



*Our Lady of the Cedars Maronite Church*  
*Weekly Bulletin*

Year XI – Issue 567 – November 15, 2009

النشرة الأسبوعية لرعية سيدة الأرز  
السنة الحادية عشرة - العدد ٥٦٧ - ١٥ تشرين الثاني ٢٠٠٩

# Announcement to Zechariah

## بشارة زكريا

### 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 November 15: Rom 4:13-25 Lk 1:1-25  
Announcement to Zechariah - بشارة زكريا

Monday November 16: Rom 4:1-12 Jn 8:31-37

Tuesday November 17: Rom 2:1-8 Jn 8:38-40

Wednesday November 18: Rom 2:9-16 Jn 8:41-45

Thursday November 19: Rom 2:17-29 Jn 8:46-50

Friday November 20: Rom 3:1-12 Jn 8:51-55

Saturday November 21: Rom 3:21-31 Jn 8:56-59

Sunday November 22: Gal 3:15-22 Lk 1:26-38  
Announcement to Mary - بشارة مريم  
Lebanon's Independence Day

## Our Lady of the Cedars Maronite Church

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

Associates: Fr. Andre Estephan, M.L.M. ([fr\\_andremlm@yahoo.com](mailto:fr_andremlm@yahoo.com)) / Fr. Pierre El-Khoury, M.L.M. ([frpierre@gmail.com](mailto:frpierre@gmail.com))

Subdeacon: Jim Pinero ([jimp1940@aol.com](mailto: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. Forms may be handed to one of the Priests or ushers.

## *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.

## *Cedar Youth Choir*                      **TODAY**

The Youth Choir will practice after the 11 o'clock Mass in the choir mezzanine area.

**SUNDAY COLLECTION** ..... \$4,335

**PLEDGES** ..... \$100

## *Bible Study*                                      **Nov. 17**

Bible Study will meet on Tuesday evening ONLY, at 7:30 PM. **Bible Study will no longer meet on Wednesday mornings.**

## *Knights of the Cedars*                      **Nov. 18**

The Knights of the Cedars will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday at 7:30 in the evening. Dinner will be served starting at 7 PM.

## *Parish Council*                                      **Nov. 17**

The Parish Council will meet on Tuesday at 7:30.

## *Prayer Group*                                      **Nov. 19**

Weekly meeting on Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 PM.

**CCE** classes for children and the Catholic Education lectures for adults will not convene the next two weekends. Both programs will resume on December 5.

**CCE Halloween** photos are available online, by visiting the following link:

[www.kodakgallery.com/gallery/creativeapps/slideShow/Main.jsp?token=434513157113%3A1240762114](http://www.kodakgallery.com/gallery/creativeapps/slideShow/Main.jsp?token=434513157113%3A1240762114)

## *Independence Day Banquet*    **Nov. 21**

Tickets are on sale for Lebanon's Independence Day dinner party scheduled for Saturday, November 21. Entertainment will feature the famous Lebanese singer Nicolas Al-Osta.

## **Parish E-mail List**

To receive urgent notifications or news, please add your email to the Church distribution list by emailing [frmilad@sbcglobal.net](mailto:frmilad@sbcglobal.net).

As a reminder, this list is used for time-sensitive and important Parish announcements only.

## *Family Altar Offering*

On December 6, our Parish will start a new program for presenting the offerings during the 11 o'clock Mass. Two members of a family will carry the offerings in a procession with the Altar servers. Other family members can join the procession if desired. Interested families can call the Church office during the week to sign-up. The Church secretary, Mrs. Michelle Fuentes, who maintains the calendar, will schedule families based on available Sundays, and then remind each family the week before. Families will be expected to be in Church on time, and dress appropriately.

**For all Parish information and daily news, visit [www.ourladyofthecedars.net](http://www.ourladyofthecedars.net)**

## ***“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.



*“... your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son and you will give him the name John...”*

*“... وزوجتك اليصابات ستلد لك ابناً وأنت تدعوه يوحنا...”*



## *The Announcement to Zachariah*

We begin the Season of Annunciation, which is a commemoration of those events surrounding and culminating with the incarnation of Jesus.

The season opens with the 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. 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 over 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 descendant 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 advanced 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 given to Zechariah 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 provided an interesting epilogue to this account by teaching that Zechariah was martyred because he refused to disclose John's hiding place to Herod's soldiers.

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