _____

Veteran's Date of Death (if deceased): _____

Branch of Service (optional): _____

Years of Service if known): _____

Conflicts Served In (optional): _____

Locations Stationed (optional): _____

Awards, Honors, and Medals Received (if applicable): _____

Please include a photo of the Veteran (in uniform, if possible) when returning the completed form.

If you need additional forms, please call the church office at 412-278-0841.

Thank you.

A separate email will be sent with the emailed Monthly Bulletin which will allow you to simply click on the embedded link. This will take you directly to a page on which you can provide your information for your veteran/s. The form will be sent directly to us.

OLOV MYO & MYA Present



Village Night II

Christmas 2022 Edition



Friday, Dec. 23rd
5pm to 9 pm

Our Lady of Victory
Maronite Catholic Church
(at St. Pamphilus)
1000 Tropical Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15216

100% of proceeds go to Lebanon

Questions? Contact us at
office@olovpittsburgh.org

Hot Food,
Bonfire,
Christmas
Music,
and more...



Maronite Youth Organization





**COME JOIN US FOR
THE PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY.**

**Don't miss out on live entertainment
from our youth.**

DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2022

TIME: 12:00 PM (After 11:00 am Liturgy)

**RSVP: By December 14, 2022 to
Lori Evans 412-445-9131**

Happy holidays to you and your families!

Name: _____

No. of people attending _____

Happy holidays to you and your families!

