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Father Dominique Hanna, Administrator

December 26th, 2010

Felicitations to the Virgin

**MAY YOU SPEND A PEACEFUL
& JOYFUL CHRISTMAS
WITH YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS**

FROM SAINT JOSEPH MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

DIVINE LITURGIES

REQUESTED BY

CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGIES

Friday, December 24, 2010

Readings: Hebrews 1: 1-12 & Luke 2: 1-20

5:00 PM

For the Intentions of the Parishioners

12 Midnight

For the Intentions of the Parishioners

Saturday, December 25, 2010

Readings: Hebrews 1: 1-12 & Luke 2: 1-20

11:00 AM

For the Intentions of the Parishioners

Sunday, December 26, 2010

Readings: Ephesians 1:3-14 & Luke 1: 46-55

9:00 AM

For the Wellbeing of Peter Shamatta

Eileen Chahrouri

11:00 AM

Special Intentions

New Year's DIVINE LITURGIES

Friday, December 31, 2010

Readings: Ephesians 2: 11-22 & Luke 2: 21

5:00 PM

For the Intentions of the Parishioners

Saturday, January 1, 2011

Readings: Ephesians 2: 11-22 & Luke 2: 21

11:00 AM

For The Intentions of the Ragy Family

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Ragy

Sunday, January 2, 2011

Readings: Hebrews 7: 11-19 & Luke 2:41-52

9:00 AM

Special Intentions

11:00 AM

Special Intentions

Saturday, January 8, 2010

Readings: 2 Corinthians 10: 1-11 & John 1: 29-34

5:00 PM

Special Intentions

Sunday, January 9, 2010

Readings: 2 Corinthians 10: 1-11 & John 1: 29-34

9:00 AM

Special Intentions

11:00 AM

Special Intentions

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IS OFFERED BEFORE EACH LITURGY

Abouna Dominique's Corner: God does not love at a distance

The Christmas message announces a new divine presence among us. Each day of our lives we seek the personal presence of those whom we care for and who care about us. We cannot imagine leaving friendship and love at a distance. Photographs, memories, letters, e-mails, text messages and phone calls are not enough. We want to enjoy the personal presence of those who fill our minds and let us live in their hearts. We live in God's heart, and Christmas visibly brought among us the Son of God who cares infinitely for each of us. God did not want to live that love at a distance.

Every Eucharist proclaims, "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16). Because the life of Christ is oriented toward others, the Church must share this life with the world. The Life of Christ is his gift to the Church that is meant to be the Church's gift to the world. In the Eucharist we don't only receive the life of Christ. Beholding this most precious gift, we are moved as well to worship and adore the Triune God.

God's Platform

The Word did not become an e-mail, an SMS or text message, or some kind of divine oracle uttered from some distant heaven long ago. Through Mary, the Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us. The Word became close to real people in real time. Through the wonder and mystery of the Incarnation, the Word did not become a philosophy, a theory, or a concept to be discussed, debated, or pondered. But the Word became a person to be followed, enjoyed and loved! Our redemption is found in the Child of Bethlehem.

God's communication platform is the human person and Christmas inaugurates a completely new kind of real friendship with God. Friendship in virtual spaces is quite different from real time friendship. True friendship depends on mutual revelations, and can only flourish within the boundaries of privacy and modesty. The distance and abstraction of our online friendships and online relationships can lead to a kind of systemic desensitization as a culture if we are not wise, prudent and attentive to these new realities. Along with the increase in online networking, there are increasing levels of reported loneliness. Certain questions arise from the phenomenon of Social Networking. What is it doing for us? What is it doing to us? What is it doing to our sense of social boundaries? To our sense of individuality? To our friendships? We expose everything, but are we feeling anything?

The great challenge in the era of Facebook and Twitter consists in presenting the profound message of Jesus and the teaching of the Church without being sidetracked by technology's superficial aspects. An almost exclusive use of text and emails means that as a society we're losing some of the ability to build interpersonal communication that's necessary for living together and building a community. In using the media to evangelize and teach the masses, we must never lose sight of the need to reach and teach the individual as though he or she were the only person being addressed.

Miscellaneous Events & Announcements

Feast of the Epiphany: Thursday, January 6, the Church celebrates the baptism of our Lord which is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Liturgy is on Thursday @ 7:30 pm

Holy Hour: Every First Friday of the month @ 7:30 in the evening, there will be a hour of Exposition, Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Mark your calendar for Friday, January 7 @ 7:30 pm to spend an hour with the Lord.

Offering Envelopes: The offering envelopes for the weekly donations are available at the Church. Please try to acquire your envelopes as soon as you can since the end of the year is getting close. Parishioners who would like offering envelopes and their names cannot be found, please see Abouna.

Thank you from Sister Rita: Sister Rita Al Haddad who visited our parish this past Sunday would like to thank all those who donated for her cause. Sister is in the process of building a house for the elderly in Lebanon (Kfar-Kidded, Batroun). During this season of giving, may God bless those who like Sister work hard in the Lord vineyard.

Community Service: if any parishioner is interested in donating 2 or 3 hours of their time for a rewarding community service project, Open Hand feeds 6000 needy persons per day, and is in need of volunteers to either help, prepare or deliver meals. Community service credit can be given to high school and college students for this worthwhile project. If interested, please contact Father Dominique at the Church or Tommy Mansour @ 404-627-4103. Thanks

Letter to All the Parishioners: On Friday December 10, a letter with two enclosed documents was sent out to all the parishioners of Saint Joseph. The Letter explains the Centennial Celebration with an Ad application for the commemorative book and the survey. Within the next two weeks, those who do not receive the letter need to update their home address with Abouna.

100th Anniversary Ad/ Commemorative book: On the occasion of its centennial celebration, our parish is putting together an Ad book. Families as well as businesses could acquire a form at the entrance of the Church or from the members of the Centennial Committee. For more information please see Louie Abdou contact info in the bulletin.

St Joseph's 100 years in Pictures: You are needed to help compose a memorable pictorial digital documentary of 100 years of St Joseph in Atlanta. Kindly email your carefully chosen pictures of major events at St Joseph to LebanonCedars@Ymail.com. Please send one (1) picture per email. Put in subject: the year & event description (*ex: 1998 – First Communion*) Put in email body the names of parishioners and /or relevant people in picture (*ex: Priest's mother*)

Congratulation to the New MYA Officers

On Saturday December 12, and during their Christmas Dinner, the members of the Maronite Young Adults elected their new officers.

John Doueiry: President

David Boohaker: Treasurer

Maria Moussa: Secretary

Michael Brown: Spiritual Activities

Rebecca Nocharli: Service/Volunteering Activities

Ella Doueiry: Social Activities

As we thank Tracy Doueiry, the previous president, for her hard work and service to the group, we pray that the new officers continue what was started and excel in being vibrant in all aspects of the life of the Church.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL 2011

Friday December 31, 2010 (8 PM to 3 AM)

TICKET PRICE (Donation)

Adults: \$75

Child: \$30 (5 yrs - 14 yrs)



*Live Music
Featuring
Lebanese Star
Chadi Hachem
with DJ Johnnie*

Reception Hall International

585 Franklin Road, Suite 150

Marietta, GA 30067

<http://www.receptionhallintl.com/>

On-Site Baby Sitter Provided

Full Mediterranean MEZA

Winner (Multi-Selection Grilled Kabobs)

Top it with Sweets, Fruits & Champagne Toast

Entered By "Mediterranean Bakery"

For reservation Please contact:
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Hosted By
St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church

