

## Weekly Contributions

November 18: \$2402  
November 25: \$2025  
December 2: \$1983  
December 9: \$2531



Church cleaning for December:

17 – Mary Matte  
24 – Diane Massad

## Altar Server Schedule

December 23: Team 1  
December 25: All Altar Servers  
December 30: Team 2  
January 6: Team 3



## Christmas Facts

Silent Night was written in 1818, by an Austrian priest Joseph Mohr. He was told the day before Christmas that the church organ was broken and would not be prepared in time for Christmas Eve. He was saddened by this and could not think of Christmas without music, so he wanted to write a carol that could be sung by choir to guitar music. He sat down and wrote three stanzas. Later that night the people in the little Austrian Church sang "Stille Nacht" for the first time.

St Francis of Assisi introduced Christmas Carols to formal church services.

The first American Christmas carol was written in 1649 by a minister named John de Brebeur and is called "Jesus is Born".

Mexicans call the poinsettia "Flower of the Holy Night" - the Holy Night is the Mexican way of saying "Christmas Eve".

The biggest selling Christmas single of all time is Bing Crosby's White Christmas.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

15-23 Christmas Novena 7pm  
21 Night of Prayer & Penance 7pm-8pm  
23 No religious education classes  
24 Christmas Eve Liturgy 6pm  
25 Christmas Day Liturgy 10am  
30 No religious education classes  
31 New Year's Eve Party

Fr. Jihad has forms from the Consulate of Lebanon for passport renewals, marriage & birth registrations. If you need any of these forms please see Fr. Jihad.

## Nativity Craft for children



The Clay Nativity is a simple and easy-to-make craft for a broad age range.

You will need: 3 mini clay pots (2"), 3 large wooden beads, straw or moss, a gold ring of ribbon, strips of fabric, and tacky glue.

Turn two pots upside down and glue a bead on top of each one, (representing Mary and Joseph). Place one of the fabric strips over Mary's head, the other around Joseph's shoulders. Place straw into the third pot, (represents the manger). Place the third bead (represents Jesus' head) into the straw, then place the gold ribbon around the head of Jesus like a crown.



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## Weekly Bulletin

Sunday December 16, 2007 – Sunday December 23, 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 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:



Eddie Rashid  
Sarah Marshall  
Hanneh Chammas  
Hap Maroun  
Joe Faris  
Doris Beck  
Ann Faris  
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 16: The Revelation to Joseph

10A.M. (Eph 3:1-13; Mt 1:18-25): Reader: Ferris Anthony

- Rep. Mary Faris by Family
- Rep. Mike Rizik by Scholarship Recipients
- Rep. Louie Azzam
- 40 Day Memorial by Albert & Thereze Karram

### MONDAY 17:

- Rep. Elias Deibis by Delore Shaker

### TUESDAY 18: Daniel the Prophet & his 3 Companions, Martyrs

- Rep. Woody Mattar by Aziz Family

### WEDNESDAY 19:

- Rep. Betty Mansour by Scott & Cindy Shaheen

### THURSDAY 20: St. Ignatius of Antioch, Martyr

- Rep. Antoine Massoud by Barhoum & Colette Rizk

### FRIDAY 21:

12NOON

- Rep. Wadji Badr by Chuck Solomon & Family

### SATURDAY 22:

5PM

- Rep. William Schumacher by Shaheen & Rose Shaheen

### SUNDAY 23: Geneology Sunday

10A.M. (Rom 1:1-12; Mt 1:1-17): Reader: Erik Lindhurst

- Rep. Tammy Barwardi

### SUNDAY 30: Finding of the Lord in the Temple

10A.M. (Heb 7:11-19; Lk 2:41-52): Reader: Diane Massad

- Rep. Deceased Members of the Maroun Family by Sam
- Rep. Karen Solomon by Chuck & Family 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Please deposit non-perishable food items in the collection box in the Narthex. Cash donations can be given to Deacon Marty. Food baskets and gift cards will be provided to the families of children who are suffering from cancer. Let us share our abundance with those who suffer.



## Announcements

There will be practice for all Altar Boys on Saturday, December 22, 2007. Practice is from 10am to 12Noon.

MYO will be having a bake sale on Saturday, December 22, 2007 and Sunday, December 23, 2007 following mass.

We will begin praying a Christmas Novena on Saturday, December 15, 2007 to Sunday, December 23, 2007 at 7pm. Please try to make time to share in this beautiful devotion.

In preparation for Christmas, we are having an evening of prayer and meditation on Friday, December 21, 2007 at 7pm. Priests will be available for confession. Please consider coming to this evening to prepare a place in your heart for our Lord.

Please remember your census forms and try to get them turned in as soon as possible.

The Ladies Altar Society will be taking up a collection for holiday decorations after Saturday and Sunday mass on December 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wishing to make a special donation can contact Diane Massad (232-4766) or Cindy Shaheen (659-8758).

Anyone wishing to donate a RED Poinsetta that will be used for holiday decorations in lieu of money may do so by contacting Diane Massad (232-4766). Donated Poinsettias must be delivered to the Church at Noon on Saturday December 22nd.

The Ladies Altar Society is looking to sponsor a Women's Spiritual Retreat after the first of the year. In order to plan this event, we need to know how many women of our Parish would be interested in participating. Please contact Cindy Shaheen (659-8758), Diane Massad (232-4766) or Pam in the church office as soon as possible.

### Altar Society Cookbook

The Ladies Altar Society is compiling recipes of salads and desserts for a cookbook. This cookbook will be sold at the Salad Supper Bingo in May 2008. We are asking parish members to help us by donating a few of your favorite recipes. Please contact any member of the organization or one of the following members for a format for your recipes.

Linda Macksood	732-7322
Elsie Shaheen	732-2887
Yvonne Weissert	732-4856



## Saint Ignatius of Antioch



Saint Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, was the disciple of Saint John the Evangelist. Believing that the Church on earth should resemble that of the heavenly Jerusalem of which Saint John wrote in his *Apocalypse*, he established singing in choirs in his church at Antioch, after a vision of the celestial choirs who sang in that manner. When the emperor Domitian persecuted the Church, Saint Ignatius obtained peace for his own flock by fasting and prayer, although for his own part he desired to suffer with Christ, and to prove himself a perfect disciple.

The Roman emperors often visited Antioch, one of the cities of first importance of the empire. In 107, the eighth year of the reign of the emperor Trajan, he came to Antioch and forced the Christians to choose between apostasy and death. Saint Ignatius, who had already governed that church for forty years, continued to fortify it against apostasy, and did not flee. Arrested and brought before the emperor, the latter addressed him: "Who are you, poor devil, to set our commands at naught?" "Call not poor devil," Ignatius answered, "one who bears God within him." And when the emperor asked him what he meant by that, Ignatius explained that he bore in his heart Christ, crucified for his sake. "Change your ideas, and I will make you a priest of the great Jupiter, and you will be called 'father' by the Senate." "What could such honors matter to me, a priest of Christ, who offer Him every day a sacrifice of praise, and am ready to offer myself to Him also?" "To whom? To that Jesus who was crucified by Pontius Pilate?" "Yes, and with whom sin was crucified, and the devil, its author, vanquished."

The questions and the courageous replies continued for a time that day and also on the following one. Saint Ignatius said, "I will not sacrifice; I fear neither torments nor death, because I desire to go quickly to God." Thereupon the emperor condemned him to be torn to pieces by wild beasts in Rome. Saint Ignatius

blessed God, who had so honored him, "binding him in the same chains as Paul, His apostle." When his people wept, he told them to place their hope in the sovereign Pastor, who never abandons His flock. On passing through the city of Smyrna, he exhorted the faithful, who were grieved at his fate, to remain true to Christ until death, and he gave some of them who were going to Rome a letter for the Christians of the capital of the Christian world. This letter is still extant. He writes: "I fear your charity, I fear you have an affection too human for me. You might prevent me from dying, but by so doing, you would oppose my happiness. Suffer me to be immolated while the altar is ready; give thanks to God... If when I arrive among you I should have the weakness to seem to have other sentiments, do not believe me; believe only what I am writing to you now." This letter of Saint Ignatius has encouraged all generations of Christians in their combats.

He journeyed to Rome, guarded by soldiers, and with no fear but of losing the martyr's crown. Three of his disciples, who accompanied him and were eyewitnesses of the spectacle, wrote the acts of his martyrdom: His face shining with joy, he reassured them as the lions were released, saying: "I am the wheat of Christ, I will be ground by the teeth of the beasts and made into flour to be a good bread for my Lord Jesus Christ!" He was devoured by lions in the Roman amphitheater. The wild beasts left nothing of his body except a few bones, which were reverently treasured at Antioch until their removal in the year 637 to the Church of Saint Clement in Rome. After the martyr's death, several Christians saw him in vision, in prayer to Christ, and interceding for them.

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

