



BIRTH OF JOHN SUNDAY

Volume 2009, Issues 42

Sunday, Dec 6 , 2009

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The Immaculate Conception

(Holy Day of Obligation –Tuesday, December 8)

On December 8, 2008, the Church will celebrate the 155th anniversary of the solemn declaration of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Mother of God. It was on December 8, 1854, in his papal bull that Pope Pius IX officially proclaimed that Mary was conceived without original sin.

This anniversary is cause for great joy. We commemorate that Mary was free from the stain of original sin from the very first moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, St. Ann. The greeting of the angel “Hail Mary, full of grace” at the Annunciation reveals to us not only the state of Mary from the beginning of her existence, but as she was willed to be from all eternity in God’s plan.

The Immaculate Conception of Mary is a mystery of our Faith and a manifestation of the love of God who conquers sin and death. The Immaculate Conception is a sign of hope for all generations.

The Immaculate Conception has a long and complex history. From the earliest times many saints and doctors of the Church have taught Mary’s perpetual sinlessness. For example, St. Cyril of Alexandria says, “Whoever heard of an architect who built himself a temple and yielded up first possession of it to his greatest enemy?” St. Ephrem wrote, “You alone and your Mother are more beautiful than any others; for there is no blemish in you, nor any stain upon your Mother. Who of my children can compare in beauty to these?”

Because of his loving comprehension of the mystery of the Incarnation, St. Ephrem was prompt in recognizing the unique honor which pertains to Mary as the Mother of God. With great tenderness and delicacy he dramatized, in dialogues which foreshadow the mystery plays of the middle ages, the beautiful role played by Our Lady in the joyous events at Bethlehem and later at the foot of the Cross on Calvary. In one of these dramas, Mary addresses the Magi who have come from the East to adore the Son of God: “My son has no armies, no legions, nor cohorts. He lies there in his mother’s poverty, and you call him King!” To which the Magi reply, with a magnificent profession of faith, “The armies of your son are on high. His knights move about the heavens as stars of fire.”

The Western Church has celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception for more than one thousand years. Pope Sixtus IV extended the feast to the universal calendar in 1476. Finally, it was solemnly defined as an article of Catholic faith in 1854.

Both the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church make numerous references to the Immaculate Conception of Mary. (continue p.4)

Words of Wisdom

- *The scriptures teach us the best way of living, the noblest way of suffering, and the most comfortable way of dying (J. Flavel).*



A Week Without God Is:
Sinday
Mournday
Tearsday
Wasteday
Thirstday
Fightday
Shatterday



WEEKEND of DEC 5-6 * Birth of John the Baptist *****

Sat., Dec.5 – 5:00 P.M. – Naim Hayek (40 day mass) by Daughter Samira & Son - in- Law Edward Melhem

Sun., Dec.6 – 10:00 A.M. – Agnes Pellicotti (40 day mass) by family.



WEEKDAYS



Monday	Dec. 7	6:30 P.M	Katherine Howard by (late) Agnes Pelicotti
Tuesday	Dec.8	12:00 noon	Marian Boulous by Mr. & Mrs. William Joseph & family
Wednesday	Dec. 9	*****	NO DAILY MASS **** DAY-OFF
Thursday	Dec. 10	12:00 noon	Carol Marinetti by Mr. & Mrs. Victor Price & family
Friday	Dec. 11	12:00 noon	Helen Melhem by Dr. Elias & Mary Isaac.

WEEKEND of Dec. 12-13 * Revelation to Joseph Sunday *****

Sat., Dec. 12 – 5:00 P.M. – **Gebran Constantine (40 Day Mass)** by family

- **Soubhi Constantine** (birthday remembrance) by family

Sun., Dec. 13 – 10:00 A.M. – **Youssef Milan** by Viviane Rizk & Schawki Milan & family.



AMOUNT

Collection Saturday, Oct 31 , 2009	\$ 549.00
Collection: Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009	\$ 637.00
Collection Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009	\$ 305.00
Collection: Sunday, Nov. 8 , 2009	\$ 1160.00
Collection Saturday, Nov.14, 2009	\$ 501.00
Collection: Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009	\$ 449.00
Collection Saturday, Nov. 21 , 2009	\$ 551.00
Collection: Sunday, ,Nov. 22, 2009	\$ 444.00
Parking Income (November 2009)	\$ 2015.00
Bingo Income (November 2009)	\$ 5630.50

**THANK YOU
&
GOD BLESS**



Readers

Saturday, Dec.5	Edward Melhem
Sunday, Dec. 6	Alex karam
Saturday, Dec. 12	Dorothea Toumeh
Sunday, Dec. 13	Mona Milan
Saturday, Dec. 19	Marie Hanni
Sunday, Dec. 20	Marta Gabriel

REQUIEM Our deepest sympathy and sincere condolences go to the family, friends, and relatives of **KATHERINE JOHN, JULIETTE RIZK & NAIM HAYEK** who passed away. May the Lord grant eternal rest to their souls , and may He grant comfort and consolation to all those who mourn their death. May all the faithful departed rest in Peace.





The Feast of the *Immaculate Conception* (*December 8th*) is a Holy Day of obligation. Every Catholic is supposed to celebrate this important feast by attending the Divine Liturgy.

Mass Schedule:

Vigil mass: Monday December 7th at 6:30 p.m

Feast Day: Tuesday, December 8th at 12:00 Noon.



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:, Geraldine Boulos, Eva Oliver and John Tony.



BINGO	CALLER	KITCHEN	PAYOUT
Dec. 8	Amin Nehme	Aziz Koury	Antonios Jabbour Owtil Karam
Dec. 15	Mona Melan	Aziz Koury, Susie Karam & Louise Jacob	Antonios Jabbour Muncy Farhat
Dec. 22	Badway karam	Aziz Koury & Naomi Shiner	Antonios Jabbour

New Year Party

The church will be sponsoring a New Year Party in the social hall on December 31st. Only 300 seats will be available for this event. Prices are \$ 60 per adult. Bring your own alcohol. a Mediterranean Lebanese open Buffet with Dessert will be opened at 8:00 P.M.

Singer Tony Aoun and ensemble (of Boston) will be performing during this event.

Reservations can be made by contacting the Parish Council members. More info will be available inside the event's flier.

We look forward to see you celebrating as one family this wonderful night.

(proceeds will benefit Father Youakim Moubarac Memorial Scholarship Fund).



ST. THERESA SODALITY

There will be a meeting of the St. Theresa Sodality this Monday, Dec 7, 2009, at 6:30 p.m All members are urged to attend.

St. Therese's Spinach Pie Sale - A very heartfelt thank you to all who worked, donated or purchased pies to aid the Sodality in their charitable missions. May God bless you and your families for your continued support and devotion to St. Therese.

2nd Collection

WEEKEND OF DEC 5-6

Maronite Patriarchal Charities

(All the proceeds from this collection are sent directly to our Patriarch for his charitable works.)

The Immaculate Conception (p.1)



Catholics in the United States have a special devotion to the Immaculate Conception. In 1846 the American Bishops placed our nation under her care under the title of the Immaculate Conception, eight years before its solemn declaration. The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. is the patronal Church of the United States. On August 17, 2004, His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, during his visit to Lourdes, France, encouraged devotion to the Immaculate Conception with these words: “*I am the Immaculate Conception? The words which Mary spoke to Bernadette on March 25, 1858, have a particular resonance this year, as the Church celebrates the 155th anniversary of the solemn definition of the dogma. Mary’s Immaculate Conception is the sign of the gracious love of the Father, the perfect expression of the redemption accomplished by the Son and the beginning of a life completely open to the working of the Spirit. Mary, who since she never yielded to sin, is the only creature who is perfectly free.*”

Christmas Novena

*Tuesday, Dec 15 to
Dec 23rd.
6:30 p.m.*

Christmas Confessions

Tuesday, Dec 22nd : 6:30 p.m to 8:00p.m
Thursday, Dec 24th : 10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m



Christmas Poinsettias

Every Christmas our church looks beautiful when decorated with poinsettias . You can make your donation in memory of a loved one, for a special intention and for a family member or a friends. Please earmark your check with : Christmas flower offering , and drop it in the collection or give it to Father Paul. Thank You. (a complete list of donors and their intentions will be published in the bulletin)

Parish Christmas Spiritual Retreat

By Father Scott Ardinger

Sunday, December 20

St. Francis Retreat House

3918 Chipman Road, Easton

From 2:45 p.m to 6:30 p.m

Spiritual Talk, group discussion, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Quiet & Silent time, meditation, confessions and Christmas Novena

All are welcomed to join us : please respond by December 18th

by calling Fr. Paul at 610- 252-5275 or Deacon Anthony at 610- 253-1168



1st Annual OLL Christmas Football Game

2009-2010

Overview

The OLL Church, HNS, and MYO/MYA will sponsor a football game between members of the church parish. We are looking for **ANYONE** to be a part of this event. We need **PLAYERS, COACHES, CHEERLEADERS** and **FANS**. This is an event we hope to bring everyone to be together and have a good time to play and cheer for a team.

The game is expected to be played on **Sunday December 27** at **12pm**. The game will be played at the Forks Community Center Fields. Teams will be divided in teams of 16(8 on offense/8 on defense)

Again **ANYONE** of **ANY AGE** may sign up for the football game. If you can't play then test your coaching skills. If you don't like football but love to cheer become a cheerleader. Whether your 8 or 80, it doesn't matter come on out because **we want you!**

A \$15 due for every player and coach is asked for to cover the field, pasta dinner, flags, Porta-Pottys, cones, and trophies. If anybody would like to donate anything please contact Owtil Koury. (610-597-8338)

So come on out no matter who you are and have fun and help make this a successful and fun time!

Good Luck!!

Important Dates

Nov.2-Dec.26-Practices(Specifics TBA)

Saturday Dec.26-Walkthrough

Saturday Dec.26-Pasta Dinner

Sunday Dec.27-1st Annual OLL Parish Football Game

Family Portrait Fundraiser

December 5th 2009

The L.A.W.A of Our Lady of Lebanon Church is having a family portrait fundraising event. For a \$15 dollar donation, you will receive a family grouping and an 8x10 portrait. Other portrait poses will be available in groupings, such as (mother and daughter, father and son, etc.) The additional poses besides the donated 8x10 portrait can be purchased via packages and or additional options. Here are the packages and pricing below.

<u>Package A</u>	(1) 11x14		
	(3) 8x10	\$135	
	(4) 5x7's		
	(16) wallets		
<u>Package B</u>	(2) 8X10's		
	(4) 5x7's	\$85	
	(16) wallets		<u>Additional Options</u>
			(1) 16x20 - \$75
<u>Package C</u>	(1) 8x10's		(1) 11x14 - \$55
	(4) 5x7's	\$ 45	(1) 8x10 - \$22
	(8) wallets		(2) 5x7 - \$20
			(8) Wallets -\$13
<u>Package D</u>	(1) 5x7		(1) CD - \$25
	(2) 4x5's	\$35	
	(8) wallets		

- Some portrait recommendations -

- Solid colors are always better than busy patterns.
- Long sleeve's are better than short sleeve's.
- Families should be color coordinated.
- Get hair cuts but stay away from new hair styles.
- Dress from head to toe - portraits may be full length.
- Casual dress and Formal dress is acceptable, dress your style.
- Family dogs are acceptable - please let us know when you schedule your appointment. Mornings only.
- Children's favorite toy is favorable (not always used in final portrait, but as a prop to capture the smile)

Please call Chris at (908) 303-1210 to schedule your appointment. Calling hours Mon-Fri 9:00 - 5:00 pm.

Appointments are necessary. First come first serve on availability. Remember family dogs need to be photographed before noon.

We only accept Checks and Cash only! Please make checks out to Christopher Reynolds

This fundraiser helps support our scholarship fund which benefits members of our Lebanese community.

WISDOM, ADVICE

“Have enthusiasm for your work and pay attention to details. Learn the difference between happiness and pleasure. Take the long look at life and be patient for the right moment. Remember that in true love respect comes before ardor. “Discover the joy of serving others for the love of God and remember that only God can give true and lasting happiness. Keep always in mind that there are no shortcuts to success. Know your strength and never forget your weaknesses. Aim high. Dream big dreams and then make them come true. You can do it if you listen to St. Paul. ‘I can do all things in Him who strengthens me. “If you must make mistakes, make new ones. To avoid making the old ones, profit by the history of the past. Be a smart ‘General’ and never burn your bridges behind you. Develop a strong sales resistance so that you be not seduced by the world and false advertising. Learn to play as well as work if you want to remain sane. Be thrifty and ambitious, but retain the generosity of youth. Learn self-denial and be brave enough to dare to be different. Learn to recognize and love beauty in nature, in music and in art. And lastly, never forget that there are no transmigration of souls. This life which you now enjoy is the one and only opportunity you will ever have of earning Heaven by following the road map of life laid out by Him who said, ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.’ --Rev. James R. Coleman

HOLY NAME SOCIETY EVENTS



Monthly Meeting : Sunday, December 13 after liturgy.

All men are welcomed to attend the HNS meetings.



St. Theresa Sodality & MYO Events



*** St. Therese Sodality/MYO Christmas Party – The children’s annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 19th. The Christmas “Pageant” normally scheduled on Christmas Eve will be moved to December 19th immediately following Saturday’s Liturgy. The party will begin once the Pageant is concluded. Admission fee for adults will be \$5.00, children are free. All money collected for admission will be used to buy 150 sets of hats, gloves and scarves for underprivileged children in our local area. May God reward you for helping to keep these little ones warm during the cold winter months ahead.

OUR LADY OF LEBANON CHURCH
Maronite Catholic Church

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Easton, PA 18042
Phone: 610-252-5275
Fax: 610-252-1737
E-mail: lolchurch@yahoo.com



We are on the internet at:

www.mountlebanon.org

You can find us also at:

www.catholicweb.com church ID : 55071

The First Annual Angel Giving Tree

This year's Holy Communion Class is working with ProJect of Easton to provide youth in our community with gifts at Christmas. No child ever chooses to live in poverty. They are not responsible for their family's reduced circumstances, yet they must live each day of their young lives in ways that most of us would find unbearable.

The Angel Giving Tree attempts to bring some sunshine into their lives at Christmastime: a time when every other "good little boy or girl" they know receives gifts. Our Angel Tree provides much needed clothing items, special needs and other wished-for toys to some of our city's children. These gifts, in truth, give poor children "food for the soul", the hope of a brighter future and the reassurance that someone does indeed care about them.

Starting this Saturday, December 5th, you can contribute to this worthy cause by purchasing a gift from the Angel Tree in the vestibule. Each Angel contains the first name of a child in the Easton community, their age and a gift from their Christmas wish list. Please return the Angel and the gift to the Social Hall on Saturday, December 19th from 3pm - 5pm or on Sunday, December 20th after mass until 12pm. The gifts will be delivered to the ProJect of Easton office on Monday, December 21st in time for Christmas.

A suggestion: some of you may wish to go in together and purchase a gift(s) from the Angel Tree...

Thanks so much and God bless you,

Our Lady of Lebanon First Holy Communion Class 2009-2010

**Please make The Angel Giving Tree
a part of your Christmas tradition...**