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### Valentines Day Facts

73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27 percent are women.

About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.

About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.

Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an "Improvement in Telegraphy", on Valentine's Day, 1876.

California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the vast number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America. Approximately 110 million roses, the majority red, will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period.

Cupid, another symbol of Valentines Day, became associated with it because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty. Cupid often appears on Valentine cards holding a bow and arrows because he is believed to use magical arrows to inspire feelings of love.

Hallmark has over 1330 different cards specifically for Valentine's Day.

In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week.

[www.agirlsworld.com](http://www.agirlsworld.com)




Flushing 810-659-6162      Ortonville 248-627-4961

### Lent

Lent, the penitential season of the Church year, begins on Ash Monday, February 19, 2007 and lasts until Easter. Traditionally, the Lenten season is a time of sacrifices through out the Universal Church. The Most Reverend Bishops Robert Shaheen and Gregory Mansour have issued the following Lenten guidelines for the Maronites of the United

States:

- All Maronites who are physically capable are to **Abstain from meat** on Ash Monday (February 19) and all Fridays of Lent.
- Ash Monday and the Great Friday of the Crucifixion are also days of **fasting**.

Fasting in the Maronite Church involves eating and drinking nothing at all (except water and medicine) from midnight until noon. The rest of the day normal meals can be taken but without meat. All Maronites who are physically capable are to fast on these two days.

[www.st.maron.org](http://www.st.maron.org)

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### FEBRUARY

- 19 Ash Monday – Holy Day of Obligation
- 19 President's Day
- 19 First day of Lent
- 27 Discussion Group meets at 6pm to 8pm



Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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Flint, MI 48532  
Phone 810.733.1259  
Fax 810.732.2760

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

### Weekly Bulletin

Sunday February 11, 2007 – Sunday February 18, 2007

#### Clergy

Rev. Father Jihad Younes  
Deacon Martin Rachid  
Subdeacon Earl Matte  
Subdeacon Charles Rossie

#### Parish Staff

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

#### Parish Leaders

Albert Zerka – Parish Council  
Dee Gardner – Choir Director  
Dottie Byrnes – Organist  
Freda Hearsch – Religious Education  
Cindy Shaheen – Altar Society  
Jeanette Walterhouse – Morningstar  
Rob Kowalk – Spiritual Growth Coordinator



#### Liturgy Schedule

Monday	9a.m.
Tuesday	9a.m.
Wednesday	9a.m.
Thursday	9a.m.
Friday	12noon
Saturday	9a.m.
	5p.m.
Sunday	10a.m.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month	10a.m. (English)
	12noon (Arabic)

#### Adoration

Friday 11a.m.

#### Confessions

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

**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:



Sarah Marshall  
Mike Rizik  
Hanneh Chammas  
Hap Maroun  
Joe Faris  
Doris Beck  
Rose Johnson  
Dorothy Mattar  
Sharon Griffiths



#### Our Lady of Lebanon Office Hours

Monday 9am – 5pm  
Tuesday 9am – 5pm  
Wednesday 9am – 5pm  
Thursday 9am – 5pm  
Friday 9am – 5pm



## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY 11: Sunday of the Faithful Departed Our Lady of Lourdes

10A.M.: (1 Thes 5:1-11; Lk 16:19-31) Reader: Earl Matte  
- Rep. George Faris & Joseph Faris Jr. by Family

ARABIC MASS 12NOON

### MONDAY 12: St. Meletius of Antioch,

- In Thanksgiving by James & Theresa Manoharan

### TUESDAY 13:

- Rep. Eldon Frye by Darrell

### WEDNESDAY 14: Happy Valentine's Day

St. Cyril & St. Methodius

- Rep. Woody Mattar by Joan Lowe

### THURSDAY February 15:

- Rep. Lola Williams by Ed Soloman

FRIDAY 16:

12NOON

- Rep. Mayford Penhaligon by George & Sue Rasak

### SATURDAY 17:

9A.M.:

- Special Intentions

5P.M.

- Rep. Nazeer Zerka by Shirley & Family

### SUNDAY 18: Cana Sunday

Entrance into Lent

10A.M.: (Rom 14:14-23; Jn 2:1-11) Reader: Mary Matte

- Rep. Elias Deibis by Sue & Family

### SUNDAY 25: Sunday of the Leper

10A.M.: (Rom 6:12-23; Mk 1:35-45) Reader: Karl Moon -

Rep. Jacqueline McGilvery by Mon & Elsie Shaheen

#### Weekly Contributions

January 14: \$2186  
January 21: \$2213  
January 28: \$1432  
February 4: \$2013



Church cleaning for the  
Month of February:

Nawal Gebrael & Mona Massoud

## Announcements

There will be a meeting for all Altar Boys on Saturday, February 17, 2007 from 10am to 12noon.

The office will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2006.

February 19, 2006 is Ash Monday and the first day of lent. Mass will be celebrated at 9am and 6pm this is a Holy Day of Obligation for all.

The next discussion group will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 6pm. We invite you to come and be apart of our group. The topic for discussion will be announced soon.

There is a MYO mini retreat in Pennsylvania. Johnny Solomon has been in touch with all MYO members. If you plan on attending this retreat please turn your forms and money in as soon as possible.

During the Divine Liturgy the gifts (bread and wine) are transferred from the side altar to the main altar as a symbol of offering the fruit of our work to Almighty God who will come and unite His Divinity with our Humanity. We need to have gift bearers every Sunday to help in this part of Liturgy. A sign up sheet is put on the bulletin board for you to choose the date when you want to be the gift bearer. Please sign your name and don't forget we need TWO people every Sunday.

### You Are My Blessing

The gift wrapping is over  
The cards are gone  
Yet my heart continues  
To sing this song



You are my blessing  
The love of my life  
You are the reason  
I have no strife

You bring me happiness  
You bring me light  
Your smile reflects  
A joy so bright

The hours are filled  
With warm and caring  
Each moment overflow  
With heartfelt sharings

## Our Lady of Lourdes



On Thursday, February 11, 1858, a poor, sickly, unlettered peasant girl of Lourdes, France went with her sister and another girl to fetch sticks. Bernadette Soubirous, age 14, who knew little of her catechism but was devoted to the will of God, experienced her first apparition of a lovely Lady at the Grotto of Massabielle. Upon seeing the Lady, who had a rosary draped over her right arm, Bernadette began praying the Rosary.

Bernadette did not know who the Lady was at this time. This is Bernadette's description of the Lady at that first apparition:

While I was saying the Rosary, I was watching as hard as I could. She was wearing a white dress reaching down to her feet, of which only her toes appeared. The dress was gathered very high at the neck by a hem from which hung a white cord. A white veil covered her head and came down over her shoulders and arms almost to the bottom of her dress. On each foot I saw a yellow rose. The sash of the dress was blue, and hung down below her knees. The chain of the rosary was yellow; the beads white, big and widely spaced.

Thereafter commenced a series of apparitions of the Lady to Bernadette at the Grotto. Word soon spread about the apparitions and more and more people accompanied Bernadette to the Grotto, but only Bernadette could see the Lady. At these apparitions the Lady told Bernadette to "Pray to God for sinners!" Bernadette, as instructed by the Lady, also kissed the ground several times to do penance for sinners. At one of the apparitions Bernadette, following instructions of the Lady, scratched at the muddy earth and began to drink and wash from an unknown stream. Only later was the stream discovered to have miraculous healing powers.

The village Curé had asked Bernadette to inquire of the Lady who she was. On March 25, the feast of the Annunciation, also known as Lady Day, the Lady told Bernadette her name. She said, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Only a few years ago the Holy Father, Pius IX, had declared ex cathedra as dogma of the Faith that the Blessed Virgin Mary had been conceived without the stain of original sin. This

declaration of the Blessed Mother to Bernadette has deeply and profoundly moved many souls over the years, including St. Maximilian Kolbe. He was especially affected by the fact that Our Lady did not say that she was immaculately conceived but declared: "I AM THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION." This is her name and suggests the profound mystery of the work of the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary's soul.

Miracles still flow from the miraculous waters of Lourdes — but many more of the miracles occur during the blessing of the sick with the Most Holy Eucharist in the monstrance. This phenomenon underscores a profound truth of the spiritual life: Mary leads her children to her Divine Son, especially to His Eucharistic Heart.

The message of Our Lady of Lourdes is about the healing Mercy of God. But Lourdes is also about the need for prayer and penance. St. Bernadette testified to this call of Our Lady of Lourdes by living the rest of her life in humble prayer and suffering in a convent in France.

Millions of pilgrims venture every year to Lourdes. Some are miraculously healed. But many more are not healed of their affliction but receive the great and precious grace of lovingly embracing and carrying the cross Our Lord has given them. Our Lady of Lourdes, ora pro nobis.

[www.catholic.net](http://www.catholic.net)

## Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes



O Mother of Mercy, comforter of the afflicted, you know my suffering and my needs. Look upon me with loving kindness.

By appearing at the Grotto of Lourdes, you made it a sacred place, a sanctuary of healing. Many

have been cured there, both physically and spiritually. I come, therefore, with faith in the Lord's healing power.

O Mary, please grant my requests for healing. Most of all, help me to know and embrace God's will for me. Amen.