



Our Lady of the Cedars Maronite Church
Weekly Bulletin

Year XI – Issue 568 – November 22, 2009

النشرة الأسبوعية لرعية سيدة الأرز
السنة الحادية عشرة - العدد ٥٦٨ - ٢٢ تشرين الثاني ٢٠٠٩

Announcement to Mary

بشارة مريم

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 22: Gal 3:15-22 Lk 1:26-38

Announcement to Mary - بشارة مريم

Lebanon's Independence Day

Monday November 23: Gal 3:1-6 Lk 11:27-32

Tuesday November 24: Gal 3:7-14 Mt 11:25-30

Wednesday November 25: Gal 3:23-29 Mt 13:54-58

Thursday November 26: Gal 4:1-7 Mt 12:46-50

Thanksgiving Day

Friday November 27: Gal 4:8-12 Jn 6:40-44

Saturday November 28: Gal 4:13-20 Lk 10:21-24

Sunday November 29: Eph 1:1-14 Lk 1:39-45

Visitation To Elizabeth – زيارة اليصابات

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. Forms may be handed to one of the Priests or ushers.

Cedar Youth Choir TODAY

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

CCE classes for children and the Catholic Education lectures for adults will not convene next weekend, and will resume on December 5.

Thanksgiving Week Nov. 23-29

No organizational meetings, Bible Study, or Prayer Group will convene the week of November 23.

Wishing everyone a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Almahaba Advertisements

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

SUNDAY COLLECTION \$2,810
PLEDGES \$100

CCE Halloween photos are available online, by visiting the following link:
www.kodakgallery.com/gallery/creativeapps/slideShow/Main.jsp?token=434513157113%3A1240762114

Parish E-mail List

To receive urgent notifications or news, please add your email to the Church distribution list by emailing frmilad@sbcglobal.net. As a reminder, this list is used for time-sensitive and important Parish announcements only.

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, including:

- Learning and practicing service to the community and to God
- Serving the Altar in prayer and reverence to God
- Understanding the importance of the Holy Communion in their lives as Christians
- Modeling Christian values to other children

Please contact the Church office at 281-568-6800 for additional information.

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

The Annunciation to Mary

The fact of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is related in Luke. The Evangelist tells us that in the sixth month after the conception of St. John the Baptist by Elizabeth, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to the Virgin Mary, at Nazareth, a small town in the mountains of Galilee.

Mary was of the house of David, and was espoused to Joseph, of the same royal family. However, she had not yet entered the household of her spouse, but was still in her mother's house.

Moreover, the angel came into the house and said to her: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee." Mary having heard the greeting words did not speak; she was troubled in spirit, since she knew not the angel, nor the cause of his coming, nor the meaning of the salutation. Then, the angel continued and said: "Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God. Behold thou shall conceive in thy womb, and shall bring forth a son; and thou shall call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of David his father; and he shall reign in the house of Jacob forever. And of his kingdom there shall be no end." The Virgin understood that there was question of the coming Redeemer. But, why should she be elected from amongst women for the splendid dignity of being the mother of the Messiah? Therefore, not doubting the word of God like Zachary, but filled with fear and astonishment, she said: "How shall this be done, because I know not man?"

The angel to remove Mary's anxiety and to assure her that her virginity would be spared, answered: "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee. And therefore also the Holy which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

In token of the truth of his word he made known to her the conception of St. John, the miraculous pregnancy of her relative now old and sterile: "And behold, thy cousin Elizabeth; she also has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month with her that is called barren: because no word shall be impossible with God." Mary may not yet have fully understood the meaning of the heavenly message, but clinging to the first words of the angel and trusting to the Omnipotence of God she said: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to thy word."

The year and day of the Annunciation cannot be determined as long as new material does not throw more light on the subject. The present date of the feast (25 March) depends upon the date of the older feast of Christmas. The Annunciation is the beginning of Jesus in His human nature. Through His mother He is a member of the human race. If the virginity of Mary before, during, and after the conception of her Divine Son was always considered part of the deposit of faith, this was done only on account of the historical facts and testimonials. The Incarnation of the Son of God did not in itself necessitate this exception from the laws of nature. Only reasons of expediency are given for it, chiefly, the end of the Incarnation.

It was the will of God, St. Thomas says, that the redemption of mankind should depend upon the consent of the Virgin Mary. This does not mean that God in His plans was bound by the will of a creature, and that man would not have been redeemed, if Mary had not consented. It only means that the consent of Mary was foreseen from all eternity, and therefore was received as essential into the design of God.

“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.

