

Parish Bulletin

September 2011



"The Just Man shall flourish like a palm tree and like a Cedar of Lebanon shall he grow"

5406 E. Virginia Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85008

Telephone: (602) 667-3280

Fax: (602) 468-0174

Website: <http://www.stjosephaz.org>

E-mail: ghattaskhoury@cox.net

From the Desk of Father Ghattas:

September is first and foremost the time of harvest. This month is the source of many inspirations, especially the celebration of the exaltation of the Holy Cross. The definition of this is the triumph of good over evil. With this hope, the Christian continues his journey with the faith that the face of this world has been changed by placing the banner of triumph over the peak of the mountains and over our cemetery. Before he has observed them on these place, he was sealed during his baptism by the cross of Jesus Christ. It became part of his daily life. This year we also commemorate the anniversary of the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers. On that morning, 19 Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four passenger jets. The hijackers intentionally crashed two planes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. America lost over 3000 people and the whole world was shaken. As the Church is living her journey toward the kingdom of God, this month reminds us about the result of what God planted on earth that has been flourishing. Today is the time to harvest the triumph of love over hatred and life over death. The harvest is the Martyrs, the confessor the Saints who washed their inequity by the blood of the Lamb of God. We are here because of the faithful who lived according to the commandments of God. In our turn, we have to plant what Jesus planted in us His love. This love will change the face of the earth to be a place of peace.

Announcements

Divine Liturgy: Saturdays 6:00 PM **AND** Sundays 11:00 A.M.

- **Sunday September 11th 14th** Sunday of Pentecost; Miled Rahme & President Bachir Gemayel. Mass in Tucson at **5:00 PM**
 - **Tuesday September 13th** Divine Liturgy at **7:00 PM**
 - **Wednesday September 14th** Divine Liturgy & Bible Study at **6:30 PM**
 - **Sunday September 18th 1st** Sunday of the Holy Cross
- **Sunday September 25th 2nd** Sunday of the Holy Cross; Samira. Mass in El Paso at **6:00 PM**

Activities:

- **Festival:** Mark your calendars for the St. Joseph annual festival, this year held on November 4, 5, 6 2011. We need everyone's support to make our 10th annual Festival a big success. There will also be a planning meeting in the hall on **Tuesday September 27th at 7:00 PM**
- **Folk Dancing:** There will be practice every Friday in September and October for the Folk Dancing starting at **6:00 PM** depending on your group placement. For more information contact Marlene Boulos
- **Arabic & Catechism School:** We will be having class on **September 18th** and **October 2nd** from **9:00 to 11:00 AM**.
- **MYA:** The MYA will be having their annual retreat from **September 30th to October 2nd**
- **Picnic:** The MYA will be hosting their annual picnic on **October 9th** at Chaparral Park in Scottsdale
- **Baptism:** We will be having a baptism at our Church on Sunday **September 18th** for Paul Eid, Son of Abe and Jessica Eid

List of Lectors for August

<u>Arabic</u>	<u>English</u>
George M El Ters & Joe ElAshkar	9\11\11
Peter Chedid & Yara Boulos	9\18\11
Rania Karam & Myrna Gorayeb	9\25\11
George J El Ters & Janice ElAshkar	10\2\11

Simon the Stylite September 1

Simon is the most famous of the stylites or saints who spent their days seated on high platforms or pillars. The immense monastery, which had been built around his pillar, still exists in the environs of Aleppo. The celebrated historian Theodoret, who was a contemporary of Simon, had personally met him and wrote about his life. Simon was born near Antioch in the year 392. While still a young man, he gave himself over to the service of God in the desert. When he later sought solitude away from the crowds that pressed around him, he established himself on a pillar which grew higher and higher above the crowds. He thus lived between heaven and earth for about forty years, preaching and exhorting the crowds from high upon the pillar. Numerous individuals who came to him were converted by his preaching. He died in the year 459. Devotion to Saint Simon spread throughout Syria and Lebanon. The monastery named after him and the sight of his pillar were the objects of pilgrimages throughout the East. May the prayers of St. Simon the Stylite be with us. Amen.

Mammas September 2nd

Mammas were born of Christian parents; his mother brought him into the world while in prison for her faith in Christ. After his mother's death, another Christian woman took care of him. He was a shepherd and was loved by all the peasants for his good humor. He was arrested because he was a Christian and the judge demanded that he burn incense to idols, but Mammas refused. After undergoing severe torture he was beheaded in the year 279 at the age of 15. Many miracles are attributed to him and one of the more ancient churches of Mount Lebanon is dedicated to him: the Church of Saint Mammas at Ehden, dating from the year 748. May his prayer be with us. Amen.

St Sharbel Bishop of Edessa the Martyr and his sister Barabia September 5th

He was a Pagan Priest when St. Barsima the bishop of the city proclaimed the Gospel. He converted with his sister Barabia. The Pagans got angry and accused him to the governor who put him in prison. He declared with courage his faith. They persecuted him and finally they crucified him. With him they beheaded his sister Barabia in 121 A.D.. St. Sharbel Makhlouf took his name when he entered the Lebanese Order.

Birth Of The Virgin September 8th

A tradition, which comes from the apocryphal gospels, tells us that the parents of the Virgin Mary were childless. When their prayer was heard, and Mary was born, her parents brought her up to the Temple where she passed her days up to the time when she was engaged to Joseph. Today the Church honors Mary, who is blessed among women, and considers this day as the beginning of our salvation in her Son, Jesus Christ. The name, "Mary", comes from Aramaic and signifies either "the Elevated One" or "Queen of the Sea." May the prayers of the Virgin, our Queen, protect us. Amen.

Ruhana (Cyriacus) September 29th

Ruhana is the Syriac name for Saint Cyriacus who was called "the spiritual one" - in Syriac, Ruhanan. He was born at Corinth in the year 446 and became a monk in Palestine under the direction of Saint Euthymus. He became the superior of his monastery and was a model for all because of his piety, wisdom and exhortations. He died at the age of 107. Certain Maronite calendars refer to him as Ruhana, "the singer". Many churches and monasteries in Lebanon are dedicated to him. May his prayers be with us. Amen.

The meaning of the Cross

During the season of the Holy Cross, the Church meditates on the end of the ages and the presence of the Lord. Catholic Christians have always believed that Jesus Christ would come back to close the current period of human history in earth. The time when Jesus will return is given many names: the Day of the Lord, the *Parousia*, the end time, and the Second Coming of Christ.

Because the subject of the return of Jesus and the end of the ages is always a mystery that belongs to the Father, let the Father decide this end. Our duty is our readiness of his coming and the proclamation of the Good News.

From the events of the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth until today, many major events happened. People always looking of the end of the age and expected the Parousia of the Lord. Many speak of the abomination of Jeremiah, Armageddon.

The destruction of the Temple was a grandiose event. They considered it as the end of the world. Therefore, we find interaction with the destruction of the Temple and the Parousia of Jesus who spoke of the agony of the people, but with hope and joy like a labor woman before the birth of the child. The darkness of this period creates hope in the hopeless situation. The sign of the Son of Man will appear on the sky most of the tribes of the earth will be glad to see a sign of hope that salvation is near.

Many would have questions what was the expectations of the Christians at that times?

Many Christians considered the death of St. James brother of the Lord, brought a curse against the Jews and the Temple. Others would be stupefied to see the enormous devastations the city the temple and the casualties among the hostages. How did the Lord ignore his people?

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews explains to the Christians from a Jewish background, how Jesus is the New Temple and the New Jerusalem is at heaven. Jesus is the New High Priest according to the order of Mechizedek.

Many would focus on the eternal Mediation of Jesus, who, through his death, changed the nature of the priesthood. From the animal oblations to the Son of God who is the real mediator between humanity and God. Also with Saint John, the Evangelist sees in Jesus the Temple and the altar from his side living water flowed to change the nature of the desert to a fertile land. Or destroy this Temple and I will build it in three days.

Through the history many people would return to the Holy Scriptures, to see the prophecies. Unfortunately, many would be misled by the people. Many lost their faith and their hope.

Jesus talked of the appearance of his sign on the Sky by saying :” immediately , after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened , and the moon will not gives its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the power of the heavens will be shaken; then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven, and then the tribes of the earth will mourn , and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and glory”

Everybody would be busy to hide himself to be saved. Mostly people they do not have an answer. Only those who trusted God can observe the signs. Jesus gave the example how they behaved at the time of Noah, only Noah was occupied to be saved. The others were trapped by the flood. The faithful people are alerted people, they can see the signs of devastation, but they live with joy because their salvation is present. They will help the other to look on the sign of hope, which is the Cross of Jesus Christ. They raised their head up to see the glorious Cross of Jesus Christ. This sign would overview all the devastation of the world. Reviewing the text of the Gospel according to Matthew, the abomination of Daniel is a description of an observatory who was meditating of the words of Jesus.

Historically, the Historian Josephus was an observer with the Roman procurer, was an eye witness. He considered the event for purging the Temple from the Fanatic Zealots and the others who offended their people and mislead them. He said: “numerous false prophets deluded the people at this time.

There was another prophet came from the Country screaming and yelling day and night:” woe to Jerusalem, woe to the temple woe to the bridegrooms, the brides, and the people!”

Those who read the Book of revelation with hope, they would see the sign of glory during the persecution and recession. In the end of the Book, the Church has been put on the vestment of glory saying Marinate o come Lord Jesus

The present age has been the age of terror devastation hopeless martyrdom, scandals depression wars persecution. Also, is the age of hope courage and salvation? The Lord sent a shepherded that gave the Church a new hope that is hidden from our eyes. The Polish pope reminds us of the merciful God with that he planted hope over our souls. This shepherded is not only an intellectual Potpie but he had the experience of God his courage and his mercy.

Since September 11, 2001, the tragic event has shaken our great Country. He has been infiltrated by terrorism in the name of a merciful God. That history of terror came during the season of the Exaltation of the Cross. This Country has a special blessing through the freedom and the dignity of the person. With that the Cross has come to remind us that the Son of God freed our humanity from the slavery of sin. He reminds us of our responsibility to keep this freedom. Freedom is similar the love. In the beginning we are free but, we were surprised to be in captivity of sin. How to realize this freedom,

Armageddon (disambiguation).

· Mount Armageddon (From Hebrew: הַר מְגִדּוֹ, Har Megiddo, lit. Mount Megiddo; Greek: Ἀρμαγεδών Harmagedōn, Arabic هَرْمَجْدُون, Persian آرماگدن, Late Latin: Armagedōn is the site of a battle during the end times according to some sects within the Abrahamic religions. The term can also be used in a more generic sense to refer to any end-of-the-world scenario.

According to some premillennial Christian interpretations, the Messiah will return to earth and defeat the Antichrist (the "beast") Satan/Lucifer/ Devil in the battle of Armageddon. Then Satan will be put into the "bottomless pit" or abyss for 1,000 years, known as the Millennial Age. After being released from the abyss, Satan will gather Gog and Magog (peoples of two specific nations) from the four corners of the earth. They will encamp surrounding the "holy ones" and the "beloved city" (this refers to Jerusalem). Fire will come down from God, out of heaven and devour Gog and Magog after the Millennium, and the Devil, who deceived them, death hell and whosoever was not found written in the book of life are thrown into Gahanna (the Lake of Fire burning with brimstone)

God Within Us

'Why go searching for God beyond the stars when he is so close to us, within us. Heaven, this hidden place is not some lofty vaulting construction studded with stars. It is a land of intimate closeness, so near that we can speak to God, stay with God, and worship God anywhere. The Holy Spirit of God is in us.'

- From *Letters from the Desert* by Carlo Carretto, provided by the Benedictine Sisters, Benedictine Abbey, Jamberoo

The Size of Our Hearts

'We are not created by God and put in this earth with small, narrow, and petty hearts. The opposite is true. God puts us into this world with huge hearts, hearts as deep as the Grand Canyon. The human heart in itself, when not closed off by fear, wound, and paranoia, is the antithesis of pettiness. The human heart, as Augustine describes it, is not fulfilled by anything less than infinity itself.

'The problem is what the heart tends to do when it is wounded, fearful, disrespected, paranoid, or self-deluded by greed and selfishness. It's then that it closes itself to its

own depth and greatness and becomes narrow, petty, fearful, and selfish. But that behaviour is not the human heart at either its normal or its best. At its normal and at its best, the human heart is huge, generous, noble, and self-sacrificing.

'Not everything can be fixed or cured, but it should be named correctly. Nowhere is this more important than in how we name both the size and the struggles of the human heart. We are not petty souls who occasionally do noble things. We are rather noble souls who, sadly, occasionally do petty things.'

- Excerpts from a reflection by Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI

Your Contribution to St. Joseph is needed to support our plan to develop the Place of Worship and develop our friendship center for our Future Generations.

Pastor, Fr. Ghattas Khoury

Advisory Council: Monty Coury-Chairman, Dr. Marwan Ghazoul, Maroun Gorayeb-Vice chairman, Marie Medawar-Secretary, Elie George, Joseph Chemali, Youssef Khalaf, Toufic Faddoul, Rania Karam

Church Organizations

St. Rafka Guild, Sola Khalaf, President, 623-363-9353; MYO, Marlene Boulos 480-585-2551; MYA Coordinator Marie Medawar 602-485-4501, George Khalaf, President 480-560-5917; Maronite Outreach, Elias El Ters 480-898-9096; Festival Chairman Dr. George Ayoub; Choir Director, Zouheir Faddoul 623-872-5399; Sound System, Toufic Faddoul 602-312-5091; Lectors Coordinator Elias El Ters 480-898-9096; Ushers, Elie George 480-820-2928



The Maronite Chapel of Our Lady of Lebanon at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC is the first Middle Eastern depiction of Mary at the Shrine. The Chapel resembles a small Lebanese stone church, utilizes the ancient art of the Syriac Church, and places the Maronite Church in America in the context of the Universal Church for all Shrine visitors.

كتار يلي اجوا عا بلاد غربية
حملوا معن العدرا وخبار عجبية
نحننا يا عدرا حاملين كمان
شوية بخور وتراب من لبنان

وربنا كتر الصليبان

بها الشرق ربنا كتر علينا الصليبان
تا يرجع بيني كنيسنو بامان
معليش ازا هولوا علينا
هيك منشلش وبيثبت الايمان

تصوروا كنيسة اختفا منا الصليب
ما في الرجا وشوق انتظار الحبيب
شو بتنتظر بزمن الضيق بيصير
وازا هجم ديب فالت شو المصير

وازا بها الشرق بيخوف الصليب
يا فرحتنا اكيد انتصارنا قريب
مش عارفين هوي علامة التحرير
لحقوا عا فشل ثورات عا تعزيب

هيدي علامة ارتفعت وحل الظفر
علامة يسوع لي عا الموت انتصر
شوصار بالاعدا لجربوا بيرمدوه
فجأة اختفوا مثل خسوف القمر

ها الاحراج بها الشرق لعم بيصير
حقوق الشعوب وكرامي وتحرير
نغمي جديدة طللت من الغرب
عا شرق اسير الاوهام والاساطير

انا خايف عا هالثورات من الاجهاض
قالوا حلك بقا وقوم يا شرق نهاض
كيف بدوا يقوم وكامشوا هالقدر
ما التنين بارض البوم عشعش وباض

بعدوا هاك البطل بارضنا ما غاب
حامل الرمح بعدو حارس الاعتاب
هذا الرمح القهار عود الصليب
حامي شعب مهدد بوحش الغاب



ST. JOSEPH

Maronite Catholic Church

FESTIVAL

November 4th-6th 2011

Friday: 5pm-10pm

Saturday: 10am-10pm

Sunday: 10am-7pm

Authentic Lebanese Food

Tabbouleh

Kafta

Stuffed Grape Leaves

Beef Kabob

Kibbi

Grilled Chicken

Falafel

Hummus

Baklava

Traditional Lebanese Desserts

Live Entertainment

Arts & Crafts

Games for the Family

Folk & Belly Dancing

Mariachi Band

Raffle Prizes

Hookah



Singer

Nicolas El Osta

Raffle!

Buy Your Ticket Today For \$25

(480) 285-6059

1st Prize: \$5,000

2nd Prize: \$3,000

3rd Prize: \$2,000

Location

5406 E. Virginia Ave. (Between McDowell & Thomas, East of 52nd Street)

Information (602) 667-3280

www.lebanesefestivalaz.com