

## Our Lady of Lebanon Church - Easton

# Palm Sunday , Holy Week & Easter

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Sunday, April 5 -12 , 2009

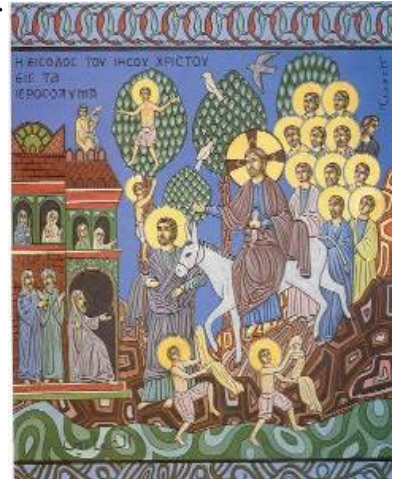
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## The Holy Week in the Maronite Church

We are entering the most important week of the liturgical year, the week that prepares us to live intensely the Christian Mystery of the Death and the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ: the Holy Week. The Holy Week is the memorial of those great days of our salvation when Jesus Christ died on the Cross to redeem and save our human race and give us the opportunity to share in His Divine Life.

The Holy Week, in our Maronite Church, is considered an independent Liturgical Season inside the Season of Lent. It starts with “*Naheero*” or the “*Coming to the Harbor*” on Palm Sunday evening and is over on *Easter Sunday*.



# Happy Easter

### Words of Wisdom

- *Vote against FOCA*
- *Ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ (St. Jerome)*
- *Information not shared is lost*
- *A lot of Kneeling will keep you in good standing*
- *Men are like computers: hard to figure out and they never have enough memory.*

## The “*Coming to the Harbor*”

is an old rite of the Maronite Church. It reminds us that Jesus is the Harbor of Salvation. The ship or the vessel, which is the Church, and often compared to Mary the New Vessel of life, reaches the Harbor after the safe journey of Lent. The prayers of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays of the Passion Week are called “*Sotooro*” or *Lenten evening prayers*. We have a special prayer for every day with a cycle of readings from the Old and the New Testament announcing the death of Jesus Christ as the fulfillment and the achievement of all the promises of the Prophets. Jesus is the Son of God who was delivered to human hands, put to death, suffered and was humiliated for our own sake.

**Wednesday of the Passion Week** is also called **Wednesday of Ayoub (Job)**. Job suffered a lot, and lost his health and wealth, even his sons and daughters, but never cursed God and was known for his patience. He represents Christ who willingly received suffering and death, and committed himself into his Father’s hands. On that day, the **Rite of the Lamp** is celebrated. Dough with seven wicks inserted into it, represent the seven lamps envisioned by the Prophet Jeremiah and by John the Apostle in his Revelation. During the celebration, the oil is blessed and all the faithful receive the anointing. *(continue on page 6)*



**THIS WEEKEND \*\*\* HOSANNA (PALM) SUNDAY \*\*\***

Sat., April 4 – 5:00 P.M. – **Youssef Milan** by (late) Katherine Howard & niece Marlene Bedway.

- **Mansour Farhat** by Eva Farhat & Family

Sun., April 5 – 10:00 A.M. – mass is offered for the **kids of our parish** .

**WEEKDAY LITURGIES**

Monday	April 6	6:30 p.m	<b>Anna John</b> by Mr. & Mrs. Donald Solomon Sr.
Tuesday	April 7	6:30 p.m	<b>Daniel Corey</b> by (late) Katherine Howard
Wednesday	April 8	6:30 p.m	<b>For the sick of our parish.</b>
Thursday	April 9	6:30 p.m	<b>For OLOL priests; the living and departed</b>
Friday	April 10	10:00 a.m	<i>Pre-sanctified mass : for the Souls in Purgatory</i>
Saturday	April 11	5:00 p.m	<b>Parishioners of OLOL</b>
Saturday	April 11	12 midnight	<b>Parishioners of OLOL</b>
Sunday	April 12	10:00 a.m	<b>Parishioners of OLOL</b>

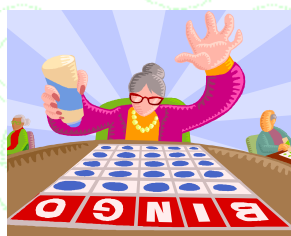
**NEXT WEEKDAY LITURGIES**

Monday	April 13	12.00 Noon	<b>Daniel Corey</b> by Marlene Bedway
Tuesday	April 14	12.00 Noon	<b>Anna John</b> by Josephine Olepa & son
Wednesday	April 15	***	<b>No Daily Mass (day-off)</b>
Thursday	April 16	12.00 Noon	<b>Catherine Melan</b> by Richard & Shelly Russack
Friday	April 17	12.00 Noon	<b>Katherine Howard</b> by James & Oscar Canone

**NEXT WEEKEND \*\*\* \*\***

Sat., April 18 – 5:00 P.M. – **Mitch Jabeir** (birthday remembrance) by Deacon Anthony Koury , Mike karam & Woody Badway

Sun., April 19 – 10:00 A.M. – **Clarence D. Stahl (40th day)** by family




BINGO	CALLER	KITCHEN	PAYOUT
<b>April 14</b>	George Karam	Louise Jacob Aziz Koury - Susie Karam	Antonios Jabbour Muncy Farhat
<b>April 21</b>	Dora Elias	Aziz Koury Naomi Shiner	Antonios Jabbour

**Readers**

Saturday, April 4	Sharon John
Sunday, April 5	Abraham Jaoude
Saturday, April 11	Richard Russack
Sunday, April 12	Nikki Assise

Saturday, April 18	Dorothea Toumeh
Sunday, April 19	Naomi Koerwitz
Saturday, April 25	Frances Melhem
Sunday, April 26	John Shaheen

	<b>Thank you &amp; God Bless</b>
Collection Saturday, March 21, 2009	\$ 630.00
Collection: Sunday, March 22, 2009	\$ 1032.00
Collection Saturday, March 28, 2009	\$ 583.00
Collection: Sunday, March 29, 2009	\$ 415.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 295.00
2009 Bishop's Appeal	\$ 730.00



We take a special moment in our day as we pray for all the sick in our parish, the shut-ins, and those recovering from any illness, surgery, or treatments. May the Good Lord touch them with His healing and restore them to a good health of body and soul.

Please remember in your prayers this week: Yasmaine Shortell , Mary & John Tony and karam Simon (Skimo) and Joe M. (our friend) , Marian Boulos.



**ST. THERESA SODALITY**

There will be a meeting of the St. Theresa Sodality this Monday, April 6, 2009, following the evening Liturgy and Services. All members are urged to attend.

Easter Flowers From	In Memory of :
Stephen & Suha Constantine	Anthonious & Shashoua Rizk Soubhi Said Constantine Yousef Moussa
Renee Melan and Melan family	Peter & Catherine Melan
Jennie Melhem & family	Joseph Melhem Sr.
John & Frances Melhem & grandchildren	Manor Melhem & Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Baka
Naomi & Frank Koerwitz	Clarence R. Stahl Victor & Adeline Karam Nancy & Joseph Patti
Frances Koury	Frank & Catherine Koury & Son Michael Koury Sr.
Helen & Joseph Jabour	John, bargoot Jabour & deceased children
Nadia & Pierre Bohemond	Elie & Jacqueline Bohemond Helen & michel Lebbos
Eva Farhat	Mansour Farhat



**2009 MYO Retreat**

The 2009 MYO conference will be in Ligonier, PA from July 21 to July 26 for all youth between the age of 12 and 18, including 2009 high school graduates. The conference will be hosted at the Antiochian Village Retreat and Conference Center . The cost will be \$ 350 per participant (quadruple occupancy). Registration is due by May 15. for more information and details please visit the MYO official website: [www. Maroniteyouth.com](http://www.Maroniteyouth.com)

# HOLY WEEK

## SCHEDULE OF CELEBRATIONS

MONDAY April 6,2009	Coming to the Harbor	6:30 P.M	Coming to the Harbor followed by the Mass
TUESDAY April 7,2009	Coming to the Harbor	6:30 P.M	Coming to the Harbor followed by the Mass
WEDNESDAY (of Job) April 8,2009	Rite of the Lamp	6:30 P.M	Rite of the lamp followed by the Mass.
THURSDAY April 9,2009	<b>Holy Thursday</b>	6:30 P.M	Washing of the feet followed by the Mass
		8:30 P.M	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament sponsored by St. Theresa Sodality
		9:30 P.M	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament sponsored by the Holy Name Society
		10:30 P.M	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament sponsored by MYA
		11:30 P.M	Silent adoration & Final prayers
FRIDAY April 10,2009	<b>Good Friday</b>	10:00 A.M	Pre-sanctified Mass (Anaphora of the signing of the Chalice)
		6:30 P.M	Adoration of the Cross and the Burial ritual
SATURDAY April 11,2009	<b>Saturday Of the Light</b>	10:00 to 12:00 Noon	Confessions (Msgr.Sadek, Fr. Bob George, Fr. Paul)
		12:00 Noon	Prayer of Forgiveness.
		5:00 P.M	Easter Vigil Mass & Rite of Peace
		12:00 Midnight	Resurrection Mass
SUNDAY April 12, 2009	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	10:00 A.M	Easter Day Mass & Rite of Peace

## Holy Week Retreat Master

On behalf of all of us at OLOL church , Easton we would like to welcome the Reverend Monsignor **Ignace Sadek** (pastor emeritus of OLOL Cathedral ) who is the Retreat Master for 2009 Holy Week. The theme for this retreat will be: **The Pillars of Our Faith:** with the focus on the Eucharist, the Cross and the Resurrection. Msgr. Sadek will be preaching on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, and will be available for confessions and meetings with the parish organizations.



## Saturday Choir

We are looking for volunteers to start a Saturday Choir . Volunteers are kindly requested to sign up their names and to provide us with their phone numbers or emails. Forms are available at the church doors. Always remember that by singing you will praise the Lord in a double way : first by your voice and second by your

## Monk Soup Sale

The Annual Monk's Soup Sale will take place on Good Friday, April 10, 2009, starting @ 11:30 A.M in the church hall. You may eat the soup in the church hall or order it for Take Out. Please bring your own containers for Take Out orders.

## Egg Coloring

There will be an Egg Coloring event on Saturday , April 4th. At 6:00 P.M. there will be games, food and snacks. All kids are invited to join us . This event will prepare for The Egg Tapping contest event that will take place on Easter Sunday, after mass.



## FOOD DRIVE

The children of our CCD classes will be conducting a food drive again this year to commemorate the holy season of Lent. All parishioners are encouraged to bring in food items for this collection. Please bring only canned or boxed items - no glass jars please. These donations can be placed in the vestibule at the entrance of the church hall any time the hall is open. All donations will be given to the ProJeCt of Easton Food Bank based in St. John's Lutheran Church in downtown Easton . If you'd like to make a large donation of food or have questions, you may contact Marta Gabriel at 610-504-0541. Thank you for supporting the less fortunate in our community during this Holy season."

## 2009 BISHOP'S APPEAL

Many Thanks for all who fulfilled their Easter obligation for 2009: Michael Soliday, Marcine Symia, Maynard Melhem, Josephine Melhem, Khalale & Owtil karam, Jimmy Canone, Stephen Constantine, Susan Baurkot, Joseph Kassis, R. Russack, Nadia Bohemond, Father Paul, Ferris & Eva koorie, John Thomas, Mary Najjar, John Shaheen Jr., Peter Kassis, Marlene Bedway & Julia & Michael Stevens .

(a complete list will follow later)

## The Holy Week in the Maronite Church (By Father Naji Kiwan)

**Holy Thursday or Thursday of the Holy Mysteries** is the first day of the Easter Triduum. On that day Jesus had his Last Supper with his disciples and washed their feet. After the washing of the feet, Jesus went to Mount of Olives and spent his night there praying to His Father for his disciples and his Church so they may be one as He is one with His Father.

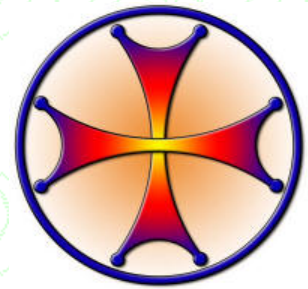
On that day, Jesus founded the Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Eucharist and the Priesthood. It is the Thursday of the Priests *par excellence*, those servants of the Holy Sacraments and administrators of the Holy Eucharist in memory of Jesus Christ, in memory of His Death and Resurrection until he returns. The custom of that day was to visit seven Churches, symbolizing the seven Sacraments, and meditating in each Church upon one of the Sacraments. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed all night and faithful are encouraged to stay in the church as much as they can praying, meditating upon the Mystery of Salvation, and participating in the “*agony of Gethsemane*” where Jesus spent his night in prayer before His crucifixion on Good Friday.

The Maronite Church fulfills the commandment of the Lord Jesus Christ on that day and accomplishes the service of the washing of the feet. The priest, acting *in persona Christi*, which means in the person of Christ, washes the feet of twelve of his parishioners showing the mystery of love and compassion and performing like Christ the act of ultimate humiliation actually reserved to the slaves who were entrusted with this task to wash their master’s feet. Jesus gave himself as an example to follow, and performed that act of humiliation to fulfill the prophecies of the prophets as the Suffering Servant or slave, of whom spoke the prophet Isaiah (Is 53:1-11).

**Good Friday** is the greatest day of the year. Jesus was crucified and put to death. He paid the full price of our salvation: his life. He is the Son, the only begotten Son, the inheritor. In Him, through him and because of him we became sons and children of Our Father, inheritors of the Heavenly Kingdom and of the Eternal Life. Our Maronite Church invites us on this day to pray and meditate upon the mystery of Salvation: the living death of our Lord which provides salvation of our souls and Eternal Life. Jesus freed us from the impediments of sins. On Good Friday, two ceremonies are to be celebrated. The first Celebration is the “*Signing of the Chalice*” called also “*the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified*”. On Good Friday, the only sacrifice is the sacrifice of Christ, who offered himself to his Father. In fact, every Liturgy is a memorial of the sacrifice of the Cross, the Death and the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## The Holy Week in the Maronite Church

By Father Naji Kiwan



On Good Friday Christ himself is the sacrifice, the ultimate and the perfect oblation. The most important moment of this Liturgy is the procession with the Blessed Sacrament placed over the head of the priest reminding him his day of ordination, when the Bishop handed over to him the celebration of the Eucharist and entrusted to him the service of the people of God.

The second ceremony is the *Adoration of the Cross* celebrated in memory of the death of Jesus Christ crucified on the “wood of shame”. Many Christians during that day bring some flowers to honor the Holy Cross. After the Ceremony, the cross is buried until Easter Sunday.

*Saturday of the Light* is the last day of this Holy Week, and subsequently, the last day of Lent. It is the day the Lord had chosen to enter the tomb and to visit the Dead in their tomb. This day is a non-liturgical day. There is no Divine Liturgy that day before Vigil or Midnight. However, a beautiful ceremony is to be celebrated during that day: “*the Prayer of Forgiveness*”. It is an old prayer of the Maronite Church and all the Syriac Churches that celebrate the forgiveness won by the death of Jesus Christ. Saturday of the Light is the day of forgiveness *par excellence*. All Christians are invited to confess their sins during that ceremony and beseech forgiveness. *Confessions are heard individually, and absolution is given to all those who confessed their sins.*

The *Vigil of Easter* is the night before Easter spent in prayers and praises of the Resurrected Christ, and was the perfect time to restore the backsliders to faith and administer Baptism to new catechumens who prepared themselves during all Lent with prayer and fasting. One of the most important ceremonies and celebrations was the celebration of Easter at Midnight, the first hour of the day. The ceremony of Easter is the **Rite of Peace** celebrated at Midnight Liturgy and/or Easter Sunday morning during the Divine Liturgy when the priest blesses the congregation with the Cross. Easter Sunday is the day of Peace. May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ Risen from the dead be with you all: “In the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification by the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling with the blood of Jesus Christ: may grace and peace be yours in abundance (1 Peter 1:2).

***Christ is Risen. Truly is Risen Alleluia. Amen.***

**OUR LADY OF LEBANON CHURCH****Maronite Catholic Church**

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We are on the internet at:

[www.mountlebanon.org](http://www.mountlebanon.org)

You can find us also at:

[www.catholicweb.com](http://www.catholicweb.com) church ID : 55071

## Why did Jesus pray 3 times at Gethsemane?

**1st TIME:**

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

**2nd TIME:**

Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again, "My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!" Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open.

**3rd TIME:**

He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

**1st PRAYER: Fear of SUFFERING in the body**

Jesus saw his Cross ahead = suffering in the flesh then death = (heavy weight of the Cross on his shoulders, crown of thorns, nails, beating, blood, going up the mountain, seeing his Mother crying, ...) there was a battle in his soul and he was terrified. Jesus was 33 year old = a young man facing death with unbearable suffering in the flesh.

**2nd PRAYER: Fear of SUFFERING ALONE** = need help Jesus was lonely. His 3 disciples were asleep. They left him by himself facing his enemies and his suffering.

**3rd PRAYER: Face life with COURAGE and SURRENDER** to God's will Jesus prayed enough. "Get up, let us go." He decided to face the problems of life with courage and faith. He prayed KNEELING, he faced problems STANDING.

**CONCLUSION:**

Everyone has his private Gethsemane. We should pray when we suffer, not to die alone, face difficulties with courage and surrendering our will to God.