SAINT MARON CHURCH

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Pg. 48

December 10, 2023

The story of John the Baptist's birth is like a divine painting in the Gospel of Luke, going beyond what people might expect. Zechariah and Elizabeth, who were quite old, were given a promise by the angel Gabriel that they would have a son named John. It wasn't just a regular happy moment for them; John's life had a special connection to something spiritual.

When Zechariah doubted the angel, he couldn't speak until John was born, showing that something extraordinary was happening. John was filled with the Holy Spirit from the very beginning, making his life special and set apart. This shows how God's power can do things that go beyond what we think is possible, linking the everyday world with something spiritual and beyond our understanding.

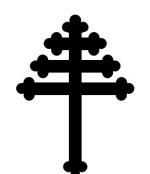
As John grew up, he became closely connected to something divine. His job was to get people ready for the coming of Jesus, the Messiah. John lived a simple life, not focusing on fancy things, which was different from what most people did.

So, John's birth is not just a regular story; it's like a doorway into a life that's different in a special way. He lived in the wilderness, talking to people about changing their ways, and baptizing them in water. This was a way of waking people up spiritually. John knew he was not the main person; he was preparing the way for someone greater, pointing to Jesus.

Thinking about John's birth means thinking about a story that's not just about everyday things; it's about a connection to something bigger and more special. John's life encourages us to look beyond what we see every day, to connect with something sacred, and to be ready for the special moments that can change our lives.

Clergy Rev. Fr. Elias Yazbeck: Administrator Subdeacon Lattouf Lattouf Subdeacon Ghazi Faddoul Subdeacon Yamen Saada Subdeacon Mario Ghosn

Chapel & Mailing Address 7800 Brookside Road Independence, Ohio 44131 216-520-5081 Emergency 612-501-6383 WWW.saintmaron-clev.org Email: saintmaroneleveland@gmail.com



Liturgy Schedule

Tues & Thurs: Chapel 6:00 p.m.: English/Arabic Saturday: Chapel 5:00 p.m.: English Sunday: Downtown 9:30 a.m.: English 11:00 a.m.: Arabic-English

Church: 1245 Carnegie Ave Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Saint Maron Church in Cleveland saintmaronchurch

Church Organizations

Parish Council President-Jèan Yaacoub 2ndWed. of the month at 7:00 pm **Finance Council** President- Rick Ganim: 3rd Wed of the month at 7:00 pm Immaculate Conception Sodality (ICS) President-Karan Farhat-Rohfeld 1st Mon. of every month at 7:00pm Maronite Christian Formation Program (MCFP) Director-Elias Kanaan: Sundays (except Holy Days) 12:00-1:00 pm MaronKnights Dabke Group Tanya Elasmar: Maronite Youth Organization (MYO) Coordinator– Peter Harb: Maronite Young Adults (MYA) President- Anessa Kleem Follow MYA page for updates Maronite Mothers Club (MMC) Coordinator- Tina Chamoun Arabic School: Coordinator: Jihad Kawkabani Classes Sat. Oct-April (except Holy Days) 10 am -12noon 50+ Social Club Mary Ann Watson 1st Friday of each month. Liturgy: 10:00 am Book & Cine Club Katia Abboud Rosary Prayer Group Daad Chamoun Social Committee Souheil Farah, Rita Lattouf, Claire Naoum St. Maron Health Committee Dr. Paul Farah Social Media Coordinator Jessica Khoury Order of Saint Sharbel Samir Farah and Daad Chamoun

CHRISTMAS NOVENA SCHEDULE

Liturgy at 6:00 pm with Novena following

CHAPEL

December 15th Liturgy and Novena

December 18,19,20 Liturgy and Novena

December 21, 22 Liturgy and Novena

CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

Vigil of Christmas Liturgy Sunday Dec. 24th 5:00 PM Chapel

Midnight Christmas Liturgy Sunday/Monday Dec. 24th 12:00 AM Downtown

Christmas Day Liturgies Monday Dec. 25th 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM Downtown

Liturgy Intentions

Birth of John the Baptist

Saturday December 9

5:00 pm: Mem Lit for Deeb & Amineh Thomas (Darlin & Souheil Farah & family and Samir & Jeannie Farah & family)

Sunday December 10

9:30 am: Mem Lit for Chucrallah and Takla Chebib (The Chebib family)

11:00 am: Forty Day Liturgy for Nassim Elias Sarkis (His daughters Luna Nassim Lahoud and her husband Antoine Hanna Lahoud and his daughter Rana Nassim Sarkis and her husband Nassri Tokmaji and their families)

Next Week

Revelation to Joseph

Saturday December 16

5:00 pm: Five year Anniversary Liturgy for Albert Maroun (His wife Jeanne Maroun and children and grandchildren)

5:00 pm: Mem Lit for Simon, Genevieve and Joud, and all the deceased members of the Lahood family (Their families)

Sunday December 17

9:30 am: Parishioners Intentions

11:00 am: Forty Day Liturgy for Tony Salloum (His sisters and brother, Jamal Salloum, Huda Salloum, and Adibah Salloum)

11:00 am: Forty Day Liturgy for Ameen Tanios Ghazzoul (His nephew and niece Tony, Jawaher, and Gerges Ghazoul and family)



Our deepest condolences to the family of **Simon Zarife** who passed away on December 6, 2023. Beloved husband of Amal and father of Houda Crable (Dan), Christine Green (Ray), Nicole Gove (Chris), Simon Zarife, Jr. and Sarah Paolino (Gabe): grandfather of 12. Brother of Souad Khadige, May Bouyounan, George Zarife and the late Sami, Souheil, Pierre and Souheila.

Simon Zarife will be buried on Saturday, December 9, 2023 at St. Maron Church (Independence)

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW ICS BOARD

Claire Naoum: President Alya Essey: Vice-President Lisa Salwan: Treasurer Cristina Lahoud: Recording Secretary Rose Habeeb: Corresponding Secretary

Sunday of the Birth of St John the Baptizer		أحد مولد يوحنا		
From the letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians	4:21-5:1	رسالة القدّيس بولس إلى أهل غلاطية		
يا إخوَتِي، قُولُوا لي، أنْتُمُ الَّذِينَ تُريدُونَ أَنْ تَكُونُوا في حُكُم الشَّرِيعَة، أَمَا تَسْمَعُونَ الشَّرِيعَة؟ فانَّهُ مَكْثُوب: كَانَ لإبْر اهيمَ آبْنَان، واحِدٌ مِنَ الجَارِيَة، ووَاحِدٌ مِنَ الحُرَةِ فَقُوَّةٍ الوَعْد. وفي ذلك رَمُرٌ: فَسَارَةُ و هَاجَرُ تُمَيَّلان عَهْدَين، عَهْدًا مِنْ جَبَل سِينَاءَ بَلَدُ لِلعُبُوديَّة، الَّذي مِنَ الجَارِيَةِ فَقَدُ وَلَدَ بَحَسَبِ الجَسَد، وَأَمَّا الَّذي مِنَ الحُرَةِ فَقُوَّةٍ الوَعْد. وفي ذلك رَمُرٌ: فَسَارَةُ و هي مَثَالَمُ وَهُمَا أَذي مَنَ الجَارِيَة، ومَا وَرَعْنَاءِ بَلَد وفو هَاجَر؛ لأَنَّ هَا أُورَ شَليمُ الغُلْيَا فَهِي عَلَادٍ العَرَب، وتُوافِقُ أُورَ شَليمَ الحَالِيَّة، لأَنَّها في العُبُوديَّة هي وأَوْلاَ هَا. أَمَّا أَذي في عرب العَرْبَ، وهُو هَاجَر؛ لأَنَّ هَاجَر؟ لأَنَّ هَا أَقَالاً عَقِرُ الَّذي في بلادِ العَرَب، وتُوافِقُ أُورَ شَليمَ الحَالِيَة، لأَنَّها في العُبُوديَة هي وأَوْلادُها. أَمَّا أُولاد المُتَرَوَجَة. « أَمَّا أَنْتُمُ، وهُو هَاجَر؛ لأَنَّ هَا أَوَلادَ التَعَلَّمُ اللَّذي في بلادِ العَرَب، وتُوافِقُ أُورَ شَليمَ الحَايَّة، لأَنَّها الْتُوليمَ الْأَنَ عَلَيْنُ في عَدْمَ اللَّذُي في عَمَانَا مُعَلَّزُ اللَّذي أَنَهُمُ الْعُلْيَا فَتَنَا لاَنَّهُ مَا أَنَانَ أَولادَ الوعْد المَتَرَوَجَة. إِنْدَفِعِي بالتَّرْنِيمِ وَ آصُرُخِي، أَيَّتُمَ النَّسَ يَعَمَّضُ الْ أَنَّ ولاذَ المَهُجُورَةِ أَكْثَرُ مِنْ أُولادِ المُتَزَوَجَة. « أَيُّهَا الإَخْذَى الحَقَابُ الْعَقُرُ الَّذي لَكَنَا الحَدي ولَكَنَ مَتَاذًا يَتَمُ النَّهُ مُعَالًا لِعُنْ أَن أَيُوا لا حَدارًا مَا ولاد الوعْد مِنْ المَعْرِيقِ لا يَعْفُولُ عَلَيْ الْحَرَة بِعَالَى الْعَلْقُوبُ الْ ولاذ الحَدَرة ولا يُعَالاً إِنَّا اللَّنُ الْعَنُونَ الْ الْعَانُ الْحَسَلَيمَ الْحَاسَة الْعَنْقُولُ الْن التَقَالا فَوْلاذَ الوعُد مِنْنَا اللَّهُ عَنْ الْعَاقُ الْعَاقُ الْ الْتَقَا الْحَارِي فَوْلادَ اللَّي عَانَ الْحَدي ولَكَنَ مُعَرَينَ في مَعْنَ الْمُ الْحَانِ ف التَقَالا فَوْلاذَ جَارِي فَوْلادَ الحَرَّة أَنْ الْحَابِي فَا أُنْ أَنْ وَلاذَ عَائِي مُنْهُ أُولادَ الْحَرَقُ فَالَعُنُولُونَ أَنْ الْحَالَ أُنْ ولا أُنْ أَنْ وَاذَا إِنْ الْعَافُرُ الْ				
Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children, burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than the children of the one who is married." Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. But just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. But what does the scripture say? "Drive out the slave and her child; for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance with the child of the free woman." So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman. For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Praise be to God always!				
From the Hely Coord according to Spint Lyke	1.57	إنجيل القدّيس لوقا		
قال لوقا البشير، نَمَّ زَمَانُ اليصَابَاتَ لتَلد، فَرَلَدَتِ أَبْنًا. وسَمِعُ جِيرائُها وأَقَارِبُها أَنَّ الرَّبَ قَدْ عَظَّمَ رَحْمَتَهُ لَها، فَفَرِحُوا مَعَهَا. وفي اليَوْمِ الثَّامِنِ جَاؤُوا لِيَخْتِئُوا الصَّبِيّ، وسَمَّوْهُ بِٱسْمِ أَبِهِ زَكَرِيًّا. فأَجَابَتُ أَمَّهُ وَقَالَتُ: »لا! بَلْ يُسَمَّى يُوحَنَّا.«! فقَالُوا لَها: »لا أَحَدَ في قرابَتِكِ يُدْعَى بهذا الأسم.« وأَشَارُوا إلى أَبِيهِ مَاذَا يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُسَمِّيَهُ. فطلَبَ لَوْحًا وكَتَب: »إسمُهُ يُوحَنًا. «ذَقَتَحَبُوا جَمِيعُهُم. وانْفَتَحَ فَجْأَةٌ فَمْ زَكَرِيَّا، والطَقَيَ لِسَائُهُ، وَجَعَلَ يَتَكَلُمُ ويُنَارِكُ اللهُ فَآسُول الحَدِي وكَانَ كُلُّ مَنْ سَمَمَ بِذِلكَ يَخْطَهُ في قَلْبِه قَائِلاً: »ما عَسَى هذا الطَفْلُ أَنْ يَكُون؟ . «وكانَ يُذ				
حقاً والأمانُ لجَميعِكُم Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to cir- cumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning				

to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

This is the truth! Peace be with you.

A Reading from the First Book of Samuel.

1Samuel 1:9-11; 19b-23

Hannah rose after one such meal at Shiloh, and presented herself before the Lord; at the time Eli the priest was sitting on a chair near the doorpost of the Lord's temple. In her bitterness she prayed to the Lord, weeping freely, and made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if you look with pity on the hardship of your servant, if you remember me and do not forget me, if you give your handmaid a male child, I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life. No razor shall ever touch his head." When they returned Elkanah had intercourse with his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. She conceived and, at the end of her pregnancy, bore a son whom she named Samuel. "Because I asked the Lord for him." The next time her husband Elkanah was going up with the rest of his household to offer the customary sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfill his vows, Hannah did not go, explaining to her husband, "Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the Lord and leave him there forever." Her husband Elkanah answered her: "Do what you think best; wait until you have weaned him. Only may the Lord fulfill his word!" And so she remained at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

Praise be to God always.



Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation

If you are a new parent and wish to have your child baptized at Saint Maron Church or Chapel you must call the office at least two months in advance. We try very hard to have only one baptism per Saturday and Sunday. Times are after the 5pm Saturday liturgy (Chapel) or following the 11am Sunday liturgy (Church).



Mystery of Crowning (Sacrament of Matrimony)

MANDATORY you contact and meet with Fr. Elias at least 8 months in advance of your desired date.

Couples are required to participate in our pre-Cana classes. Once a couple has met with Father Elias their date will be secured. Call the office to schedule an appointment.: 216.520.5081



House Blessing

Please call the office if you would like your home blessed 216-520-5081



Communion and Anointing of the Sick

Clergy is available to administer Communion or for anointing of the sick to those homebound or hospitalized. Call the office if you or a family member is in need.

For emergency only call: 612-501-6383

FREEDOM TO

Regardless of the situation, all necessary forms for couples living in the United States or abroad MUST be done. This may MARRY LETTER take weeks or months so call to schedule an appointment with Fr. Elias as soon as possible. 216-520-5081



Confession is available prior to all liturgies. Please let the priest know you are interested.

50+ SOCIAL CLUB

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Maronite brothers and sisters a Blessed Christmas.

******* Our group would also like to extend an invitation to those 50 and over to join us whenever you see an activity that may interest you in the bulletin. This club has no dues to pay.

Join us on Friday, January 5- the "Feast of the Three Kings" for 10:00 Liturgy at the Chapel followed by a pot luck lunch as we make plans for 2024.

Mary Ann Watson (<u>mapw47@yahoo.com</u>)

************ *******************************

\$25 each

Christmas Poinsettias 2023 Circle One:

In Memory of: OR In Thanksgiving: Circle One PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

For:

Donated By:



Providence House Holiday Giving

Looking for ways to make a difference this holiday season? Your generous donations help us make the holiday season brighter for children and families in crisis!

Our <u>Holiday Wish List</u> includes items to support our children and families during the holidays and throughout the year. <u>HOLIDAY WISH LIST</u>

We also have an <u>Amazon Wish List</u>, so you can shop online and have the items sent directly to Providence House! <u>AMAZON WISH LIST</u> Help support our mission to protect children, support families, and strengthen communities.

Memorial Liturgies for 2024 Please remember a 40 day Liturg	y will always take precedence.
We DO NOT schedule liturgies on the following dates: St. Ma Christmas, and Fes	
Please email requests to : saintmaroncleveland@gmail.com or drop in	collection basket. PRINT CLEARLY
Mem. Lit for	
Given by:	
Phone:	Date:
Time: 5:00 pm Chapel 9:30 am 11:00 am	

Gifts of the Altar: December 2023

BREAD in Memory of:

Deceased members of the Richards & Nofel families (Edward P. Richards, Jr.)

Elias Said Sarrouh & Rachid Elias Sarrouh (Martha Sarrouh & family)

Nabil Daher (Lina Daher & family)

WINE in Memory of:

Deceased members of the Richards & Nofel families (Edward P. Richards, Jr.)

Elias Said Sarrouh & Rachid Elias Sarrouh (Martha Sarrouh & family)

Nabil Daher (Lina Daher & family)

CANDLES in Memory of:

Deceased members of the Richards & Nofel families (Edward P. Richards, Jr.)

George & Roma Sessin (Their children & their families)

Jacob & Juliette Saad & the deceased members of the Saad and Elzeer families (Thomas Saad & family)

Elias Said Sarrouh & Rachid Elias Sarrouh (Martha Sarrouh & family)

Nabil Daher (Lina Daher & family)

In Thanksgiving

William & Denise Bishilany & family For Declan Gordon



December 2023

GENERAL DEPOSIT	\$	4,235.00
Saturday 5:00 pm	\$	1,258.00
Sunday 9:30 am Sunday 11:00 am	\$ \$	611.00 2,366.00

Gou're (nvited! Christmas Party

Thursday, 14 December

7pm, 7800 Brookside Road, Independence Join the Cleveland MYA for a Christmas Party! There will be food, activities, and more! Can't wait to see you there!

Olívía Rose Therese Matteo receíved the Sacraments of Baptísm and Chrismation on Iv



Holy Baptism Sunday, December 3, 2023

> Daughter of Steven Matteo and Anne Marie Shibley Matteo

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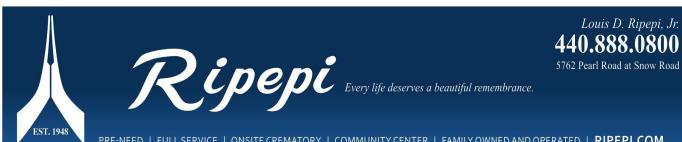
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