



Our Lady of the Cedars Maronite Church
Weekly Bulletin

Year XI – Issue 571 – December 13, 2009

النشرة الأسبوعية لرعية سيدة الأرز
السنة الحادية عشرة - العدد ٥٧١ - ١٣ كانون الأول ٢٠٠٩

Revelation To Joseph

البيان ليوسف

Divine Liturgy

Sunday 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM
Daily Mass: Tue - Sat at 6:30 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession

30 minutes before Mass upon request

Sacrament of Crowning – Marriage

Notify the Pastor four months in
advance for arrangements

Sacrament of Baptism

Parents should meet with the Pastor one
month ahead to make arrangements

Sick and Hospitalized

Contact the Pastor for visitation

Church Office

Monday–Friday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Daily Readings

Sunday December 13: Eph 3:1-13 Mt 1:18-25
Revelation To Joseph - البيان ليوسف

Monday December 14: Rom 10:14-21 Jn 7:1-10
القديس نعمة الله الحرديني - Saint Nimatullah Hardini

Tuesday December 15: Rom 11:1-12 Jn 7:11-18

Wednesday December 16: Rom 11:13-24 Jn 7:25-30

Thursday December 17: Rom 11:25-36 Jn 7:31-36

Friday December 18: Rom 12:1-8 Jn 7:37-44

Saturday December 19: Rom 12:9-21 Jn 7:45-53

Sunday December 20: Rom 1:1-12 Mt 1:1-17
أحد النسبة - Genealogy Sunday

Our Lady of the Cedars Maronite Church

11935 Bellfort Village Drive, Houston, Texas 77031

Telephone: 281.568.6800 – www.ourladyofthecedars.net

Pastor: Fr. Milad Yaghi, M.L.M. (frmilad@usa.com)

Associates: Fr. Andre Estephan, M.L.M. (fr_andremlm@yahoo.com) / Fr. Pierre El-Khoury, M.L.M. (frpierre@gmail.com)

Subdeacon: Jim Pinero (jimp1940@aol.com)

Secretary: Michelle Fuentes

Youth Coordinator: Stephanie Rocha

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome new members and visitors

Please provide address and other contact information using the forms in the lobby or by e-mailing frmilad@sbcglobal.net.

Almahaba Advertisements

Individuals and companies are encouraged to place ads in Almahaba. Please send an e-mail to almahabaolc@yahoo.com for more information.

Organizations Christmas Dinner Dec. 16

The Parish Organizations will hold their yearly Family Christmas dinner on Wednesday at 7:30 PM, following a special Mass at 6:30.

SUNDAY COLLECTION **\$2,930**

PLAYGROUND DONATIONS **\$3,475**

PLEDGES **\$100**

Parish E-mail List

To receive urgent notifications, please add your email to the Church distribution list by emailing frmilad@sbcglobal.net. This list is used for time-sensitive and important announcements only.

Bible Study

Bible Study will not meet during the Holiday season.

Prayer Group Dec. 17

The Prayer Group will meet on Thursday evening after the Christmas Novena.

Cedars Youth Choir TODAY

The Cedars Youth Choir will meet immediately after Mass TODAY, for 20 minutes only, in the Chapel room at the back of the Church.

CCE Christmas Program TODAY

"A Living Jesse Tree" will be presented at 3 PM in the Church, immediately followed by a Recital in the Hall.

Christmas Novena Dec. 15

The Christmas Novena will follow the 6:30 Mass, at 7 PM, from December 15 to 23.

New Year's Eve Banquet Dec. 31

Tickets are on sale for the New Year's Eve Dinner Banquet. Please purchase your tickets TODAY.

Helping Hands

Our Lady of the Cedars' Helping Hands committee has been formed to respond to the social concerns of our community. Its main focus is to establish ways and facilitate programs that extend a helping hand to those who are in need and are trying to achieve self-sufficiency.

For assistance contact: Father Milad Yaghi (frmilad@usa.com) – 7134443-4113

Father Pierre Khoury (frpierre@gmail.com) - 713-972-2990

Nebal Nemry (nnemry@hotmail.com) - 832-715-7731

Pierre Bechelani (pebechel@bechtel.com) - 281-217-2831

Carole Zehri (carolemez@yahoo.com) - 281-222-9494

For all Parish information and daily news, visit www.ourladyofthecedars.net

Family Altar Offering

Our Parish has started a new program for presenting the offerings during the 11 o'clock Mass. For more information or to sign-up, please call the Church office during the week.

Altar Server Program

Children who have had their First Communion, both boys and girls, are encouraged to join the Altar Server Program. Just like CCE, this program benefits the spiritual growth and maturity of your children, by specifically providing an opportunity for them to practice Christian values. Please contact the Church office at 281-568-6800 for additional information.

Saint Nimatullah Kassab Al-Hardini

Joseph Kassab was born in 1808. He entered the school of the monks of St. Anthony at Houb from 1816 to 1822, and the monastery of St. Anthony Qozhaya as a novice in November 1828. There, he adopted the name Nimatullah and professed his first vows on November 14, 1830.

After he finished his theological studies, he was ordained a priest in the monastery at Kfifan on December 25, 1833. He became a member of the General Council for three terms and taught in monastic schools. Father Nimatullah Hardini died in the monastery of Kfifan on December 14, 1858. On May 10, 1998, Pope John Paul II, presided over his Beatification, and then over his Canonization as a Saint for the Universal Catholic Church, on May 16, 2004.

Prayer for the intercession of Saint Nimatullah

O Heavenly Father, the source of all holiness, You are glorified in your saints.

You have bestowed grace upon Nimatullah, so he forsake the world to live for You and with you in the solitude of the monastery.

O Lord Jesus, the Holy One of all saints, You have called Nimatullah and filled him with your grace and blessing, so he could follow You on the harrow path of perfection and holiness. He followed Your path carrying his cross with joy, the cross of communal life, by which he was sanctified.

O Holy spirit, you have inspired Nimatullah, so that he became a monk and lived in the monastery, where he educated his brethren and managed all things wisely and prudently.

He was an ideal teacher and encourager to Saint Charbel his disciple, and many others.

We beseech You, O Holy Trinity, through Saint Nimatullah, to enlighten the path of salvation before us, for You are the first and last aim. Bring us back to You so that we may renew the image and the likeness that You have installed in us.

We thank You and glorify You with our mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, of whom Nimatullah was a devout, and with Your saints, You who live and reign in holiness for ever, **Amen.**

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“Let Them PLAY”

Our parish is in the early stages of planning the addition of a Playground for our children on our Church property. The complete project will include:

1. A playground system accommodating 75 children
2. An additional swing set
3. Ground cover and borders
4. Benches for parents to sit and watch the children comfortably
5. Shades for the benches
6. Water fountains

The system is designed by a top USA manufacturer and will be made of non-corrosive galvanized steel coated with powder coating for a maintenance-free life-time of use. The project will cost about \$40,000.00. A pledge form and additional information will be available soon.

