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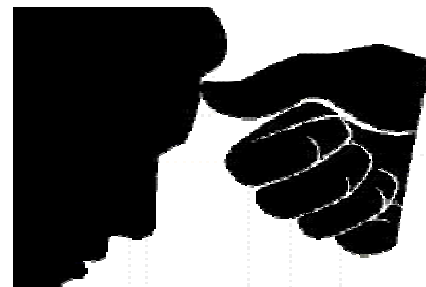
Ash Monday

Ash Monday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

The Ashes

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.

www.catholic.org



"Remember, you are dust, and unto dust you shall return."

BUECHE'S FOOD WORLD



Flushing
810-659-6162

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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

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

4133 Calkins Rd
Flint, MI 48532
Phone 810.733.1259
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www.ololmi.org

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday February 18, 2007 – Sunday February 25, 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 nd Sunday of the month	10a.m. (English)
	12noon (Arabic)

Adoration

Friday 11a.m.

Confessions

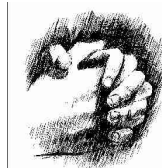
½ hour before liturgy on Saturday and Sunday and by appointment.

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
Ann Faris



Our Lady of Lebanon Office Hours

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



MASS INTENTIONS

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
 - Intentions of George Allen by David & Gabrielle Allen & Family

MONDAY 19: Ash Monday

500 Martyrs of Tyre & President's Day

- Rep. Sue Adado by Bob & Colette Rizk

TUESDAY 20: St. James the Hermit of Cyrus

- Rep. Elias Deibis by Miriam Martin

WEDNESDAY 21: St. Eustasius,

Partriarch of Antioch

- Rep. Betty Mansour by Mary Ann Sheehan

THURSDAY February 22: Establishment of the Chair of St. Peter of Antioch

- Rep. Gloria Mansour by Family

FRIDAY 23: St. Polycarp of Smyrna

12NOON

- Rep. Woody Mattar by Vincent Harrison

SATURDAY 24:

9A.M.:

- Special Intentions

5P.M.

- Rep. Charles Fiebertz by Chuck Solmon & Family
 - Rep. Rev. & Mrs. Solomon Elia by Deacon Marty & Nina Rachid

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

SUNDAY March 4: Sunday of the

Hemorrhaging Woman

10A.M.: (2 Cor7:4-11; Lk8:40-56) Reader: Robert Pollack

- Rep. Sister Helen Maroun by Sam
 - Rep. Woody Mattar
 40 Day Memorial by Family
 - Living & Deceased Members of Allen Family by David & Gabrielle Allen & Family

Weekly Contributions

January 21: \$2213
 January 28: \$1432
 February 4: \$2013
 February 11: \$2236



Announcements

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 will be a MYO mini retreat held at St. John the Baptist Church in New Castle Pennsylvania Friday, March 2 to Sunday, March 4, 2007. Please see Johnny Solomon or Rob Kowalk for more information.

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.



Church cleaning for the Month of February:

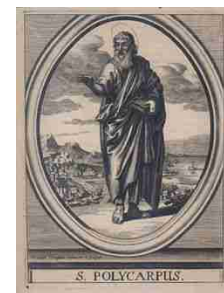
Nawal Gebrael & Mona Massoud

Things you can do during Lent

1. Spend an hour in Adoration with the Blessed Sacrament.
2. Attend Mass during the week.
3. Read the entire Gospel of Mark.
4. Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
5. Spend time in prayer before going to bed.
6. Take time to give to those in need.
7. Pray for your enemies.
8. Pray the Holy Rosary.
9. Read your bible.
10. Do random acts of kindness for others just because they are there.



Saint Polycarp



Polycarp was born in 70 A D to a Christian family who received its faith from the very apostles of our Lord Jesus. In these apostolic times, the young Church lived and was strengthened by visits from the apostles and their disciples.

Polycarp was chosen by the bishop as his personal secretary and later when he was forty years old became the bishop of Smyrna. There he remained for 86 years of his life, faithfully serving the Church.

A well-known Christian boy had been killed. The young boy fought the beasts rather than to follow pagan practices, the alternative given to him. When he had been slain by the animals, the Christians were accused of having brained washed him into doing such a foolish thing as prefer death to a "simple sacrifice." The mob began shouting; "Bring us Polycarp!"

When Polycarp heard of these events, he was not disturbed and desired to remain in the city. But the faithful were able to convince him to withdraw to a farm nearby with a few friends. Polycarp prayed night and day for all men and for the churches throughout the world. One night while he was praying Polycarp had a vision seeing his pillow blazing with flames. He came to his friends and said, "I am going to be burned alive."

Now, the soldiers who were searching for him arrived at Polycarp's house and when they could not find him they seized two young servant boys. One broke down under their torture and betrayed where the bishop had gone. Late in the evening of that day they rode to the farm. They took the servant boy with them and found Polycarp in bed in the upper room of the cottage. When he heard of their arrival he went downstairs and talked with them. Polycarp knew why they had come and greeted them. The soldiers became upset that there had been such an uproar and eagerness to arrest such an old man. Polycarp ordered a meal for the band of captors, and asked them to give him an hour or so in order that he might pray. This was granted. The soldiers were astonished to see the bishop pray intently for two hours, remembering the names and the needs of so many of his flock.

The stadium was already filled with people, shouting so loudly that it was impossible for anyone to speak and be heard above the noise. But Polycarp heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Be strong, Polycarp for I am with you." The bishop was brought before the proconsul, who asked

"Are you Polycarp, the leader of the Christians in this city?" "Yes," replied the bishop. "Then have pity on yourself, an old man." "Change your mind and say, 'Away with the godless, referring to the Christians, but Polycarp turned and waved his hand in the direction of the mob in the stadium and proclaimed, "Away with the Godless!" Polycarp was referring to the pagans and the Jews, not the Christians among them.

The proconsul continued to try to persuade Polycarp "Say it and I will release you!" But the old bishop replied, "For eighty-six years I have served Jesus Christ and he has never done me wrong how can you expect me to betray my King who has saved me?" The proconsul said, "I have wild beasts if you don't change your mind I will have you thrown to them." "Then bring them to me," said Polycarp.

The proconsul tried again, "I'll have you destroyed by fire if you care not about the animals." "Then bring on that fire which only burns for a short time and then goes out," replied the bishop. "Apparently," he continued, "you are ignorant of the everlasting fire of judgment and punishment which awaits the wicked? Why do you delay? I am ready to die for Jesus Christ?"

The proconsul finally relented and sent the herald into the middle of the arena to proclaim three times "Polycarp has confessed himself to be a Christian." Within moments, the mob brought wood to make the pyre. The bishop removed his outer garment and shoes and was led to the mound of wood. The guards attempted to tie him to a stake but Polycarp said, "Leave me as I am for God will give me the strength to withstand your torments, so the soldiers bound him with his hands behind his back. Then Polycarp prayed to God. " ... I praise You because You have seen fit to allow me this hour to share with the martyrs in the cup of Christ, to rise to eternal life, both in soul and in body, in the immortality of the Holy Spirit. May I be accepted among them in your sight today as a pleasing sacrifice, for this, I praise You, I bless You, and I glorify You."

Now the fire was lit and a great flame burst over the whole pyre completely covering the bishop's body. For some time, the flames failed to burn his flesh. Finally, an executioner was sent to stab him with a dagger. Once dead Polycarp's body was consumed by the flames and reduced to ashes. The Christians who were present collected what remained of his bones and lovingly laid them to rest in a fitting place where they assembled yearly to rejoice in his memory.

