



St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church

1102 Walnut St., Olean, NY 14760-1359



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Web site: www.stjosepholean.org

Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Weekend Liturgies: Saturday, 4:00 pm; Sunday, 10:00 am

Weekday Liturgies: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00 am; and Wednesday at 12:00 noon

Holy Day, 6:30 pm on the day of the feast, unless specified differently in the Bulletin.

Mystery of Penance (Confessions): Saturday from 3:15 to 3:45 pm or by request

Baptism / Chrismation (Confirmation): Please notify the priest a month ahead for preparations

Crownings (Weddings): Please contact the Office six (6) months in advance of the wedding for

pre-wedding preparation and necessary paperwork.

Religious Education Classes: Sundays, from the end of Liturgy until noon

DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ITEMS: THURSDAY AT 12:00 NOON

Season of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord

Birth of John the Baptist

Dec. 08 & 09, 2018

INTENTIONS AND BIBLE READINGS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY

Sat., 08 Dec., 4:00 pm. The Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation) Daytime Readings: Wis 7:36-40; Lk 11:27-32 ❖ 4:00 pm Vigil & Sunday Readings: Wis 7:36-40; Lk 11:27-32	Repose of Madge Ash	By Mickey & Teena Ash
Sun., 09 Dec., 10:00 am Birth of John the Baptist Mal 3:1-4; Lk 1:57-66	Repose of Aaron Ash	By Kathy Hamed
Mon., 10 Dec. Rom 9:1-5; Lk 1:67-80	No Liturgy	
Tue., 11 Dec., 9:00 am Rom 9:6-13; Mt 11:11-15	Donors of the Catholic Extension Society	
Wed., 12, Dec., 12:00 pm St. Spiridion the Wonderworker, Confessor Rom 9:14-18; Mt 17:9-13	Donors of the Catholic Extension Society	
Thu., 13 Dec., 9:00 am Rom 9:19-29; Mt 21:23-27	Donors of the Catholic Extension Society	
Fri., 14 Dec., 9:00 am St. Nemtallah El-Hardini, Confessor Rom 12:1-8; Mt 4:18-25	Donors of the Catholic Extension Society	

Sat., 15 Dec., 4:00 pm -w/ Novena Following Daytime Readings: Rom 10:1-13; Jn 5:31-36 ♦ 4:00 pm Vigil & Sunday Readings: Is 56:1-8; Mt 1:18-25	Repose of Linda Sue Sawaya and Michael Sawaya	by Peter & Norma Sawaya Family
Sun., 16 Dec., 10:00 am-w/ Novena Following Is 56:1-8; Mt 1:18-25	Birthday Remembrance for Mary Lemon	By Family

Lector Schedule

Sat., 12/08/18	4:00 pm	Joe Hollister	Wis 7:36-40
Sun., 12/09/18	10:00 am	Mikki Cole	Mal 3:1-4
Sat., 12/15/18	4:00 pm	Mike Gibbons	Is 56:1-8
Sun., 12/16/18	10:00 am	Lisa Zlockie	Is 56:1-8

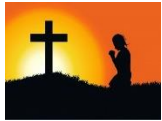
WKLY. COLLECTION DEC. 01 & 02, 2018
REGULAR: \$994.25; FLOWERS: \$90; TOTAL \$1084.25

YEAR END CONTRIBUTION: Please prayerfully consider making a tax-deductible year-end contribution to the church.

DAILY WORSHIP REMINDER: During this Glorious Season of the Birth of our Lord, please be reminded that we have daily worship and welcome your attendance and participation (see schedule above).



SANCTUARY LAMP FOR DECEMBER: The Sanctuary Lamp for December burns in the memory of the Zemer and Snyder families by Phil & JoAnn Snyder. "In the same way, let your light shine before others that they may see your charitable deeds and glorify your Father in heaven".



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND: Eileen Lumpp and Jennie Dahar (at the Pines, Olean), Roberta Mahar and John Sawaya (at Eden Heights) and Fr. Greg Dobson. Please keep these people in your prayers.

THANK YOU to everyone that stayed last week to help decorate for the Christmas season. The Church looks fantastic!



FLOWER DONATIONS: If you would like to donate to help offset the cost of the poinsettias you see on the altar, please find envelopes on the table in the entrance to the church. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPE UPDATE: In an effort to be more cost-effective and efficient, we will be updating and renumbering our offering envelopes for the coming year. As of 1/1/19 you may be assigned a different envelope number than you had in past years. If you do not currently have offering envelopes and would like them, please contact the office.

WARMTH FOR THE WINTER MONTHS: You don't have to fly south for the winter to stay warm and enjoy good friends and the comfort of caring service. Eden Heights of Olean Assisted Living is offering a **Winter Stay Special**. Stay as little or as long as you like; they offer monthly rates with resident activities and no commitments. Call 716-372-4466 for more information or check out their web site at www.edenheights.com



DINNER/CONCERT AT OLEAN FIRST BAPTIST on 12/15/18. The Women’s Ministry is excited to offer this event which features a ham or turkey dinner at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall and an inspiring concert in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm with the Allen Scott band, an up-and-coming group. Allen has a powerful testimony to share along with their original music. Pre-sale tickets are available; email: oleanfbc@outlook.com or call 716-372-5151 and leave a complete message.

GENESIS HOUSE FUNDRAISER: The Genesis House is again offering luminaries to be lit on the night of Dec. 20th to show support for those without shelter. The kits are \$10 each. Please contact Lauren Caya at 716-373-3354 or by email: laurenw3682@yahoo.com.

GREAT JOY A-COMIN’: St. Elizabeth Motherhouse Chapel in Allegany is offering a Christmas Concert with Marcia Wymer & Friends on December 16th @ 2:00 pm. Light refreshments and craft sale to follow. Free will donation.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER: The Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels is hosting the annual Community Christmas Dinner. Cash donations and Volunteers are needed: Please call 716-372-4841, Ext. 25 for more details.

SPAGHETTI DINNER: Looking ahead, our annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on 1/26/19 from 4:00-7:00 pm. Tickets are available by calling the office (716-379-8436) or contacting Ann Marie Wright (716-560-5421) or Don Hamed (716-307-7736)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

11/24 - 12/19/18	Genesis House Luminary Fundraiser
12/08/18	Holy Day of Obligation, The Immaculate Conception
12/15 – 12/23/18	Christmas Novenas, Transfiguration Chapel during week nights
12/15/18	Dinner/Concert @ First Baptist in Olean
12/16/18	St. Elizabeth Motherhouse Chapel Christmas Concert
12/20/18	Genesis House “Light the Night” support for those without shelter
12/24/18	Christmas Eve Liturgy @ 4:00 pm
12/25/18	Christmas Liturgy @ 10:00 am
12/25/18	Community Christmas Dinner @ the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels
12/31/18	New Year’s Eve Liturgy @ 4:00 pm
01/01/19	New Year’s Day Liturgy @ 10:00 am
01/26/19	St. Joseph’s Annual Spaghetti Dinner

From the Pastor’s Desk.....

Christmas is not far away! As most pastors would agree, we need to remember to keep our focus as we prepare for the Feast. This means remembering that Christmas is about the birth of our Savior and not primarily the frenzy of buying gifts, etc. I want to suggest several things to keep in mind:

- First is to consider coming to St. Joseph’s for the celebration and talking to your families about joining you so that we do, in fact, worship as families.
- Also, please remember that the traditional Christmas Novena will be prayed beginning 12/15 and ending on 12/23. Most of the prayers will be on week nights and held in the Chapel; on the week ends an abbreviated form of the Novena prayers will be immediately following the Liturgies. Please watch the bulletin for daily reminders. The Novena is also a good time to consider making a confession before you receive communion on Christmas.
- In addition to the regular confession times each week, I will be happy to hear confessions during the Novena dates, at your request.
- Fasting is another part of the Novena. If you are in good health, it would be great to fast all the nine days of the Novena; I encourage you to join me in abstaining from meat and meat products on Wednesday, 12/19 and Friday, 12/21.
- Last, this time before Christmas is a good time to consider coming to daily worship, which is held in the Transfiguration Chapel. Please see our schedule in the heading of this bulletin

Last Tuesday, Gr. Greg Dobson had a procedure done in Buffalo for his on-going health situation. Please pray for him to fully recover.



KNOW YOUR FAITH

Topic: The Immaculate Conception



For Our Enlightenment (Teachings)

- ❖ What the Catholic Church believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ
- ❖ Aside from the Lord's Prayer (the *Our Father*), the prayer that Catholics call the "*Hail, Mary*" is perhaps the most prayed prayer among Catholic Christians
- ❖ The *Hail, Mary* has 3 main ideas:
 - The first part of the *Hail, Mary* is an adaptation of Luke, Chapter 1, verses 26 to 31, in which we are told that an angel-messenger came from heaven to greet Mary of Nazareth and to announce that she will become the mother of Jesus
 - Later, in theology, belief, and prayer, and after much Church reflection, Mary would become known as the Holy *Theotokos* (Greek for "God-bearer"), the Mother of God, as stated clearly in this prayer
 - There is a firm recognition herein that for our sake Mary is our Great Intercessor to her Divine Son not only in the Believer's life, but most especially at the time of his or her death
- ❖ Some specific elements and teachings of the *Hail, Mary*:
 - The traditional opening words, "Hail, Mary, full of grace" are a greeting, but are mistranslated. Modern Bibles translate from the Greek: "Hail, highly favored one." This clarifies the meaning of the angel's greeting to mean that Mary has been chosen over all other females by God to bear a Unique Son, God's Divine Word-become-Flesh, Jesus
 - Mary is blessed among all other women because the "fruit of her womb," Jesus, who emerges from her body, is also Blessed
 - As the Highly Favored One, Mary will be recognized quite early in the Church, especially by several of the Church Fathers, such as St. Ephrem and St. James of Sarug, as the Sinless Mother of God. This is seen today as the basis for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated on 8 December, a holy day of obligation, East and West
- ❖ For all of the above, Mary is also recognized by the Church as "Holy Mary," which highlights the fact of her being spared the tragedy of sin in her life
- ❖ Mary's sinlessness also means that the humanity of Jesus her Divine Son is free from sin like her own Divine Son, Jesus, who exists to present our petitions to the Lord
- ❖ Mary intercedes to her Son to "pray for us now and at the hour of our death." Thus, we can say that through Mary (and the other Righteous and Just as well), we pray to Jesus to present our appeal to the Heavenly Father
- ❖ With the *Apostles' Creed*, *The Lord's Prayer* and the Doxology (*Glory be ...*), the *Hail Mary* forms the basis of the Rosary

