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Organ Concert  
Friday, December 12, 2008  
7pm

A reception will be held in the hall following the concert.



*Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church*

4133 Calkins Rd  
Flint, MI 48532  
Phone 810.733.1259  
Fax 810.732.2760

www.ololmi.org


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**Weekly Bulletin      Sunday October 26, 2008 – Sunday November 2, 2008**

**Mark Your Calendar**


October  
31 Halloween

November  
27 Thanksgiving Day




**Weekly Contributions**

September 28: \$3037  
October 5: \$2750  
October 12: \$2337  
October 19: \$2677




**Church cleaning for November:**  
Madeline Zerka & Mona Massoud



**Altar Server Schedule**

November 2	Team 2
November 9	Team 3




2008 Festival Report

Income	\$35,808.57
Expenses	<u>\$28,243.45</u>
Profit	\$7565.12

**Clergy**  
Rev. Hanna Tayar  
Deacon Martin Rachid  
Subdeacon Earl Matte

**Parish Staff**  
Pam Aziz – Parish Secretary  
Darrell Frye – Maintenance  
Pat Haley – Caterer

**Parish Leaders**  
Chuck Solomon – Parish Council  
Dee Gardner – Choir Director  
Dottie Byrnes – Organist  
Freda Hearsch – Religious Education  
Cindy Shaheen – Altar Society  
Jeanette Walterhouse – Morningstar Society



<b>Liturgy Schedule</b>	<b>Adoration</b>
Monday 9a.m.	Friday 11a.m.
Tuesday 9a.m.	
Wednesday 9a.m.	
Thursday 9a.m.	
Friday 12noon	
Saturday 5p.m.	
Sunday 10a.m.	

**Confessions**  
½ hour before liturgy on Saturday and Sunday and by appointment.

**Randy WISE Automotive Team**

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**Ron Zerka**  
Call me at **810-230-2500**





  
  


**Sacrament of Baptism**, please contact the priest at least **1 month** before the intended date for the baptism.


**Sacrament of Marriage**, please contact the priest at least **6 months** before the intended date for the wedding.

**Sick calls**, please notify the Church office as soon as possible if you want communion for your sick. We usually do sick calls on Wednesdays.

**Pray for our sick and homebound Parishioners:**



Sue Stubbert  
Ferris Anthony  
Rose Khoury  
Michelle Garey



Sarah Marshall  
Hanneh Chammas  
Hap Maroun  
Joe Faris  
Ann Faris  
Dorothy Mattar  
Wanda Maroun  
Joe Pavlovich  
Phillip Shaker  
Amy Burke

**Our Lady of Lebanon Office Hours**

Monday 10am – 3pm  
Tuesday 10am – 3pm  
Wednesday 10am – 3pm  
Thursday 10am – 3pm  
Friday 10am – 3pm



## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY 26: Sunday of Christ the King St. Demetrius

10A.M: (Gal 6:1-10; Mt 25:14-30) Reader: Bob Pollack  
- Rep. Diab & Karime Rizk and Lorance Abou  
Diwan by George & Virginia Rizk  
- Rep. Sam Marino by Yvonne Weissert

### MONDAY 27: Blessed Bartholomew of Vicenza

- Rep. Mary Hodges by Marge Okal

### TUESDAY 28: St. Simon & St. Jude

- Rep. Mike O'Brien by Tyl Rizik

### WEDNESDAY 29: St. Narcissus of Jerusalem

- Rep. Wagih Khazaal by Bob & Joanne Potts

### THURSDAY 30: St. Alphonsus Rodriguez

- No Mass

### FRIDAY 31: St. Wolfgang of Regenaburg 12NOON

- Int. Rose Khoury by Ralph & Helen Burgess

### SATURDAY November 1: All Saints Day St. Cosmas & St. Damian

- Rep. William Schumacher by Shaheen &  
Rose Shaheen  
- Int. Amy Burke & Michelle Garey by Dr. John  
& Laurie Abdella

### SUNDAY 2: Consecration of the Church All Souls Day

10A.M: (Gal 6:1-10; Mt 25:14-30) Reader: MYO  
- All Deceased Members of the Parish


### SUNDAY 9: Renewal of the Church


10A.M: (Heb 9:11-15; Jn 10:22-42) Reader: Mike Potoczny  
- Rep. Said & Julia Maroun by Sam  
- Rep. Sylvia Zerka by Keith & Freda Hearsch  
- Rep. Mary Nissan by Family


## God's Smile





## Announcements


 The Ladies Altar Society's having their Annual Harvest Dinner today, October 26, 2008 from 4pm to 6pm. Tickets are adults \$9 and children 10 and under \$5. You may purchase your tickets at the door. Please come and support our Altar Society.

 We would like to thank Noha Zerka, Johnny Solomon and our MYO for the great Halloween Party for our children last Sunday. We really appreciate all of your hard work. Everyone had a wonderful time.

 There is a meeting for all Altar Servers on Saturday, November 1, 2008. This meeting will be from 3:30pm to 5pm.

 Please keep in mind the families that we help feed at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Both of these holidays are fast approaching. Our food pantry is a yearly ongoing donation for those in need.

 The Morningstar Society would like the parish to know that due to rising costs they will begin charging \$5 per person for mercy meals.

 Planning for the 2009 Festival has already begun and we need your help! We have something unique to offer the Flint community with our food and entertainment options. It's something we are proud to share. We can accomplish this by working together as one parish family.

Sign-up sheets for the festival committees are available in the narthex. Please sign up as we need as many volunteers as possible, to make the festival a greater success than last year. Opportunities to volunteer will also be available at a later time by contacting the committee chair.

If you have questions on this process, please contact Ronny Solomon at (810) 423-6830 or Jason Klansack at (810) 287-9228.

Thank you for your commitment and God bless.

## Halloween The Real Story

We've all heard the allegations. Halloween is a pagan rite dating back to some pre-Christian festival among the Celtic Druids that escaped Church suppression. Even today modern pagans and witches continue to celebrate this ancient festival. If you let your kids go trick-or-treating, they will be worshipping the devil and pagan gods.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The origins of Halloween are, in fact, very Christian and rather American. Halloween falls on October 31 because of a pope, and its observances are the result of medieval Catholic piety.

It's true that the ancient Celts of Ireland and Britain celebrated a minor festival on October 31<sup>st</sup> as they did on the last day of most other months of the year. However, Halloween falls on the last day of October because the Feast of All Saints or "All Hallows" falls on Nov. 1. The feast in honor of all the saints in heaven used to be celebrated on May 13, but Pope Gregory III moved it to Nov. 1, the dedication day of All Saints Chapel in St. Peter's at Rome. Later, in the 840s, Pope Gregory IV commanded that All Saints be observed everywhere. And so the holy day spread to Ireland. The day before was the feast's evening vigil, "All Hallows Even" or "Hallowe'en." In those days, Halloween didn't have any special significance for Christians or for long-dead Celtic pagans.

In 998, St. Odilo, the abbot of the powerful monastery of Cluny in Southern France, added a celebration on Nov. 2. This was a day of prayer for the souls of all the faithful departed. This feast, called All Souls Day, spread from France to the rest of Europe.

So now the Church had feasts for all those in heaven and all those in purgatory? What about those in the other place? It seems Irish Catholic peasants wondered about the unfortunate souls in hell. After all, if the souls in hell are left out when we celebrate those in heaven and purgatory, they might be unhappy enough to cause trouble. So it became customary to bang pots and pans on All Hallows Even to let the damned know they were not forgotten. Thus, in Ireland, at least, all the dead came to be remembered — even if the clergy were not terribly sympathetic to Halloween and never allowed All Damned Day into the Church calendar.

But that still isn't our celebration of Halloween. Our traditions on this holiday center around dressing up in fanciful costumes, which isn't Irish at all. Rather, this custom arose in France during the 14th and 15th centuries. Late medieval Europe was hit by repeated outbreaks of the bubonic plague — the Black Death — and she lost about half her population. It is not surprising that Catholics became more concerned about the afterlife. More Masses were said on All Souls' Day, and artistic representations were devised to remind everyone of their own mortality.

We know these representations as the "Dance Macabre" or "Dance of Death," which was commonly painted on the walls of cemeteries and shows the devil leading a daisy chain of people — popes, kings, ladies, knights, monks, peasants, lepers, etc. — into the tomb. Sometimes the dance was

presented on All Souls' Day itself as a living tableau with people dressed up in the garb of various states of life. But the French dressed up on All Souls, not Halloween; and the Irish, who had Halloween, did not dress up. How the two became mingled probably happened first in the British colonies of North America during the 1700s when Irish and French Catholics began to intermarry. The Irish focus on hell gave the French masquerades and even more macabre twist.

But, as every young ghoul knows, dressing up isn't the point; the point is getting as many goodies as possible. Where on earth did "trick or treat" come in?

"Treat or treat" is perhaps the oddest and most American addition to Halloween, and is the unwilling contribution of English Catholics.

During the penal period of the 1500s to the 1700s in England, Catholics had no legal rights. They could not hold office and were subject to fines, jail and heavy taxes. It was a capital offense to say Mass, and hundreds of priests were martyred. Occasionally, English Catholics resisted, sometimes foolishly. One of the most foolish acts of resistance was a plot to blow up the Protestant King James I and his Parliament with gunpowder. This was supposed to trigger a Catholic uprising against their oppressors. The ill-conceived Gunpowder Plot was foiled on November 5, 1605, when the man guarding the gunpowder, a reckless convert named Guy Fawkes, was captured and arrested. He was hanged; the plot fizzled.

November 5<sup>th</sup>, Guy Fawkes' Day, became a great celebration in England, and so it remains. During the penal periods, bands of revelers would put on masks and visit local Catholics in the dead of night, demanding beer and cakes for their celebration: trick or treat!

Guy Fawkes' Day arrived in the American colonies with the first English settlers. But, by the time of the American Revolution, old King James and Guy Fawkes had pretty much been forgotten. Trick or treat, though, was too much fun to give up, so eventually it moved to October 31<sup>st</sup>, the day of the Irish-French masquerade. And in America, trick or treat wasn't limited to Catholics.

The mixture of various immigrant traditions we know as Halloween had become a fixture in the United States by the early 1800s. To this day, it remains unknown in Europe, even in the countries from which some of the customs originated.

But what about witches? Well, they are one of the last additions. The greeting card industry added them in the late 1800s. Halloween was already "ghoulish," so why not give witches a place on greeting cards? The Halloween card failed, but the witches stayed. So, too, in the late 1800s, ill-informed folklorists introduced the jack-o'-lantern. They thought that Halloween was druidic and pagan in origin. Lamps made from turnips (not pumpkins) had been part of an ancient Celtic harvest festivals, so they were translated to the American Halloween celebration.

The next time someone claims that Halloween is a cruel trick to lure your children into devil worship; I suggest you tell them the real origin of All Hallows Even and invite them to discover its Christian significance, along with the two greater and more important Catholic festivals that follow it.