Weekly Contributions

December 30: $2417
January 6: $2612
January 13: $1821
January 20: $1313

Church cleaning for February:
Altar Society

Altar Server Schedule

February 3: Team 2
February 10: Team 3

When You Miss One Communion

It is well to consider what you lose every morning that you pass up Holy Communion.

You miss a personal visit with Jesus, Author of all holiness.

You lose a special increase of grace, which makes your soul more pleasing to God.

You lose a quota of sacramental grace, which entitles you to special help in times of temptation and in the discharge of your daily duties.

You lose a special opportunity of having your venial sins wiped away.

You miss the special preserving influence which each Holy Communion confers against the fires of passion.

You miss the opportunity of having remitted a part, or all, of the punishment due to your sins.

You lose the spiritual joy, the sweetness, and the particular comfort that comes from a fervent Holy Communion.

You lose part of the glory that your body might enjoy at its resurrection on the Last Day.

You lose the greater degree of glory you might possess in Heaven for all eternity.

You may lose...
- complete victory over some fault or passion
- some particular grace long prayed for
- the conversion or salvation of some soul
- deliverance of a friend or relative from Purgatory
- many graces for other, both the living and the dead

Will a few extra minutes of sleep repay you for all these losses?

Annual Saint Maron’s Day Hafti
Saturday, February 9, 2008
Liturgy at 5pm followed by Dinner & Hafti

Adults $10
Children 12 and under $8
Tickets can be purchased from any Parish Council Member

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church
4133 Calkins Road
Flint, MI 48532

Pray for our sick and homebound Parishioners:

Eddie Rashid
Sarah Marshall
Hannah Chammas
Hap Maroun
Joe Faris
Doris Beck
Ann Faris
Dorothy Mattar
Wanda Maroun
Nadia Sob

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.

Clergy
Rev. Father Jihad Younes
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 Hearsc – Religious Education
Cindy Shaheen – Altar Society
Jeanette Walterhouse – Morningstar

Liturgical Schedule

Monday 9a.m.
Tuesday 9a.m.
Wednesday 9a.m.
Thursday 9a.m.
Friday 12noon
Saturday 5p.m.
Sunday 10a.m.
2nd 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.
SAINT EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

Saint Ephraim the Syrian, a teacher of repentance, was born at the beginning of the fourth century in the city of Nisibis in Mesopotamia, where the Roman Empire bordered on Persia. At one time Mesopotamia belonged to Syria and for this reason St. Ephraim is known as "the Syrian."

His parents were impoverished tillers of the soil, who raised their son in piety. When he was still a baby, his parents had a prophetic dream: from this boy's tongue sprang a lush vine which produced abundant clusters of grapes. The more the birds ate the fruit, the more it multiplied. Later it was revealed that these clusters were his sermons, the leaves of the vine—his hymns.

However, from his childhood Ephraim was known for his quick temper and impetuous character. He often had fights, acted thoughtlessly, and even doubted God's Providence. Judging from his youth one could never have guessed his future greatness. In spite of his parents' having educated him in Christian precepts, he was impetuous and even rather wild, like an unruly colt which resists the bridle: "I would quarrel over trifles, acted foolishly, gave in to bad impulses and lustful thoughts. My youth nearly convinced me that life is ruled by chance. But God's Providence brought my imprisoned youth to the light of wisdom."

He finally recovered his senses by the grace of God, and embarked on the path of repentance and salvation. He relates the story of his conversion: One day my parents sent me outer town and I found a pregnant cow feeding along the road. I took up stones and began pelting the cow, driving it into the woods till evening when it fell down dead? During the night wild beasts ate it. On my way back, I met the poor owner of the cow. 'My son,' he asked, 'did you drive away my cow?' I not only denied it, but heaped abuse and insult upon the poor man."

A few days later he was idolizing with some shepherds. When it grew too late to return home, he spent the night with them. That night some shepherds were stolen and he was unjustly accused of stealing a sheep. Ephraim was taken before the magistrate and cast into prison. In a dream an angel appeared to Ephraim and asked him why he was there. The boy began at once to declare that he was, innocent. "Yes," said the angel, "you are innocent of the crime imputed to you, but have you forgotten the poor man's cow?"

When Ephraim saw the tortures to which criminals were subjected, he became terrified. He turned to God and vowed that he would become a monk if God would spare him such a cruel ordeal. The magistrate, however, just laughed at the youth's tears and ordered that he be stretched on the rack.

But just then a servant came to announce that dinner was ready. "Very well," said the magistrate, "I will examine the boy another day." And he ordered him back to prison. Providentially, the next time the magistrate saw Ephraim, he thought he had been punished enough and dismissed him. Although he was spared the rack, Ephraim had learned his lesson and, like the Prophet David, he entreated the Lord to overlook his youthful folly.

True to his vow, upon his release he went straightway to the hermits living in the mountains where he became a disciple of St. James, who later became a great bishop of Nisibis. Born again in repentance, Ephraim began to train as an athlete of virtues, exorcizing himself in the study of the Holy Scriptures and in prayer and fasting. The passionate and wayward youth was transformed into a humble and contrite monk, weeping day and night for his sins and entirely surrendered to God. Ephraim's earnest resolve pleased the Lord who rewarded him with the gifts of wisdom; grace flowed from his mouth like a sweet stream, in fulfillment of his parents' dream.

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O Lord and Master of my life, cast away from me the spirit of laziness, idle curiosity, love of power and vain talk. But grant me, Your servant, the spirit of moderation, humility, patience and love. Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own faults and not to judge my brothers and sisters. For You are blessed forever. Amen.