

## DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

## Maronite Synaxarion

<p><b>Sunday, November 24th</b>  <b>8:30am</b>                  Gary Myers by Clarissa and Allan Moser  <b>11:00am</b>                  Deacon Bob Foster (1 Yr. Anniv.) by Barbara Foster                  Charlotte Fehrenbach by Sdn. Chuck and Mary Beth Abraham</p>	<p><b>St. Catherine the Virgin, Martyr</b></p>
<p><b>Monday, November 25th</b>  <b>No Service</b></p>	<p><b>St. Clement I, Pope and Martyr</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday, November 26th</b>  <b>9:00am Divine Liturgy</b></p>	<p><b>St. Peter, Patriarch of Alexandria, Martyr</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday, November 27th</b>  <b>9:00am Divine Liturgy</b></p>	<p><b>St. James the Intercisus, Martyr</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday, November 28th</b>  <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>  <b>9:00am – Divine Liturgy</b></p>	<p><b>St. Stephen the Younger, Martyr</b></p>
<p><b>Friday, November 29th</b>  <b>9:00am Divine Liturgy</b></p>	<p><b>St. Saturninus and Sisinius, Martyrs</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday, November 30th</b>  <b>9:00am Divine Liturgy</b></p>	<p><b>St. Andrew the Apostle</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday, December 1st</b>  <b>8:30am</b>                  Chris Hamad on his birthday by Sandy Hamad and family  <b>11:00am</b>                  Elie El-Asmar by the OLC Caregivers</p>	<p><b>The Prophet Nahum</b></p>

**Please don't forget to offer intentions for your Loved ones; living or deceased.  
 We believe in the Power of the Eucharist**



*Our Lady of the Cedars of Mount Lebanon*  
 MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
 كنيسة سيّدة أرز جبل لبنان المارونيّة

### PASTOR:

**FATHER RONALD EID (330) 666-3598 EXT. 100**

Welcome New Parishioners  
 Please register at our parish office

### DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:30am. & 11:00am  
 Monday No Service  
 Tuesday 9:00am  
 Wednesday 9:00am  
 Thursday No Service  
 Friday 9:00am  
 Saturday 9:00am

### CONFESSION

Available following Saturday  
 Divine Liturgy  
 or by appointment

### SACRAMENTS

**Baptism & Chrismation**  
 Contact the Parish Office

**Marriage**  
 Contact the Parish Office at least  
 6 months before the wedding

**Sick Calls & Anointing**  
 Notify Fr. Ron  
 Through the Parish Office

**DEACON** Thomas Maroon, Sr.

**SUBDEACON** Paul Boulos  
**SUBDEACON** Chuck Abraham

**CAREGIVERS** Chuck Abraham

Website:  
[www.Ourladyofthecedarschurch.org](http://www.Ourladyofthecedarschurch.org)

Email:  
[Ourladyofthecedarschurch@gmail.com](mailto:Ourladyofthecedarschurch@gmail.com)

Banquet Hall / Caterer:

**Tangier at the Cedars**  
 Angelica George  
 (330) 418-4778



November 24, 2024

## Announcement To The Virgin Mary

“Do not be afraid,  
 Mary, for you have  
 found favor with  
 God. Behold, you  
 will conceive in your  
 womb and bear a  
 son, and you shall  
 name him Jesus.”

Luke 1:30



# READINGS

## THIS SUNDAY

### **Announcement to the Virgin Mary**

Galatians 3:15-22

Luke 1:26-38

2 Samuel 7:8-17

## EPISTLE READERS

### Sunday, November 24

8:30am – Stephanie Hamad

11:00am – Layla Roland

### Sunday, December 1

8:30am – Tom Jesser, Jr.

11:00am – Michelle Reyes

### Sunday, December 8

8:30am – Cheryl Christ

11:00am – Monique Binkley

### Sunday, December 15

8:30am – Chris Abraham

11:00am - Mike Kelly

## Coming Events

Parish Advisory Board Meeting – TBA

Ladies' Guild Meeting – 11-24-24

Men's Club Meeting - TBA

Caregivers' Meeting - 12-1-24

(Following 8:30 Liturgy)

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### Next special collection:

**December 8th**

**Maronite Patriarchal Charities**

**Next First Friday Divine Liturgy**

**And Adoration**

**will be held on**

**Friday, December 6th**

## Counting our Blessings

### *Weekly Collection*

**November 10, 2024**

**\$3,175.00**

*Thank you for your generosity!*

### *Electronic Giving*

If you would like to make your Sunday contributions, or give a donation please scan the QR Code below:



*In Thanksgiving  
For each new morning  
with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the  
night,  
For health and food,  
For love and friends,  
For everything thy  
goodness sends. Amen*



## Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day, annual national holiday in the United States and Canada celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. Americans generally believe that their Thanksgiving is modeled on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists (Pilgrims) of Plymouth and the Wampanoag people. The American holiday is particularly rich in legend and symbolism, and the traditional fare of the Thanksgiving meal typically includes turkey, bread stuffing, potatoes, cranberries, and pumpkin pie. With respect to vehicular travel, the holiday is often the busiest of the year, as family members gather with one another.

Plymouth's Thanksgiving began with a few colonists going out "fowling," possibly for turkeys but more probably for the easier prey of geese and ducks, since they "in one day killed as much as...served the company almost a week." Next, 90 or so Wampanoag made a surprise appearance at the settlement's gate, doubtlessly unnerving the 50 or so colonists. Nevertheless, over the next few days the two groups socialized without incident. The Wampanoag contributed venison to the feast, which included the fowl and probably fish, eels, shellfish, stews, vegetables, and beer. Since Plymouth had few buildings and manufactured goods, most people ate outside while sitting on the ground or on barrels with plates on their laps. The men fired guns, ran races, and drank liquor, struggling to speak in broken English and Wampanoag. This was a rather disorderly affair, but it sealed a treaty between the two groups that lasted until King Philip's War (1675–76), in which hundreds of colonists and thousands of Native Americans lost their lives.

The New England colonists were accustomed to regularly celebrating "Thanksgivings," days of prayer thanking God for blessings such as military victory or the end of a drought. The U.S. Continental Congress proclaimed a national Thanksgiving upon the enactment of the Constitution, for example. Yet, after 1798, the new U.S. Congress left Thanksgiving declarations to the states; some objected to the national government's involvement in a religious observance, Southerners were slow to adopt a New England custom, and others took offense over the day's being used to hold partisan speeches and parades. A national Thanksgiving Day seemed more like a lightning rod for controversy than a unifying force.

Thanksgiving Day did not become an official holiday until Northerners dominated the federal government. While sectional tensions prevailed in the mid-19th century, the editor of the popular magazine Godey's Lady's Book, Sarah Josepha Hale, campaigned for a national Thanksgiving Day to promote unity. She finally won the support of President Abraham Lincoln. On October 3, 1863, during the Civil War, Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving to be celebrated on Thursday, November 26.

The holiday was annually proclaimed by every president thereafter, and the date chosen, with few exceptions, was the last Thursday in November. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, however, attempted to extend the Christmas shopping season, which generally begins with the Thanksgiving holiday, and to boost the economy by moving the date back a week, to the third week in November. But not all states complied, and, after a joint resolution of Congress in 1941, Roosevelt issued a proclamation in 1942 designating the fourth Thursday in November (which is not always the last Thursday) as Thanksgiving Day.

As the country became more urban and family members began to live farther apart, Thanksgiving became a time to gather together. The holiday moved away from its religious roots to allow immigrants of every background to participate in a common tradition. Thanksgiving Day football games, beginning with Yale versus Princeton in 1876, enabled fans to add some rowdiness to the holiday. In the late 1800s parades of costumed revelers became common. In 1920 Gimbel's department store in Philadelphia staged a parade of about 50 people with Santa Claus at the rear of the procession. Since 1924 the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City has continued the tradition, with huge balloons since 1927. The holiday associated with Pilgrims and Native Americans has come to symbolize intercultural peace, America's opportunity for newcomers, and the sanctity of home and family.



**CANTICLE OF MARY** (Luke 1:46-55)

*The soul rejoices in the Lord*

**M**y soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.



# From the Desk of The Pastor



## Selfless Kindness: Loving Others as God Loves Us

Dear Friends in Christ,

This week, let us reflect on the powerful lesson of humility and selfless love that St. Paul gives us in his letters. In Philippians, he writes, \**“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves.”*\* And in his first letter to the Corinthians, he reminds us, \**“If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”*\* These words challenge us to look deeply at our motives and intentions, especially when it comes to the kindness we show others.

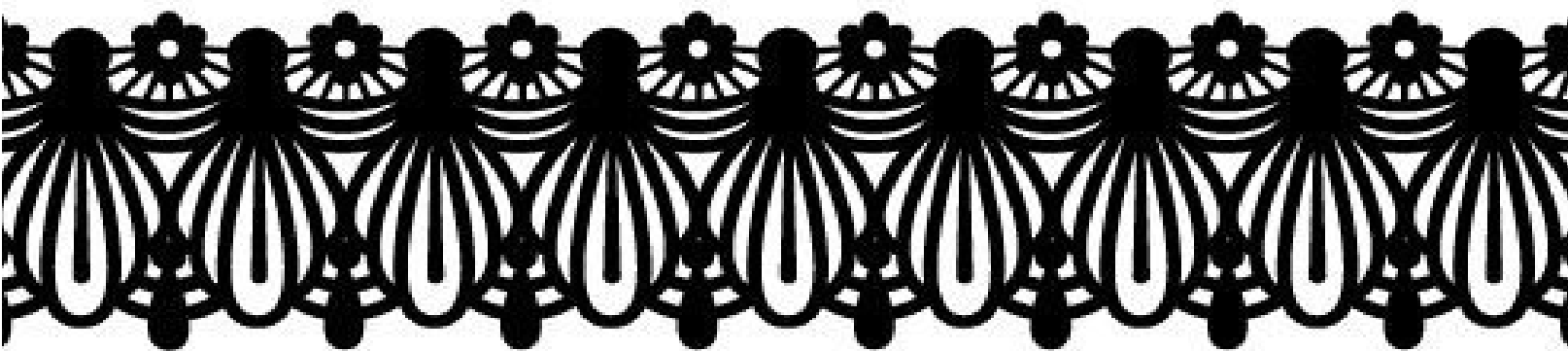
Often, we go about acts of kindness with hidden expectations or hopes for recognition, approval, or even something in return. Sometimes, we act as “people pleasers,” focusing on making others happy or gaining their favor, rather than truly serving out of love. But when we do things only to receive praise or approval, or when we act kindly with the thought of what we might gain in return, we’re not practicing true Christian love. Our actions become empty and lack the spirit of humility that Christ taught us.

True kindness is not transactional; it doesn’t say, “I’ll do this for you if you do something for me.” It asks for nothing in return because it is rooted in God’s love, which is self-giving and unconditional. St. Paul calls us to be “God-pleasers” rather than “people-pleasers.” This doesn’t mean we ignore others or care about their feelings less, but it means that our deepest concern is living in a way that pleases God. We are invited to love as God loves: freely, fully, and with no strings attached.

This week, I encourage us all to practice unselfish kindness in our daily lives. Let’s examine our motives and seek to act purely for the glory of God, with hearts centered on His love. When we approach others with true humility, valuing them as God values them, our kindness is filled with grace and becomes a reflection of God’s own love.

May our acts of kindness spring from genuine love, and may we find joy in serving as Christ served—selflessly, humbly, and always for the glory of God.

In Christ’s peace,  
Fr. Ronald



## Saints Joachim and Anne's Story

In the Scriptures, Matthew and Luke furnish a legal family history of Jesus, tracing ancestry to show that Jesus is the culmination of great promises. Not only is his mother's family neglected, we also know nothing factual about them except that they existed. Even the names "Joachim" and "Anne" come from a legendary source written more than a century after Jesus died.

The heroism and holiness of these people however, is inferred from the whole family atmosphere around Mary in the Scriptures. Whether we rely on the legends about Mary's childhood or make guesses from the information in the Bible, we see in her a fulfillment of many generations of prayerful persons, herself steeped in the religious traditions of her people.

The strong character of Mary in making decisions, her continuous practice of prayer, her devotion to the laws of her faith, her steadiness at moments of crisis, and her devotion to her relatives—all indicate a close-knit, loving family that looked forward to the next generation even while retaining the best of the past.

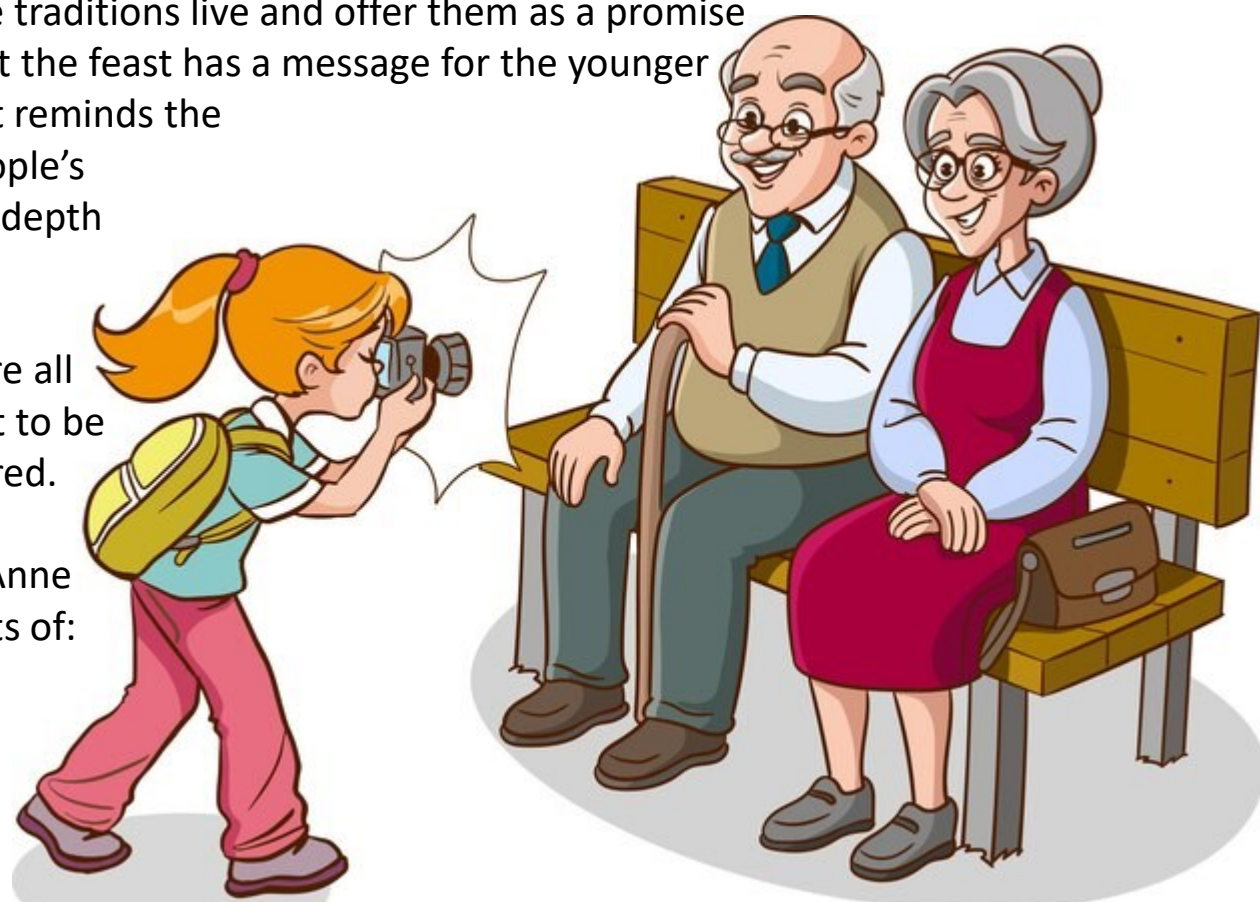
Joachim and Anne—whether these are their real names or not—represent that entire quiet series of generations who faithfully perform their duties, practice their faith, and establish an atmosphere for the coming of the Messiah, but remain obscure.

### Reflection

This is the "feast of grandparents." It reminds grandparents of their responsibility to establish a tone for generations to come: They must make the traditions live and offer them as a promise to little children. But the feast has a message for the younger generation as well. It reminds the young that older people's greater perspective, depth of experience, and appreciation of life's profound rhythms are all part of a wisdom not to be taken lightly or ignored.

Saints Joachim and Anne are the Patron Saints of:

Grandparents



## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### CHRISTMAS NOVENA

December 15-23  
After 9:00am weekday Liturgies  
And after weekend Liturgies

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24  
at 5:00pm  
(Vigil of Christmas)

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25  
Liturgy at 10:30am only

### NEW YEAR'S EVE

### THE CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

Tuesday, December 31  
At 5:00pm

May the blessings of the Christ Child remain with you throughout this Holy season.