



Our Lady of the Cedars Maronite Church

Weekly Bulletin

Year XI – Issue 569 – November 29, 2009

النشرة الأسبوعية لرعية سيدة الأرز
السنة الحادية عشرة - العدد ٥٦٩ - ٢٩ تشرين الثاني ٢٠٠٩

Visitation To Elizabeth

زيارة اليصابات

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

Visitation To Elizabeth – زيارة اليصابات

Monday November 30: Eph 1:15-23 Lk 1:46-56

The Apostle Andrew – التلميذ إندراوس

Tuesday December 1: Eph 2:1-10 Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday December 2: Eph 2:11-16 Lk 19:1-10

Thursday December 3: Eph 2:17-22 Jn 4:39-42

Friday December 4: Heb 7:11-17 Lk 11:27-32

St. Barbara - عيد البربارة

Saturday December 5: Eph 4:1-7 Lk 5:27-32

Sunday December 6: Gal 4:21-5:1 Lk 1:57-66

Birth of John the Baptist – مولد يوحنا المعمدان

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.

Cedar Youth Choir ***TODAY***

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

SUNDAY COLLECTION \$2,635
PLAYGROUND DONATIONS \$5,000
LADIES' FUNDRAISERS \$889

CCE classes for children and the **Catholic Education lectures for adults** will resume next weekend, December 5.

CCE classes will meet between 12 and 2 PM. All students in Grades 7 & 8 and High School will have practice for the Christmas Program until 3 PM.

The **Adult Education** lecture topic is from the "Holy Sacraments" series. It is on the "*Sacrament of Marriage (Chapter 21)*". The lecture will be presented by George Henderson. All parents are encouraged to attend while their children are in CCE.

Bible Study ***Dec. 1***
Bible Study will resume on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM.

Prayer Group ***Dec. 3***
The Prayer Group will resume meeting on Thursdays between 7:00 PM and 8:30 PM.

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.

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 Visitation to Elizabeth

The third Sunday of the Season of Annunciation commemorates another important event in the unfolding of the promises of God: Mary's visit to Elizabeth. After receiving such tremendous good news, Mary could have secluded herself in a life of prayer and contemplation. However, after the angel of the Lord had communicated the news of Elizabeth's conception to her, Mary perceived it as the Lord's will that she go to be with Elizabeth, and chose to share Jesus with others even before his birth.

Impelled by the Spirit of God, Mary left on a journey that required four days of difficult travel, especially for a poor girl such as herself. Yet, as the mother of God and our Mother, she was already concerned for the welfare of others. When Mary encountered Elizabeth, the unborn infant in her womb leapt for joy, and Elizabeth herself was filled with the Spirit and sang of the blessedness of Mary. Mary is blessed, not simply because she was to be the Mother of God, but also because of her own personal faith. She heard the words of the angel and accepted everything that was to happen with humility.

The hymn of Mary differs from that of Zechariah. Zechariah's hymn is communal: he is proclaiming gratitude to God on behalf of all the people of Israel. On the other hand, Mary's hymn is personal, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord." She is humbly proclaiming the great things that God has done for her. In humility, the Virgin of Nazareth proclaims how great the Lord has made her by choosing her as the Mother of His Son. The hymn of Mary announces a revolution that God will bring about through His Son. This revolution has a variety of aspects: it is moral ("He has confused the proud of their inmost thoughts."); social ("He has deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places."); and economic ("The hungry He has given every good thing, while the rich He has sent empty away").

To be called by God for any task, brings with it a crown of sorrow and a crown of joy. God chooses us in order to use us to bring about his kingdom. Like Mary, all of us should respond with humility and be grateful to God for choosing us as his instruments.

St. Barbara

Barbara was the daughter of a rich heathen, who kept her in a tower in order to preserve her from the outside world. When she acknowledged herself to be a Christian, she was ill-treated by her father and cruelly tortured and condemned by the Prefect of the Province to death by beheading. The father himself carried out the death sentence, but in punishment for this, he was struck by lightning on the way home and his body consumed.

Another Christian named Juliana suffered the death of a martyr along with Barbara. At their grave site, the sick were healed and the pilgrims who came to pray received aid and consolation.

For all Parish information and daily news, visit 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.

