



St. Michael the Archangel Maronite Catholic Church

806 Arsenal Avenue
Fayetteville, NC 28305
Office: 910 - 484 - 1531



Email: stmikeoffice@gmail.com website: stmichaelsmaronite.net January 7, 2024

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY-BAPTISM OF THE LORD-1ST SUNDAY

SEASON OF EPIPHANY/MARONITE TRADITIONS

The Epiphany is one of the earliest feasts of the Eastern Church. In the Maronite Church, the Epiphany marks the Baptism of Our Lord and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Him. At midnight, on the night before the Epiphany, Maronite tradition has it that Jesus will pass over and bless the homes. At the moment Christ passes, all creation bows down to Him except for the cursed fig tree. We greet each other with the term “**Deyim Deyim**” which means “**everlasting everlasting**” and signifies that the Everlasting never forgets to visit. Dough is kneaded and left out to create the yeast starter that will be used for the rest of the year. Windows, doors and the grain houses are left open so that they can be blessed and protect the homeowner from poverty. We attend Mass and take with us bottles of water to be blessed and used in the house for the rest of the year. ~

Taken from “Living Maronite” website

For ideas on how to celebrate the Season of Epiphany in your home see:

<https://livingmaronite.com/resources/feastdays/the-epiphany-6-january>

The Holy Water receptacle in the back of the church contains the waters blessed on the Feast of Epiphany with small bottles available for you to fill and take home.

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'"
John 1:29-31

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CLERGY

Fr. Paul Damien, Pastor

Fr. Jack Morrison
(retired)

PARISH OFFICE

HOURS:

Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

LITURGY / MASS :

Tues - Fri: 9:00 am

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 10:30 AM

Office Email:

stmikeoffice@gmail.com

Facebook:

Saint Michael the
Archangel Maronite
Catholic Church

“Feast of the EPIPHANY - BAPTISM OF THE LORD ” - 1st Sunday

Saturday Jan 6- 5:00 PM: Healing for all those on our prayer chain by MJ & Warren Hahn

Sunday Jan 7- 10:30 AM: for a special intention by the Sherman’s

Tuesday	Jan 9	9:00 am	St. Eusatratus, CAvailable.....
Wednesday	Jan 10	9:00 am	St. Gregory Bishop of Nyssa	Kim Ngan Nguyen intentions by Thanh & Han Vo
Thursday	Jan 11	9:00 am	St. Theodosius of Antioch	Mass of Thanksgiving by MJ & Warren Hahn
Friday	Jan 12	9:00 Am	St. Tatiana, M	For Thanh & Han Nguyen Vo family By Than & Han VO

“2nd Sunday after Epiphany”

Saturday Jan 13 - 5:00 PM:Available.....

Sunday Jan 14- 10:30 AM: Hamid ,Samira, Constantine & Elias Constantine
by Boutros Hamid Khoury (Easton)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Sign up today, at the church entrance for a Holy Hour!



Every Thursday
9:30 am - 2:00pm
Rosary for Peace @ 9:30 am

CATHOLIC SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Place your donation of Peanut butter & jelly in the basket next to the Confessional.

Dec Donations :
110 lbs

Total for 2023:
1,475 lbs

READERS

1/6	Kathy Criminger	1/7	Marie Catalana
1/13	Volunteer	1/14	Annika Nesbitt
1/20	Rick Criste	1/21	Wayne Nesbitt
1/27	Lynn Vaughan	1/28	Betty Gurney

SCRIPTURE

Feast of the Ephiphany-1st Sunday after Epiphany

2 Cor 10: 1-11/ Jn 1: 29-34

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

2 Cor 4: 5-15/ Jn 1: 35-42

Sunday of the Priests

1 Tim 4: 6-16/ Lk 12: 42-48



To be listed as Reader, please text **Kim Phelan @ 352-317-8529** or email **consecrated2021@gmail.com** or the church office

GIFTS OF THANKSGIVING

Offer the Incense, Candles and Wine for one month in memory/honor of someone for a \$25 donation.

JANUARY 2024

**PHILIP & EMMA
MONTALDO**

Thank You




Collection : 3 Collections	\$2219 .00
Candles	\$ 55.00
Christmas Poinsettias (total)	\$ 1455.00
Donation to MYO (total)	\$ 1537.00
Christmas Cookie Trays	\$ 1371.00

2nd Collection– January 28
United States Catholic Bishops’ Worldwide Charities
 (This collection combines the four USCCB collections: Central and Eastern Europe, the Church in Latin America, the Church in Africa, and Catholic Relief Services. The total is divided accordingly.)


VOCATION CHALICE

1/6: Volunteer
 1/7: Warren Hahn
 1/13: Volunteer
 1/14: Betty Gurney



If your family would like to volunteer to pray for Vocations to Religious Life , please text or email Kimberly P. @ (352)317-8529 or consecrated2021@gmail.com

Custom Handmade Rosaries
 Handcrafted to order by **Ace Acevedo**
 Premade Rosaries, as well as a complete list of all available styles, are in the social hall by the Ladies Guild gift counter!
All proceeds benefit the Parish!



ONLINE GIVING




PRAYER CHAIN
 Please contact Lucy Zahran or call church office to **join the prayer chain** or with prayer



SOUP-ER BOWL COLLECTIONS

Every year we host a month-long “Soup-er Bowl” collection to raise money for feeding the homeless at **Operation InAsMuch**. Please place your donations in the bucket at the entrance of the Church. There is also a 2nd Collection the weekend of the Super Bowl.

God Bless Your Generosity




We need more volunteers to clean the church on a weekly basis. Thank You




FROM THE LADIES GUILD

- Our next meeting is 14 January at Noon. Ladies Guild dues will be collected.
- Elections of officers will take place. Please have your choices for the four officers ready, please try to come as we need quorum.



EPIPHANY - BLESSING OF WATER

Kindly bring with you bottles of water to be blessed on the feast of Epiphany. Please mark all bottles with your name to avoid confusion when collecting them.



SEVEN SISTERS

The Apostolate is calling for four more women who would be willing to pray 1 hour, 1 day a week for our Bishop.

Contact sferry84@verizon.net for details.


ESQUITE - Please do not read the bulletin in the church.

-No walking back and forth during Scripture & Gospel Readings, during the Consecration & Invocation of the Holy Spirit. Wait at the entrance until done then go back to your seat.

- **crossing of legs** is not allowed . This is not a prayerful position. Seated, standing and kneeling are the prayer positions.

- **the Sign of Peace** is not a kiss on the mouth . It comes from the Altar and is shared by **closed hands** among people. The kiss of Peace given on the cheeks is not recommended in our tradition.

We need to set a good example for our children and our guests. Thank You.



RELIGIOUS ED & RCIA - ADULT DISCUSSION

* CCD Classes will resume at 6:30pm on Wednesday January 3rd, 2024

* RCIA will resume on January 10th at 5:30 pm

CONFESSION

Confession is offered every Sunday from 9:30am - 10:20am, before the Divine Liturgy.

*Father asks that you arrive early enough so that the priests are able to reserve ten minutes before Mass to prepare.

ADORATION

Our weekly Thursday Adoration has begun again! Come and spend some time with our Lord. Please sign up on the sheet at the Church entrance if you are able to cover one hour!

Time:

9:30 am - 2:00 pm

VOCATION CHALICE

*Now, more than ever, the Church is in need of young men and women eager to commit their lives to serving the Church through the priesthood and religious life. Please consider taking the Vocation Chalice into your home. Saturday Liturgy is by volunteer, to sign-up for Sunday contact Kim Phelan



BREAKFAST PROGRAM

We support **Operation InAsMuch** helping to serve breakfast to the homeless. Call Ray Miller 580-0396 if interested in serving

CATHOLIC SOCIAL MINISTRIES

St. Michael's has been asked to contribute **jams/jellies and peanut butter (ANY SIZE)** and sample size **personal toiletry items**. Place donations in the basket next to the confessional.

For 2023

We broke our record by donating

1,475 lbs

May God reward you a hundred fold

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

Both Fr. Jack and I would like to thank you for your Christmas cards and gifts. Your kindness and generosity are sincerely appreciated.

~ Abouna Paul

Please Help us offer Love and encouragement to our seminarians at **Our Lady of Lebanon Seminary in Washington , DC.**

Jakob Wyder

Nadim Khaled

Mark Farah

Antoine Dagher

Danny Tabet

Join us by donating : stamps, black dress socks, pens, thank you cards, visa gift cards and spiritual bouquets ...etc. by FEBRUARY 1st !



SEASON OF EPIPHANY/MARONITE TRADITIONS

The Feast of the Epiphany falls on 6 January, and inaugurates a Season which runs until the three weeks of commemoration of the departed, the immediate prelude to Lent.

The icon gives this feast its proper Syriac name, the *denHo*. This means “the *rising* of the sun or stars, *sunrise*, *dayspring*; *brightness*, *light*.” Metaphorically, it refers to “the *shining forth* or *manifestation* of the Lord in the flesh.”

But to see this feast as the “Rising of the Sun” is to illustrate in one simple phrase what it should emotionally mean to us. To think of it as the “Rising of the Star” is also appropriate, and should lead Christians to reflect on the prophecy that “there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel ...” Numbers 24:17. It also reminds us of the Star of Bethlehem, and indeed, in typology, all these stars are manifestations of the one star. In other words, in Syriac thought, the feast of the Epiphany reminds us that the Lord Jesus is the source of all light, and especially of spiritual light; He is the true sun, the true star; and when we see these in the heavens, we do well to lift our hearts to Him, too.

When he prepared this icon, Fr Badwi had before him four ancient examples. Three of them are very close indeed to this icon. When we contemplated the icon of the Annunciation to Our Lady, we saw that the water in the well was drawn as if it was standing up all by itself. These three icons had something exactly the same with the river: it stands up from the ground like a pyramid, so that the head of the Lord is barely lower than that of St John the Baptist. Of this icon, Fr Badwi writes:

The Trinitarian element is represented: the Father by the chirophany (the appearance of His hand), which is a symbol not only of the Creator but also of His voice. He is seen by His incarnate Son, baptized in the Jordan by the Forerunner. The Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, descends from the heights and rests on the head of the Son. The angels hasten to carry towels to dry the Ember who has been baptized, symbolized by the flame coming out of the water. This is unique to the Syro-Maronite tradition. The fire and the water are the image of the divinity united to the humanity through the person of the incarnate Son of God in the perfection of His two natures.

This feature of the divine nature as fire is shown very clearly in the Rabboula manuscript, where along the right hand side of the picture, we see the Father’s hand pointing down, directly beneath it is the dove of the Holy Spirit, and directly beneath that is the pillar of fire which is ascending from the River Jordan where the Lord is being baptized. Here, Father Badwi has done something a little differently. He has drawn the seven fold sphere of heaven in the top middle of the icon, giving it the most important position, showing that all which unfolds beneath is being directed by God. To the right and left of the seven heavens are written the words “the Glorious DenHo.” The Father’s hand is slightly but unmistakably tilted towards the right of the viewer because the Lord Jesus is seated on His right. Beneath the hand of God are the words “This is my beloved Son.” The Holy Spirit has descended, and now overs the head of the Son. The fire to which we were referring seems to float above the water, almost as if it were a flower on the surface of the river. This also ties in with the Maronite theme that when Our Lord was baptized, spiritual fire filled the water, and all the waters in the world were purified.

The axe by the tree which is behind St John the Baptist is also important: he said that when Pharisees and Sadducees came to the River Jordan to be baptized, St John said to them: “Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance ... every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire” Then we come to St John the Baptist, who is wearing rough clothing to signify his own poverty and mortification of the body, and then, in the middle, Our Lord, being baptized. To the right are the angels who are there to tend to Him. The presence of the angels reminds us of the words of St Matthew, who immediately after the baptism of the Lord, as His temptation in the desert, which ends with these words: “... and behold, angels came and ministered to him”

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*Congratulations to St. Michael Archangel
Ladies Guild, established in 2013,
celebrating 11 years of service. Committed
to "promoting the work of the Church &
building a spiritual community of faith
within the Parish."* AD BY: **MJ**

Warren Hahn

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