

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

December 4, 2011
Year XIII - Issue 674

**Birth of
John the
Baptist**



النشرة الأسبوعية
لرعية سيدة الأرز
٤ كانون الأول ٢٠١١
السنة الثالثة عشرة - العدد ٦٧٤

**أحد
مولد يوحنا
المعمدان**

Divine Liturgy Sunday: 9:30 & 11:00 AM Tue - Sat: 6:30 PM	December 4 - 10 Sunday Gal 4:21-5:1 Lk 1:57-66 Monday Rom 9:1-5 Lk 1:67-80 Tuesday Rom 9:6-13 Mt 11:11-15 Wednesday Rom 9:14-18 Mt 17:9-13 Thursday Heb 7:11-17 Lk 11:27-32 The Immaculate Conception الحبل بها بلا دنس Friday Rom 9:30-33 Mt 11:16-19 Saturday Rom 10:1-13 Jn 5:31-36	Pastor Fr. Milad Yaghi, M.L.M. frmilad@usa.com
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) 30 min. before Mass by request		Associate Pastor Fr. Pierre El Khoury, M.L.M. frpierre@gmail.com
Sacrament of Crowning (Marriage) Notify the Pastor Four months in advance		Subdeacon Jim Pinero jimp1940@aol.com
Sacrament of Baptism (and Confirmation) Contact the Parish office to register for the class		Parish Council President Nicolas Nammour, MD nic_nammour@hotmail.com
Anointing of the Sick Contact the Pastor		Religious Education Director Tommy Cordova tommylcordova@gmail.com
Maronite Youth Organization Stephanie Rocha stephanie.rocha@hok.com		Choir Director Joseph Rouhana Logopgl@aol.com
Parish Secretary Michelle Fuentes sydneaus@live.com		Daughters of Mary Wafa Al-Nimri Wafa.Al-Nimri@fluor.com
		Knights of the Cedars Samer Haouila shaouila@yahoo.com

Our Lady of the Cedars Maronite Church
11935 Bellfort Village Drive, Houston, Texas 77031
Telephone: 281.568.6800 - www.ourladyofthecedars.net
Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 AM -4:00 PM

Dear Parishioners,

The Helping Hands committee is inviting you to participate in a couple of programs to reach out to needy families this Christmas season.

The programs are the following:

1. Food Drive:

Please, bring non-perishable food items with you to Church. A box will be available in the lobby of the church and in the lobby of the hall for collection. These may include, but are not limited to:
Rice, beans, vegetable oil, cereal boxes or bars, cans... etc...

2. Adopt-a-family:

- If you know of any needy families (parishioners or not), you may use the attached form to nominate them. Use one form per family. Return the form(s) by Dec. 6 as directed on the form.
- If you would like to adopt a family, meaning purchasing and donating their needs, you may submit your name by contacting Micheline Abboud at 713-851-0099 or e-mailing her at: abbouds@sbcglobal.net
Your family will be given to you by Dec. 6. You may provide their needs no later than Dec. 22.

3. Monetary Donations:

You can offer monetary donations by using the labeled envelopes provided in the lobby of the church. Drop them in the collection basket during Mass or mail them to the church office. These donations will be kept in a separate account and will be used towards helping those in need.

If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Milad Yaghi or any other members of the committee (www.Ourladyofthecedars.net).

Thank you for your participation in these programs, and for making someone's Christmas merrier.

May God bless you and your family.

The **Helping Hands** Committee



ADOPT-A-FAMILY

NOMINATOR: _____

CONTACT NUMBER: _____

PERSON WHO WILL PICK UP & DELIVER ITEMS TO FAMILY: _____

NAME OF FAMILY TO BE NOMINATED: _____
(You do not have to list the family name. The family may remain unknown)

Number of family members: _____

Number of Children: _____

Ages: _____

LIST OF ITEMS NEEDED (Please be specific)

FOOD

CLOTHING ITEMS & SIZES

OTHER ITEMS

All forms need to be returned by **December 6** to allow time for purchasing and preparation. Please return all forms to the Helping Hands committee attention **Micheline Abboud**. You may contact Micheline by phone at 713-851-0099 or e-mail at: abbouds@sbcglobal.net

Welcome new members and visitors

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

Almahaba Advertisements

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

Choir Christmas Concert Dec. 11

The annual Christmas concert will take place next Sunday at 6 PM.

Parish E-mail List

To join the parish e-mail list or to update your listing, please send an email to frmilad@usa.com.

If you need to register your marriage and/or your children in Lebanon's Vital Records, please contact the Coordinator for *Project Roots* for The State of Texas, Tony Choufati at 832-294-9223

New Year's Eve Dinner Banquet

Our annual gala promises to be very entertaining. Buy your tickets today to ring in the New Year with our Parish family. Tickets may be purchased in the hall after Mass or by contacting Salim Joubran or the Parish office.

Entertainment will feature a variety of DJ music selection and a stage illusion magic show.

F.T.C.M.

Dec. 5

Class meets on Monday from 7 to 9 PM.

The Immaculate Conception Dec. 8

Mass will be celebrated at 7 PM on this Holy Day of Obligation.

C.C.E.

Dec. 10

Classes meet on Saturday from 10 AM until Noon.

The Immaculate Conception of Mary

Although the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception was not declared until 1845, belief in Mary's Immaculate Conception goes back to the earliest days of Christianity. The angel Gabriel addresses Mary in a most extraordinary manner using the title "full of grace" which highlights the innermost state of her soul rather than using her given name. The use of this title is notable because it goes to the heart of Mary's formation in preparation for her vocation as mother of God and her participation in her son's work of redemption. In addressing Mary, the Angel Gabriel attests that she is endowed with grace of a permanent and singular kind, a perfection of grace or perfect holiness. This implies that the fullness of grace is both intensive and extensive: intensive - in that Mary's reception of grace was as complete as possible; extensive - in that it was applied to the whole of Mary's life, from the very moment of her conception.

Additional biblical support for Mary's Immaculate Conception is discovered in the Bible's exposition of Mary as the true Ark of the Covenant. God demanded that only the finest materials and the purest gold be used in the construction of the Ark. Similarly, the Holy Spirit used only the purest material to tabernacle the Divine Son. For in Mary "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us".

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