

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Maronite Synaxarion

<p>Sunday, March 3rd 8:30am Deacon Bob Foster from the OLC Caregivers In memory of Chris Hamad from Sandy Hamad and family 11:00am Deacon Bob Foster from Sdn. Chuck and Mary Beth Abraham Michelle Doyle from Deacon Tom and Bernie Maroon Adele Chaccour from her son Johnny Khodeir and family</p>	<p>St. Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church</p>
<p>Monday, March 4th No Service</p>	<p>Paul and his Sister Juliana, Martyrs. St. Gerasimus</p>
<p>Tuesday, March 5th 9:00am – Divine Liturgy Intentions of Paula and Tom Hadley from Sdn. Paul and Gena Boulos</p>	<p>St. Albert the Great</p>
<p>Wednesday, March 6th 9:00am – Divine Liturgy John El-Mahrouk from the Sabbagh family</p>	<p>St. Conon of Asia Minor</p>
<p>Thursday, March 7th No Service</p>	<p>St. Narcissus, Bishop of Jerusalem</p>
<p>Friday, March 8th 9:00am - Divine Liturgy Intentions of Patti Staeger for health and blessings from Sdn. Chuck and Mary Beth Abraham 6:00pm - Way of the Cross and Benediction with the Cross</p>	<p>St. Frances of Rome</p>
<p>Saturday, March 9th 9:00am – Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>The 40 Martyrs of Sabaste</p>
<p>Sunday, March 10th 8:30am Lisa Abdoo Liming from Peggy and Tom Maroon Joe, Lena and Audry Ellis from Nila and Paul Ellis 11:00am Deacon Bob Foster from Yvonne and Tom Jesser Nouha Abou Chehade from Sdn. Chuck and Mary Beth Abraham Elaine Marzuola from Barbara Foster</p>	<p>St. Auxentius</p>

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



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. Ronald
 Text/call 330-509-0098

DEACON Thomas Maroon, Sr.

SUBDEACON Paul Boulos
SUBDEACON Chuck Abraham

CAREGIVERS Chuck Abraham

www.Ourladyofthecedarschurch.org

Banquet. Hall / Caterer:
 Tangier's – Angelica George
 (330) 418-4778

**Contact Fr. Ronald directly
 (330) 509-0098.**

Contact Fr. Eid via email,
 calling, or text message. If you
 receive voicemail, he will return
 your call

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

PASTOR FATHER RONALD EID (330) 666-3598

ourladyofthecedarschurch@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE HOURS TUESDAY – FRIDAY 9:00AM – 1:00PM



March 3, 2024

**4th WEEK OF GREAT LENT:
 Parable of the Prodigal Son**

“My son, you
 are here with
 me always;
 everything I
 have is yours.”
 Luke 15:31



507 SOUTH CLEVELAND-MASSILLON ROAD, FAIRLAWN, OHIO 44333

READINGS

THIS SUNDAY

Fourth Week of Great Lent
Parable of the Prodigal Son

2 Corinthians 13:5-13

Luke 15:11-32

EPISTLE READERS

Sunday, March 3

8:30am – Sandy Hamad

11:00am – George Zogbi

Sunday, March 10

8:30am - Erica Peters

11:00am – Georgie Hasrouni

Sunday, March 17

8:30am – Stephanie Hamad

11:00am – Sara Sabbagh

Sunday, March 24

8:30am – Tom Jesser, Jr.

11:00am – Noor Neochi

Coming Events

Parish Advisory Board Meeting – TBA

Ladies' Guild Meeting – March 3 at 10:00am

Men's Club Meeting - TBA

Caregivers' Meeting - TBA

(Following 8:30 Liturgy)

Next special collection:

March 3, 2024

Caritas Lebanon

Next First Friday Divine Liturgy

And Adoration

will be held on

Friday, March 1, 2024

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Counting our Blessings

Weekly Collection

February 25, 2024

\$1,924.00

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:



The 2024 Eparchial Charities collection has begun.

Please be generous, as these donations Will be used to help others who are less Fortunate than we are.

Our goal for this year is \$7,000.

Please help us to reach this goal!

Our Goal: \$7,000

Total donated: \$217.00

Balance: \$6,783

Thank you for your donations.



ST. SHARBEL STATUE PROJECT

Our Lady of the Cedars Parish is contemplating the installation of a beautiful statue of St. Sharbel on our Parish Grounds.

Having a representation of him on our grounds would not only enhance the spiritual ambiance but also create a meaningful focal point for reflection and prayer.

We are asking for every family that is able, to contribute to this project, either for your family, or in memory of a loved one.

There is a box available in the Church lobby for your donations and there are also envelopes for a memory donation.

The total cost of this project will be approximately \$40,000. Any contribution that you make, no matter how large or how small will be greatly appreciated.

Let us join hands in making this meaningful addition to Our Lady of the Cedars Parish, a testament to our shared faith and devotion.

St. Sharbel Pray for us!

THINK ABOUT HOLY LENT



****Every Friday, we will pray the Way of the Cross and Benediction with the Cross at 6:00pm, followed by a simple meatless meal.**

Make a commitment to attend as many Fridays during Lent as possible.

Volunteers to Provide and Serve meatless meals on Fridays in Lent:

Week 3 – March 1st -----Maroon, Stewart and Reusch Families

Week 4 – March 8th ----Jacky Zogbi, Nina Hamad, Nada Rami, Jessica Ghorayeb, Rita Ghorayeb

Week 5 – March 15th ----Hanan and Violette

Week 6 – March 22nd ----Sahlani and Risha Family

Week 7 – March 29th Great Friday – No Meatless Meal.

The meatless meals are meant to be something simple such as soup, salad, bread or any ethnic favorite that is without meat.

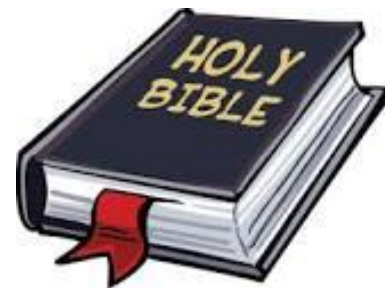
Thank you for your commitment!

Evening with the Scriptures

On the **last Tuesday of each Month**, at 7:00pm, Father Ronald will be leading a Scripture Study at the Church.

****Next study will be held on April 30, 2024****

All are welcome! Come and expand your knowledge of the Word of God.



"Seek the Lord and His Strength; seek His presence continually!"

1 Chronicles 16:11



From the Desk of The Pastor



Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

Since time immemorial, preachers, confessors and directors of conscience have always closed their retreats or their sermons by referring to the example of the prodigal son. They used to do so in order to encourage the people to seek pardon and confession. They used to make ingenious commentaries and interpretations of this parable. But in reality, the parable is so clear and so beautiful that it does not need any embellishment from outside. It touches, moves and talks to the heart.

This parable has been called the greatest beautiful short story. Under the Jewish Law of that time, a father was not free to leave his property as he liked. The elder son must get the greatest part and the younger a much smaller part. Usually, the father distributed his estate when he sees that they are mature enough and capable of doing a good management of his affairs.

But his younger son, probably influenced by bad companies and enslaved by uncontrolled wrong desires of youth, requested his part of the estate. The father did not argue. He knew that if his son was ever to learn, he must learn the hard way and he granted his request.

This story should never have been called The Parable of the Prodigal Son, for the son is not the hero. It should be called The Parable of the Loving Father, for it tells us, rather about a father's love, than a son's sin.

This is a story that had happened during the time of Jesus and that could happen every day in our time.

Let us stop and ponder a little the meaning of this parable. We are all sinners, and no one can consider himself without any stain. We are all inclined to sin as St. Paul says in Romans VII – 19. "I do not the good I will to do, but the evil I do not intend to do." Knowing this weakness of our human nature, Christ gave us the medicine: Confession and Pardon. What did we do with this present? Alas, we neglected the best gift God ever granted our poor humanity! We rejected his clemency, his pardon and his compassion.

Less than 50 years ago, the people used to gather by the dozens around the confessional. At the time of the great feasts, they were obliged to stand in line and to wait for hours in order to have their turn for confession. Children, young people and adults used to come in great numbers for mass and confession. They used to confess small things as well as big sins, because they were convinced that confession is not only a way of purification, but also a way of perfection.

My dear friends, we should recognize that we are all sinners. Our greatest sin is that we ceased to believe in sin. The Devil exists. He is hovering over us, waiting to tempt us, and we close our eyes in order to avoid seeing him. Let us not throw stones at others. Let us begin to correct ourselves, and the world will be better. The world, as evil as it could be doesn't lack just and good persons. Let us be among those who try to save the world from destruction by their holiness, their sanctity and their entire dedication.

Amen

The Three Pillars of Lent

The three pillars of Lent are **PRAYER, FASTING, AND ALMSGIVING**. These practices have been a part of the church tradition for centuries and are still observed by many Christians today.

- Prayer is an essential aspect of the Lenten season. During this time, individuals are encouraged to reflect on their relationship with God and to seek a deeper spiritual connection with the divine. This can be achieved through daily prayers, attending church services, or participating in devotional activities such as the Stations of the Cross.

- Fasting is another important aspect of Lent. It involves giving up certain luxuries or desires for a period of time in order to focus on spiritual needs. This can take many forms, such as giving up food for a day, abstaining from certain foods for a period of time, or giving up other things like television or social media. The purpose of fasting is to help individuals draw closer to God by acknowledging their dependence on God and breaking away from worldly distractions.

- Almsgiving is the third pillar of Lent and involves helping those in need. This can involve donating to charities, volunteering time at a local soup kitchen, or helping a neighbor in need. Almsgiving is an expression of compassion and love. It is an integral part of the entire season, as it helps individuals to focus on their obligations to others and to live a life of selflessness and service.

The three pillars of Lent – prayer, fasting, and almsgiving – serve as a reminder of the importance of spiritual growth and reflection. Through these practices, individuals can deepen their faith, strengthen their relationship with God, and live a more meaningful and purposeful life.



February 29, 2024

It is with great pleasure that we extend to you an invitation to attend
The Guild of St Anthony Annual Recognition Dinner.

As you may know, the Guild of St Anthony of the Desert is an annual fundraiser that helps raise money to assist the Antonine Sisters in their ministry for the elderly and disabled.

The opening of Antonine Village in 2015 represents a great leap forward. In addition to the Adult Day Care, we have added Assisted Living and Memory Care to our ministry. A new addition to the Antonine Village is currently open and includes 21 bedrooms.

This year's membership is \$95 per person (\$65 is tax deductible).

The dinner will be held on SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024
In CEDAR HALL at OUR LADY OF LEBANON NATIONAL SHRINE
2759 North Lipkey Road, North Jackson, OH 44451 (330) 538-9822
www.antoninevillage.org

Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres start at 6:00 following the 5pm Liturgy.
The **All-Lebanese Menu** dinner with special desserts will follow.

If you decide to help -
PLEASE RSVP to the Antonine Sisters at 330-538-9822 by **April 1.**

Please know that your generosity is very much appreciated.
We rely on your assistance in order to keep up with the expenses of our valuable mission.
We look forward to seeing you. We pray that God will bless you and your families.

Sincerely yours,

The Antonine Sisters