

St. Anthony Maronite Church

Pastor: Father Jean Younes M.L.M

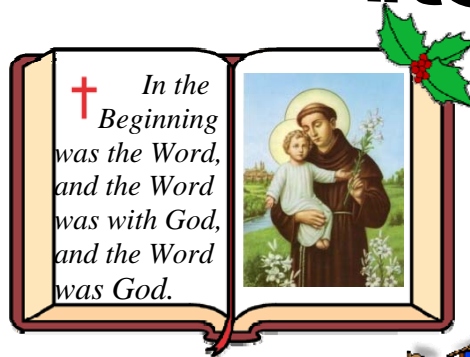
Sub-Deacon: Georges Jabbour

17 Granville Avenue Danbury,
CT.06810-5913

Tel: 203-744-3372 **Hall:** 203-794-9562

E-mail: stanthonyoffice@yahoo.com

Website : www.stanthonydanbury.com



Bulletin
December 25,
2011



Christmas



CHRISTMAS

How happy were Mary and Joseph. They could not believe their eyes. A baby, their son and the son of heaven is there lying, on the straw. They look at Him with stupefaction. His eyes hidden under a very small forehead, his black hair scattered on His little round head, his tiny pure hands, his sweet and transparent milky skin and especially His divine smile which breaks the heart, all these human things have something which goes beyond being human. This exquisite perfume which fills the stable, this resplendent light which emanates from this baby and makes every part of this poor place shine, these melodious and angelic songs which resound everywhere, these celestial and ethereal beings who move like ballet dancers, all this cannot be found in the best king's palaces.

The beasts especially are entirely astonished. The donkey, the cow, the goat, the ram and the little lamb are puzzled by what is going on. They do not make any noise, but they look with love at the divine baby. Fearing that He is cold, they breathe harder, hoping to give Him more comfort in trying to heat the cave. They have plenty of food, but no one has the desire to eat anything because they cannot take their eyes off of admiring this tiny creature. The dog especially is very busy, dancing around the baby. Sometimes, too curious, he touches him gently with his paw, sometimes also he licks his hands and savors the sweet divine taste. His tail wagging in perpetual motion shows his joy and happiness.

Let us jump over the years and go to the crib of Bethlehem. Let us Install furtively ourselves behind the big cow and look quietly at this little baby. Probably we would be ashamed of ourselves on comparing our sinful life to the innocence and purity of the Baby. Don't be embarrassed. A quick gaze from the Divine baby will change our hearts white like snow. Be audacious and go forward toward Jesus. Take his hands caress them and quench your thirst with as many kisses as you want. Mary and Joseph will not prevent you from doing it- Mary also will launch at you, a little furtive gaze filled with love and Compassion with a gentile sweet smile. Imagine the joy that will be in your heart, sublime would be when Mary and Joseph invite you to hold in your arms the celestial divine Infant Jesus.

Yes, it is a dream but what a dream when it takes us to the Jesus of the manger and drives us out of this world, fake and complicated, and refreshes our hearts with the sweet perfume of the frankincense and myrrh. While we are there, let us talk to Jesus and ask Him many favors, because this little child, sees, hears and understands everything. Remind Him about the little children of your neighborhood, who have no one to give them gifts for Christmas, about all your friends confined to bed, about the orphans who have no parents to love them, about those who will be far from their families, and especially about our beloved ones who left this world for their eternal reward. As for me, your pastor, I will do like you. I will kneel before the crib of Jesus and ask Him to bless my beloved parishioners and to wish them His divine "Merry Christmas". **Amen (Father Jean Younes)**

1- Masses Schedule New Year and Epiphany 2011-2012

1-New Year's Eve Mass on Saturday December 31st at 5 pm

2-New Year's Day Mass on Sunday January 1st at 10 am (No Mass at 8 am)

3-Epiphany Eve Mass on Saturday January 7th at 5 pm

4- Epiphany Day Mass on Sunday January 8th at 8 am & 10 am



2-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**

3-St Anthony: MYO and Christmas

On Wednesday evening, December 21st, current and former members of MYO fundraiser team gathered to deliver 30 dinners to needy people within the community. The food items consisted of ham, salad mix, fruits and vegetables, mini cereal boxes, personal apple sauce, bread, and cookies. Thank you all for the monetary donations and to those who helped deliver the Christmas dinners to the families! We greatly appreciate your time and generosity! :) Also, a special thank you to Father Jean, Sub Deacon George, Ferris Nasser, and Nancy Michael for organizing the collection for those in need during this Christmas season to share the love of Christ.

4-St Anthony: Religious Education Program and Christmas

The religious education program at Saint Anthony's Church in Danbury, Connecticut had their annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 18th. The children and their families all enjoyed a delicious brunch, fun crafts and games, and a special visit from Santa Claus. A wonderful time was had by all.

5- Your Offerings to your Parish

1-Collection December 17 & 18, 2011: \$ 7,723.00

2-MYO Christmas Food Basket: \$ 1,050.00



6-Second Collection for the Orphans in Lebanon on December 24 & 25, 2011

All the proceeds from this collection are sent directly to our Orphans in Lebanon.

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

The Maronite Young Adults will be hosting a Summer 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 <goncalves4@gmail.com.

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



8-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 2012. 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.

9-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
6. **The Parish Council** will meet on Thursday, January 5th at 7:00 pm in the Church hall.
7. **Cleaning The Church after Epiphany:** We will be cleaning the church and taking down the Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 14 starting at 9am.

10-Kaa'ek (Lebanese sweet) On Sale

Kaa'ek (Lebanese sweet) for our Christmas Feast will be on sale after Mass at the main entrance of the Church. \$ 10 Per Dozen.