



## **Our Lady of Lebanon**

### **Maronite Catholic Church**

950 North Grace Street, Lombard, IL 60148

**Tel:** 630-932-9640 / **Fax:** 630-932-9463

Rev. Fr. Pierre El Khoury **Cell:** 713-972-2990

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

## **The Visit of the Magi**

**January 03, 2016**

# Happy New Year 2016

The great thing about walking with God in life is that there is always the opportunity to start anew - God always offers us a new day and a new dawn, no matter what has gone before.

At the start of the New Year, why not take a moment to thank Him for last year, ask His forgiveness for where you have failed, and dedicate this New Year to Him - to serve Him and love Him afresh.

### **PRAYER:**

Lord, as the New Year dawns today, help me to put my faults away and grant me the strength from day to day to serve you.

Lord, in this time we turn our thoughts to how we can touch and be touched, love and be loved, to forgive and be forgiven, heal and be healed, so that the goodness of our lives becomes a shared blessing, and live forever to praise your glorious name. AMEN.

## إنجيل القديس متى 2

لَمَّا وُلِدَ يَسُوعُ فِي بَيْتِ لَحْمِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ، فِي أَيَّامِ الْمَلِكِ هِيرُودُسَ، جَاءَ مَجُوسٌ مِنَ الْمَشْرِقِ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ، وَهُمْ يَقُولُونَ: «أَيْنَ هُوَ الْمَوْلُودُ مَلِكُ الْيَهُودِ؟ فَقَدْ رَأَيْنَا نَجْمَهُ فِي الْمَشْرِقِ، فَجِئْنَا نَسْجُدُ لَهُ». وَدَخَلُوا الْبَيْتَ فَرَأَوْا الصَّبِيَّ مَعَ مَرْيَمَ أُمِّهِ، فَجَثُّوا لَهُ. ثُمَّ قَتَحُوا كُنُوزَهُمْ وَقَدَّمُوا لَهُ هَدَايَا، ذَهَبًا وَبَخُورًا وَمُرًّا.

### The Gospel according to Saint Matthew 2

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage..."

They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

### The Journey of the Magi

The identity of the Magi begins with the fact that they come from the East. It is not clear if they are from one location in the Orient or from several. We also see from scripture that we do not know exactly how many there were. This is where tradition begins to take over from scripture and we see them depicted as being three in number, because they brought three gifts: Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. They are also traditionally pictured as being black, white and brown in representation of all the peoples of the earth.

In this journey they first come to King Herod with questions which he could not answer and so he turns to the chief priests and scribes to learn that scriptures had foretold of such an event and that the Christ "would be born in Bethlehem of Judea". With this new insight from scripture the wise men continued to follow the sign of the star until it halts in front of the place where the child was. As their gaze comes to rest upon the child with his mother Mary they fall on their knees and give him homage. They offer gifts not to an infant king but to one who was God.

Today we ask the questions of faith: Is there a God? What does Christianity have to offer which the great religions of world don't have? Why go to Church? Why fall on our knees and give homage to God?

Today with the wise men, the church invites us to search for Truth. The challenge which we face today is the society is often beginning their search for Truth from secular origins without any reference to God. It is important for the Church to search out the signs of Christian faith so that people can begin their journey as the Magi did with a reference to God. This is very important for our young people and their search for truth. It might be important that we see in this present generation of young people not only seekers of information, or surfers on the web, but a generation of magi who are seeking God.

The gifts that the Magi present to the Christ child are symbolic gifts which bear witness to the Truth: incense for God, gold for the king, myrrh for the one who is to die. They point to the belief that the fullness of Truth is revealed in Jesus Christ. That he is the son of God, he proclaimed the fullness of God's kingdom and that he was the Savior who was to die.

## **REMEMBER IT**

“They prostrated themselves and worshiped him.  
Then they opened their treasures and offered him  
gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Matthew 2: 11**

## **Deacon's Corner**

God has blessed us all in so many ways. So many ways that we really can't perceive what God has done for us. So many things that we take for granted in our daily lives. I suggest that we take some time out of our busy schedules as we near the end of this year to look back and evaluate our lives and give glory, thanks and praise to the One who has given it all to us. Remember, that God gave us His only begotten Son to walk among us, and die so that our sins may be forgiven and that we will have a place to share in His Heavenly Kingdom.

So this Christmas Season and with the coming New Year, I encourage everyone to think back, not only about the year past, but of all the years past. Think about the happy times, the good times, the things that we love to remember and think about. Think about how we loved Our Lord so much when we were younger and keep those thoughts in our mind now and forever. In so doing, I assure you that the past year and years will have much more meaning for all and help keep us at peace with ourselves, our loved ones and especially with Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

## **Mass Intentions for Next Sunday January 10**

**09:30 Mass:** First Year Anniversary for Helen and Betty Shaker  
(Req. by the Shaker family)

**11:30 Mass:** First Year Anniversary for Helen and Betty Shaker  
(Req. by the Shaker family)

Leila Saadeh Sweillem (Req. by the Sweillem Family)

Habib & Matilde Naffah – Mgr. John Naffah - Marie Naffah –  
Dr. Bechara & Elide Naffah (Req. by Pierre & Ann Naffah)



# New Years Eve Party

**Our Lady of Lebanon Church  
950 N Grace St  
Lombard, IL 60148**

**Entertainment by DJ Danny  
7:00pm Cocktail  
8:30pm Dinner**

**\$50 per Person Cash Bar  
Kids under 2 Free  
Limited Seating**

**For reservations Call  
Elias Masud: 630-991-1111  
elias.masud@gmail.com**

**Or**

**The Church Office:  
630-932-9640**

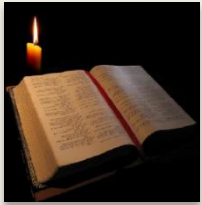


## Mass Celebration



The Visit of the Magi: Page 76  
Anaphora of Saint Peter: 774

## Sunday Readings



Reading: 1 John 4:1-11 (*God is Love*)  
Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:2-12 (*The Visit of the Magi*)

## Mass Intentions



### 9:30 AM

The deceased members of The Shaker Family -  
the Abraham Family - and the Crispin Family  
(Requested by Joe and Terry Shaker)

### 11:30 AM

Nassib George Abdo (Req. by the Chartouni Family)  
Leila Saadeh Sweillem (Req. by the Sweillem Family)

Schedules	9:30 A.M. Mass	11:30 A.M. Mass
Altar Servers	Andres Ballines, Leila Nehra	Estifan Azzo, Cassandra Chahoud, Yasmina Mulcahey, Ramez Sayegh
Readers	Cheryl Blum	Sam Sweillem (Arabic) Michelle Yasmine (English)
Ushers	Nabil Zahra Frank Kermend	Ed Kneip, William Harb, John Albani, Tony Boumitri,

## **Announcements**

✳ **Friday January 1:** Mass - Welcoming the New Year (5:00 PM)

✳ **Wednesday January 6, 2016:** Mass – the Feast of Epiphany - Baptism of the Lord and blessing of the water (7:30 Pm). After Mass you are invited for a traditional Epiphany Dessert (Zlabiyeh w Maakroun...). EL Dayem Dayem!

### **Let us remember**

and pray for our Beloved Ones who died during the month of December

✝ Helen Shaker

✝ Elizabeth Shaker

✝ Joseph V. O'Neil

✝ Barbra Nahra

✝ Sarah Malouf

✝ Michael Jabour

✝ Albert Hopsy

✝ George Paul Doucette

✝ Isabel Damuny

Shahwan

✝ Lynley M. Garvin

✝ Louise Lucchesi

### **COLLECTION**

**Christmas December 24 & 25, 2015: \$ 7,020.00**

**Sunday December 27, 2015: 1,702.00**

Thank you for your generosity and May God reward you a hundred fold!