

**Our Lady of the  
Cedars Maronite  
Church**

**Weekly Bulletin**

January 24, 2010  
Year XII - Issue 577

**Sunday  
of the  
Priests**



النشرة الأسبوعية  
لرعية سيدة الأرز

٢٤ كانون الثاني ٢٠١٠  
السنة الثانية عشرة - العدد ٥٧٧

أحد  
الكهنة

<b>Divine Liturgy</b> Sunday: 9:30 & 11:00 AM Tue - Sat: 6:30 PM	<b>The second collections at both Liturgies this Sunday will benefit the relief efforts in Haiti. Please be generous!</b>	<b>Pastor</b> Fr. Milad Yaghi, M.L.M. <a href="mailto:frmilad@usa.com">frmilad@usa.com</a>
<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)</b> 30 min. before Mass by request		<b>Associate Pastor</b> Fr. Pierre El- Khoury, M.L.M. <a href="mailto:frpierre@gmail.com">frpierre@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sacrament of Crowning (Marriage)</b> Notify the Pastor four months in advance	<b>January 24 - 31, 2010</b>  <b>Sunday of the Priests</b> 1Tim 4:6- 16 Lk 12:42- 48  <b>Monday</b> 2Tim 1:1- 11 Mt 16: 24- 28  <b>Tuesday</b> 2Tim 2:1- 13 Mt 18:1- 5  <b>Wednesday</b> 2Tim 2:14- 26 Mt 20:20- 28  <b>Thursday</b> 2Tim 3:10- 17 Lk 17:7- 10  <b>Friday</b> 2Tim 4:1- 8 Lk 22:24- 30  <b>Saturday</b> Tit 1:1- 9 Jn 13:13- 17  <b>The Righteous and the Just</b> Heb 12:18- 24 Mt 25:31- 46	<b>Associate Pastor</b> Fr. Andre Estephan, M.L.M. <a href="mailto:fr_andremlm@yahoo.com">fr_andremlm@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Sacrament of Baptism (and Confirmation)</b> Notify the Pastor one month in advance		<b>Subdeacon</b> Jim Pinero <a href="mailto:jimp1940@aol.com">jimp1940@aol.com</a>
<b>Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick</b> Contact the Pastor		<b>Choir Director</b> Joseph Rouhana <a href="mailto:Logopg1@aol.com">Logopg1@aol.com</a>
<b>Parish Organizations</b> Daughters of Mary Knights of the Cedars Maronite Youth (MYO)		<b>Youth Coordinator</b> Stephanie Rocha
		<b>Parish Secretary</b> Michelle Fuentes <a href="mailto:sydneyaus@live.com">sydneyaus@live.com</a>
		<b>Parish Council President</b> Nicolas Nammour, MD

**Our Lady of the Cedars Maronite Church**

11935 Bellfort Village Drive, Houston, Texas 77031

Telephone: 281.568.6800 - [www.ourladyofthecedars.net](http://www.ourladyofthecedars.net)

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 AM -2:00 PM

# Parish 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](mailto:frmilad@sbcglobal.net).

## Parish E-mail List

Please add your email to the Church distribution list by emailing [frmilad@sbcglobal.net](mailto:frmilad@sbcglobal.net). This is used for time-sensitive and important announcements only.

## Bible Study Jan. 26

Meeting on Tuesday at 7:30 PM.

## Prayer Group Jan. 28

Meeting on Thursday at 7:00 PM.

## "Let them play"

Thanks to all the volunteers and the generous donations, our new children playground has been installed.

A Grand Opening celebration is scheduled for next Sunday, January 31 after the 11 o'clock Mass, followed by lunch served by the Knights of the Cedars.

## Dedication Banquet Mar. 6

Our parish will celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of our church building with a dinner banquet.

The 2010 Donation Envelopes are available for pickup in the lobby.

The 2010 Maronite Calendars are available in the lobby for a \$10 donation.

## Almahaba Advertisements

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

## Collections / Donations

<b>Last Sunday</b>	<b>\$6,285</b>
<b>Calendars</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>New Playground</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Helping Hands</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Pledges</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>

## Family Altar Offering

Interested families can sign up after Mass or call the Church office during the week.

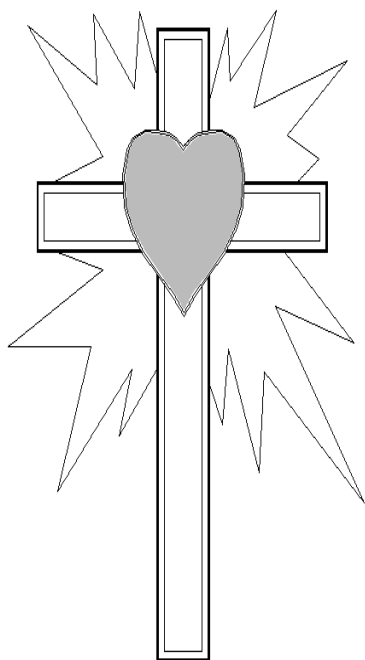
## Helping Hands

To help those who are in need and aiming at self-sufficiency. For assistance contact: Fr. Milad, Fr. Pierre, Nebal Nemry, Pierre Bechelani, or Carole Zehri.

## Family Retreat Feb. 26-28

Join us at the Circle Lake Retreat Center for a weekend of family bonding, fun and spirituality. Registration is now open only for the Saturday-only option. Registration for the entire weekend is now limited to a waiting list. Contact Alberto Tohme at [tohmeag@aol.com](mailto:tohmeag@aol.com) for more information.

# ***Parish Lenten Retreat***

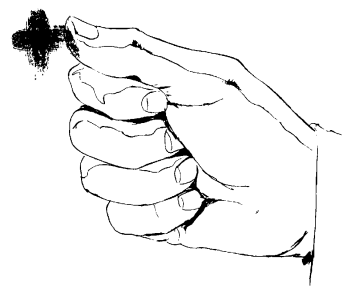


## ***“The Lenten Journey”***

Saturday, February 13, 2010

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

At Our Lady of the Cedars



### **Program**

**9:00 – 9:30: Morning prayer**

**9:30 – 11:00: Workshop 1**

**“Come back to me”**

**Re- discover the meaning of Lent**

**11:00 – 11:30: Praise and Worship**

**11:30 – 12:15: Lunch**

**12:15 – 1:15: Workshop 2**

**“Let the Spirit lead : In the desert with Jesus”**

**1:15 – 2:00: Activity**

**2:00 – 3:00: Confessions**

**(Upon request)**



*Assistance with children will be provided with prior notice*

*Registration is required – contact Carole Zehri for more information.*

You will develop a deeper understanding of the meaning of Lent, through the use of scripture, talks and personal testimony!

The retreat is designed to heighten your awareness of the power of sacrifice and prayer, the beauty of forgiveness, and the need of a constant renewal and commitment to Him Who loves us so much.

Re- discover God’s longing for you, and His personal involvement as you journey through life.

“Compassionate and merciful is the Lord; He forgives sins, He saves in time of trouble.” Sirach 2:11



## CONGREGATIO PRO CLERICIS

**“Almighty Father, grant to these servants of yours the dignity of the priesthood. Renew within them the Spirit of holiness. As co-workers with the order of bishops may they be faithful to the ministry that they receive from you, Lord God, and be to others a model of right conduct.”**

Pontificale Romanum: De Ordinatione Episcopi, presbyterorum et diaconorum, Edition typical, Typis Polyglottis Vaticanis 1990)

**From the Vatican, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

**Dear Brothers in the Priesthood,**

A central part of the prayer of ordination recalls how the Priest is essentially a gift, and, exactly in view of that “supernatural gift”, he carries himself with a dignity which everyone, clergy and lay faithful, are called to recognize. One has in mind a dignity which is not the work of man but which is the pure gift of grace, to which one is called and which no one can demand as a right. The dignity of the priesthood, bestowed by the “Almighty Father”, must be evident in the life of priests: in their sanctity, in their welcoming humanity full of humility and pastoral charity, in the clarity of their faithfulness to the Gospel and the doctrine of the Church, in the sobriety and solemnity of their celebration of the divine mysteries, in their ecclesiastical garb. Everything in the priest must lead him to recall, to himself and to the world, that he is the object of an unmerited gift beyond any merit of his, which makes him an efficacious presence of the Absolute in the world for the salvation of men.

The Spirit of holiness, which one begs might be poured forth anew, is the guarantee to be able to live the vocation one has received in “holiness” and, at the same time, the condition of the very possibility to be “faithful to the ministry”. Faithfulness is the wonderful meeting of the faithful freedom of God and the created but wounded freedom of man, which, however, through the power of the Spirit, becomes sacramentally capable “to be to others a model of right conduct”. Far from reducing the ministerial priesthood to a moralistic category, such an exhortation shows the “fullness” of life: a life which is really thus is a life that is integrally Christian.

The Priest, clothed with the Spirit of the Almighty Father, is called to “guide” the journey of sanctification of the people entrusted to him by teaching and the celebration of the sacraments and, above all, with his own life, with the certainty that this is the only end for which the priest himself exists: Paradise!

The gift of the Father makes of the “sons-priests” his beloved; a *portio electa populi Dei*, which is called to “be chosen” and also to gleam by the holiness of life and the witness of faith.

May the memory of the gift received, always renewed by the Spirit and the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Handmaid of the Lord and Tabernacle of the Holy Spirit, allow each Priest to “faithfully fulfil” his mission in the world, in joyful expectation of the heavenly reward kept safe for the chosen sons, who are also heirs.

✠ Mauro Piacenza, Secretary  
*Titular Archbishop of Vittoriana*

Welcome to Brigadier General Hamid Iskandar, Counterterrorism Specialist of the Lebanese Army. General Iskandar is visiting Houston while on a special official assignment in the US.

أهلاً وسهلاً بالعميد الركن حميد إسكندر إختصاصي مكافحة الإرهاب في الجيش اللبناني