

St. Anthony Maronite Church

Pastor: Father Jean Younes

Sub-Deacon: Georges Jabbour

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January
2012



The Missionary Sisters of the Most Holy Sacrament

By Jacqueline A. Salame



What began many years ago as two separate distinct ideas, (giving back in some way and the desire to go to Lebanon to better understand my heritage), came together this summer on what would become an experience of a lifetime.

I had the privilege, along with my cousin Lauren Kilcourse and my niece Alexandra Salame, with the help of Fr. Jean Younes of St. Anthony's in Danbury, CT. and Msgr. Sami Hayek (whom I have known since the age of 10), to travel to Lebanon and embark on an adventure that has forever changed me.

It all began with Msgr. Sami and the Missionary Sisters of the Most Holy Sacrament (Soeurs Missionnaires du Tres San Sacrament) in Kfarmashoun, Lebanon. It was from here that we started our journey. We would begin to understand the country from which our ancestors had come. They showed us Lebanon in a way that we could never have experienced without them. We traveled across the entire country visiting several villages seeing how the Lebanese people really lived and observed the work the sisters were doing. This also allowed us to meet many people and to participate in the daily life of the families, to teach the children, to understand where our Lebanese traditions came from and of course to enjoy the endless hospitality of the Lebanese people.

The order of the Missionary Sisters of the Most Holy Sacrament was founded in 1965, by Msgr. Emil Geara, as a religious congregation, in Ain Warka, to educate girls from the villages on how to live a virtuous life. They were taught academic subjects as well as real life skills. Today the sisters operate eight missions across Lebanon. They educate both boys and girls starting from as early as a few months old. Many of the children come from the poorest families and are in many instances considered to be social cases. They give medical care to the poor and take care of the elderly. All of the services are provided for little or no money. The people are asked to pay only what they can afford and are never turned away.

Msgr. Sami, after much research, made the decision to give his life savings to the Sisters because of the important work they are doing. His donations are helping to continue that work and also expand the school at Beit Hebbak that serves 1100 children. He resides with the Sisters at Kfarmashoun and acts as a spiritual leader for the community. The facility is a home for elderly women as well as a place that is used for retreats, summer camp, and various other cultural & social events. It is here that we lived; taught English to the village children and kept company with the sisters, Msgr Sami and the elderly. They helped us with our Lebanese and shared traditional songs with us. We even had occasion to help the Sisters and the teachers at Beit Hebbak with their English and were serenaded by them with "The ABC Song". We shared many stories and lots of laughter. I believe for each and every one of us, who came together in those six weeks, that the experience left its mark in some important way.

There is of course much more to share.....but at this time of giving, I would like to ask each and every one of you to remember those people that are helping to rebuild Lebanon not just physically but spiritually. I have never seen anything like the resolve and determination of the Lebanese people both young and old. The Sisters need our help to continue their legacy of caring for those who are the poorest and the abandoned, and nurturing and educating the children who are the future of the country.



Epiphany Celebration, 2012

- Epiphany Eve Mass** on Saturday January 7th at **5 pm**
- Epiphany Day Mass** on Sunday January 8th at **8 am & 10 am**

Check it out!

You are all invited to go online to www.stanthonydanbury.com # To get all the information and the activities of our Church

Blessing of homes on epiphany

Epiphany means to make known or manifest. So for the Maronites, Epiphany is about the revelation (the making known) that God is a Trinity of Person (Father, Son & Holy Spirit), which occurs at the Baptism of Jesus. So on the Epiphany, Saturday Jan. 7th at 7 pm; in commemoration of Christ's Baptism we will bless water, which is to be used to bless your homes, cars or religious objects during the year. Please bring a container to carry some Holy Water home this weekend, and then before your Sunday dinner say the prayer below together and sprinkle the Holy Water about your house blessing it for the New Year.



Prayer of Blessing

Glory be to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. + O Lord and mighty God, hear us and send from heaven your holy angel to bless and protect those who dwell in this house, through Christ our Lord, to whom is due glory and praise. May His mercy be upon us all, now and forever? Amen.

(Sprinkling the Holy Water about the house)

Sprinkle me with hyssop that I may be purified.

Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

***“O Lord, save your people, and bless + your inheritance.
Feed them, and carry them forever.”***

(Psalm 28:9)





Readers

Dec 31 – Louis Nejamy
Jan 7 – Kenneth Ackel
Jan 14 – Phyllis Moses
Jan 21 – Shay Miller
Jan 28 - Phyllis Moses

Jan 1 – Nada Zarrini
Jan 8 – Randy Michael
Jan 15 –Gessika Al Hayek
Jan 22– George Jabbour
Jan 29- Lauren Kilcourse

First Reading

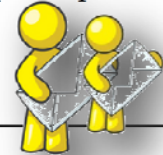
Eph 2:11-22
2Cor 10:1-11
2Cor 4:5-15
Gal 3:23-29
1Tim 4:6-16

Gospel

Lk 2:21
Jn 1:29-34
Jn 1:35-42
Jn 3:1-16
Lk 12:42-48

Yearly Envelopes + Help us to update our roster

As we approach the New Year I take a moment to remind and encourage all parishioners to obtain a box of weekly envelopes for the upcoming year. Those who currently do not use envelopes for our Sunday collection, please take a moment and think of the benefit you may have at the end of the year by claiming your donations to your church on your tax return. We welcome new parishioners into the envelope system as we ask the Lord to reward you for all you do and give to your spiritual Home. Also, many have moved or changed an address that we are unaware of and before we finalize our last year’s envelope list please call the rectory at 203-744-3372 or leave a note in the basket collection or via e-mail at stanthonyoffice@yahoo.com .



Second Collection

The Second Collection will be on January 21 & 22, 2012 for the United States Catholic Bishops’ Worldwide Charities.



Fr. Jean’s Special Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for their cards, gifts and best wishes this Christmas. It is truly an honor for me to serve as your pastor here at St. Anthony’s and the greatest treasure for me has been your friendship.



Sincerely your pastor Fr Jean Younes M.L.M

Special thank you

I would like to thank Dennis Ramey our CPA and John Jowdy Our Lawyer for all the work they did for St Anthony Church last year. May God Bless you



**Offering
Envelopes**



**Your Offerings to
your Parish:**

- November 6, 2011: \$ 4,275.00
- November 13, 2011: \$ 4, 255.00
- November 20, 2011: \$ 2371.00
- November 27, 2011: \$ 2,293.00
- December 4, 2011: \$ 2,586.00
- December 11, 2011: \$ 3,585.00

**Notice: Father Jean will attend the
Annual Retreat in Fl
From Jan 9 to Jan 19, 2012**

Fr Jean Younes will be with all the Maronite Priests of the Eparchy of St Maron in West Palm Beach Fl for their annual Retreat with Bishop Gregory Mansour from Jan 9 to Jan 19, 2012. For Any emergency please call Fr Jean Younes at his cell phone 718-344-2744 or Sub-Deacon George Jabbour 203-482-3569. Fr Ray Petrucci will say Masses on Saturday January 14 at 5pm and Sunday January 15 at 8 am & 10 am

Cleaning the Church

We will be cleaning the church and taking down the Christmas decorations **on Saturday, January 14 starting at 9am.** Volunteers are needed to help us keep our church nice and clean. You can also help each Sunday by keeping the book racks in every pew clean of old bulletins, and by placing the Mass Books or Hymnals back in good order.

Everyone must do their part.
Thank You...



Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council will meet on Thursday, January 5th at 7:00 pm in the Church hall.

Ladies Guild Meeting

There are no Ladies Guild Meetings on January and February. Meetings will be resuming on Tuesday March 6th at 7pm in the Church hall.

Maronite Young Adults (MYA Ages 18 -35) Party January 7th , 2012

The Maronite Young Adults will be hosting a Winter Party on Saturday, January 7th, 2012 at the Lebanon American Club in Danbury. Admission is \$15 for 21+, which includes three free alcoholic beverages, (\$10 admission for 18-21, unlimited non-alcoholic beverages).

Arguili/Hookah will also be available for \$10. Beer and Wine will only be served to those 21+.

Invite your friends. You may contact the following people for additional information: Johny AlHayek-

johny.alhayek@gmail.com, Claire Jabbour- claire.jabbour@gmail.com, Theresa

AlHayek- theresa.alhayek@gmail.com, Boo Simone- dsimone@comcast.net, Rawan Hage-

hage002@connect.wcsu.edu, and Amanda Goncalves <goncalvesa4@gmail.com.

{You must be 18 to attend; 21 to drink! Bring your ID!}



Upcoming Parish Events

1. **MYO** meeting every Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Church Hall
2. **Knights of Columbus** meeting on Tuesday January 10 & 24 at 7:30 pm in the Church Hall
3. **No weekly Mass** From January 9 to 13 , and from January 16 to 20 , 2012
4. **AARP** meeting on Thursday January 19 , 2012 at 12 pm to 3 pm
5. **Sunday School** January 8, 22, 29 , 2012 at 9 am in the Church Hall



Club 50 News

The 2012 Club 50 will begin in January. The cost is \$50 for the year. The Club 50 drawings will take place on the last Sunday of every month after the 8:00 am Liturgy. Again, I look forward to the continued support of the current members and look forward to the support of new members. All interested in Club 50 please contact your captain or Sandy Urban (203)743-1911. The captains are as follows: Pat Cypher, Elaine Lahoud, Palm Saba and Carole Pettibone

Please Consider Contributions to St. Anthony Scholarship Fund

Please consider honoring the memory of the death of a loved one by requesting that contributions be made in their name to St. Anthony Scholarship Fund. The generosity of your family and friends will be acknowledged at our annual award breakfast in June. Donations made to this worthy cause help our parish to continue to support and encourage our graduating seniors in their future endeavors. This is a wonderful way to honor your loved ones and help our youth.

BULLETIN ADS FOR 2012

Time to re-new your Advertisement in our monthly bulletin for next year 2012. Each ad is just \$100 and is mailed 12 times a year to 288 households, for about \$8 each mailing... what a bargain! You will also be helping St. Anthony's Church continue its mission to communicate God's grace and minister to the Maronite community of Danbury by keeping all the parishioners informed about our church's many services and activities in the coming year. Please make your checks out to St. Anthony's Church (Bulletin Ads), and mail it to the following address 17 Granville Ave Danbury, CT 06810. Tax deductible credit will be record on your parish offertory envelope records, or if you are not a parishioner,

Deepest Sympathy

Our condolences go to Donna Albano and Jesse Jr. Geiger and family on the loss of their Father Jesse Sr. Geiger who died on November 16, 2011 . Also, to William C. Moses and Miller James Moses II and family on the loss of their father Miller J. Moses, who died at his home on Monday, November 21, 2011. We pray that the Lord who has called his servant *Jesse Sr.* and *Miller* may welcome them into His kingdom and grant them peace and rest among the saints



DATE	MASS INTENTION	FROM
Dec. 31, 2011 New Year's Eve (5pm)	✠ Joan Assad ✠ Charles, Mary, Joseph & Jean Tahan ✠ Vincent & Anne Kost ✠ Assad Bailey ✠ Lorice T. Nassif (1st anniversary)	→ by her Family → by their Family → by the Family → by his Family → by her family
Jan. 1 2012 - New Year's Day (8am)	✠ No Mass	→
Jan. 1 2012 - New Year's Day (10am)	✠ Georgianna Smith ✠ Mary B. Howard ✠ Filippo Bordonaro ✠ Salma Morey & Luigi DePietro & Sally Nash	→ by Effie Smith → by her Children → by his daughter Betty Najm and family → by Ann DePietro
Jan. 7 – (5pm)	✠ Oscar, Melvin, Angelina, Cindy, Christa, Anthony Jr. , Eva & Joseph Sacowitz	→ by their family
Jan. 8– (8am)	✠ Jimmy Higgins III	→ by his Mother
Jan. 8– (10am)	✠ Arlene Jowdy (1st Anniversary) ✠ Rose Jowdy ✠ Najim & Badder Malcoon ✠ Rose Cartiglia	→ by her Husband and Children → by her Family → by the Family → by the Family
Jan. 14 – (5pm)	✠ Thomas Lahoud ✠ Eva Haddad ✠ John Bailey	→ by His Wife, Bobbie & Family → by Ted & Jean Haddad → by his Wife & Children
Jan. 15– (8am)	✠ Intention available at this time	→
Jan. 15– (10am)	✠ Albert & Richard Shaheen ✠ Claire & Antoine Issa	→ by their Family → by their Children
Jan. 21 – (5pm)	✠ Zahia Sam ✠ Edward Lubus ✠ Matthew Esposito	→ by the Family → by his Wife & Children → by his Family
Jan. 22 – (8am)	✠ Melvina Higgins ✠ Noah Pickel	→ by a Friend → By his wife and Daughters.
Jan. 22 – (10am)	✠ Louis & Genevieve Coury ✠ Amelia Simon ✠ Marcel Azar	→ by their Family → by husband, Charles → by his wife and children
Jan. 28 – (5pm)	✠ Intention available at this time	→
Jan. 29 – (8am)	✠ Anthony Cortese	→ by his wife
Jan. 29 – (10am)	✠ Joseph F. Smith	→ by his Wife, Effie Smith