



ST. ELIAS MARONITE CHURCH

Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

Parable of the Prodigal Son
March 6-7, 2021



836 8th Street South Birmingham AL 35205-4567

Rectory/Office (205) 251-5057 Church Hall (205) 252-3867

Web Address: www.stelias.org **Email:** info@stelias.org

Reverend Peter Zogbi, Administrator, (503) 726-9945, abounapeter@stelias.org

Rosa-Marie Sacco, Office Manager (205) 903-8700, rosamarie@stelias.org

Reverend Dr. Mark Ferris, Deacon - Reverend Mr. James Wehby, Deacon

Chorbishop Richard D. Saad, Pastor Emeritus, (205) 915-7215, chorbishoprichardsaad@gmail.com

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:00 am

Wednesday: 12:00 NOON

Holy Days: 6:00 pm (vigil) and 8:00 am

Confessions: Saturday 4:00 pm or anytime upon request.

Liturgy Intentions and Lector Schedules

Saturday, March 6, 2021, 5:00 pm: **Lector: Anthony Bolus**

Intention: Charles Boackle (Req. by the Boackle family)

Sunday, March 7, 2021, 8:00 am: **Lector: Joe Wehby**

Intention: Joseph L. Boohaker (Req. by Janice Toner, Elaine Kassouf & Omra Kassouf)

10:30 am: **Lector: Maron Boohaker**

Intention: Khalil Ghosseini-1st Anniversary (Req. by the Family)

Liturgy Schedule & Intentions

Daily Liturgy at 8:00 AM unless noted.

Monday, March 8, 2021:

Tuesday, March 9, 2021:

Wednesday, March 10, 2021, NOON:

Thursday, March 11, 2021:

Friday, March 12, 2021:

Saturday, March 13, 2021, 5:00 PM:

Sunday, March 14, 2021, 8:00 AM:

Sunday, March 14, 2021, 10:30 AM:

Sadie Joseph (Req. by Newell T. Brand)

Mrs. Mountaha Badawi (Mother of Chorbishop Alfred Badawi)

Peter Butrus (Req. by Selema Rookis)

Fouad & George Bakhache (Req. by Renee Bahakel)

Mr. Habib Yazbeck, Father of Father Elias Yazbeck

Joseph L. Boohaker (Req. by Maurice & Hayat Ghosseini)

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Suzan Marinelli – Anniversary (Req. by the Marinelli family)

George & Virginia Bostany Memorial Mass (Req. by Cecil & Connie Bostany)

From the Desk of Abouna Peter

The Equality Act is legislation which is being considered for approval in the United States congress. The act poses multiple threats to our ability to profess and live our Catholic faith. Please see the letter below from the eparchy and the information contained in the links. We should do our best to stay informed concerning this new threat to our religious liberty.

Rev. Peter J. Zaidan



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

March 3, 2021

My Dear Monsignors and Fathers,

Greetings and Peace!

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is opposing the [Equality Act \(H. R. 5\)](#). This legislation is an attrition of the freedom and rights of the people of the United States. It goes against the wishes and beliefs of people of goodwill and objects to the moral conscience of everyone, including faith-based charities and healthcare workers. As Catholics, we have a mission to protect life. We believe in the right and dignity of every human life as life is a gift from our merciful and loving God. We were created in God's image and thus every life is precious. On the other hand, the Equality Act (H. R. 5) contradicts the basic principles of the right of life.

I ask that you read the full [statement](#) of the chairmen of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committees on Religious Liberty, Pro-Life Activities, Marriage, Catholic Education and the Subcommittee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. The statement also contains the link to the letter sent to Congress by the USCCB bishops expressing opposition to the legislation proposed by the current administration, along with a warning of the damage it causes the community.

I urge you to click [here](#) and to have your voice heard. Take action now against this legislation that disrespects the right and dignity of life.

Join me in prayer as we ask our merciful and loving God, through the intercession of the Blessed Mother to enlighten our civil leaders.

With my sincere best wishes and prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ.

+A. E. Zaidan

+A. Elias Zaidan
Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

Following are the Eparchy's guidelines for Lent:

- Ash Monday and Good Friday are days of abstinence for all Catholics over the age of 14. On those 2 days, fast as well as abstinence is also obligatory for those from the ages of 18-59.
 - **Abstinence** means abstinence from meat and meat products.
 - **Fast** means no food from midnight-noon except plain water.
- All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. Fasting from midnight – noon daily is optional.
- On the Fridays of Lent, we will have Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm.

Wednesday Lenten Night of Reflection

The final Ramsho service for this Lenten season will begin at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 10th, followed by a reflection on different ways to pray. Join us in church or from home via live-stream.

Lector Schedule – March 13-14

Saturday, 5:00 PM:	Norman Bolus
Sunday, 8:00 AM:	John Bolus
Sunday, 10:30 AM:	Joe Harrison

Second Collection

There will be a Second Collection this week to benefit Caritas Lebanon.

See Page 5 for another way to benefit Caritas Lebanon by sponsoring a family in Lebanon.

Whether you choose to give to the Second Collection or sponsor a needy family, Caritas Lebanon is a wonderful organization helping the Lebanese people



Easter Lily

Please see the form on page 6 with instructions on how to donate a lily in honor of or in memory of a loved one. These flowers will be placed on the altar for Easter.

Deadline to order a lily is
March 26, 2021

NATIONAL APOSTOLATE OF MARONITES

Spiritual Lenten Retreat

Saturday – March 20, 2021

Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, North Jackson, OH

Please register for the retreat and pay on line at: namnews.org.

Retreat Fee: **\$65.00 all meals inclusive**

You may also register by mail. Please send a check payable to NAM and mail to:

NAM – 2110 Redwood Place, Canfield, OH 44406 –

Reservation deadline: March 8, 2021

For further information, please contact NAM Board Member & Retreat

Coordinator:

Vera Maalouf @ vsmaalouf@gmail.com / 262-496-9807



"St. Michael
the **Archangel**, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen."

The Year of St. Joseph
12/08/20 – 12/08/21



CONTRIBUTIONS:

February 28, 2021: \$9,098.00

LENTEN APPEAL: \$1,485.00 out of \$16,000.00

To set up your Online Giving, [CLICK HERE](#). A link is also available at the Saint Elias website: www.stelias.org. Please take a couple of minutes now and sign up for this convenient way to give to St. Elias and also to Lebanon Relief. You can schedule it once and you are done.



Moral Questions Concerning the COVID-19 Vaccines

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has been careful to keep us updated on any moral questions concerning the COVID vaccines and the Catholic Church's teachings on them. There has been some concern as to whether or not it is ethical to use the vaccines when some aborted tissue was used in their research and/or production. It is important to note that not every vaccine is the same. The USCCB has studied the matter carefully and has released a statement concerning the three vaccines which are, or will be, distributed in the United States from Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson and Johnson.

In summary, aborted tissue was not used enough in the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines to make taking the vaccine unethical. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine is problematic since aborted tissue was used both in research and production. For this reason, if someone has the luxury of being able to choose which vaccine they can take, they should choose Moderna and Pfizer. However, if due to high demand, there is no choice in the matter, it is okay to take the Johnson and Johnson vaccine given the circumstances since being vaccinated can be considered, "an act of charity that serves the common good." For access to the full text of the letter [CLICK HERE](#).

ORGANIZATIONS

- **JR. MYO:** No scheduled events this week.
- **MYO:** No scheduled events this week.
- **MYA:** Weekly Bible Study, 8:00 PM Monday
- **SEMA:** Lenten books in vestibule & church office.
- **MMSE (Men's Group):** No scheduled events this week
- **Ladies' Altar Society:** No scheduled events this week.
- **MCF Classes:** Meet at 9:15 every Sunday.
- **Pastoral Council:** Monthly meeting, Monday, March 8th @ 5:15 PM in Parish Hall

Abouna Peter's Lenten Retreat

**Abouna Peter will be on a
Lenten Retreat Monday,
March 15th thru Thursday,
March 18th. Liturgies will
be celebrated as usual.**

SPONSORING A FAMILY IN LEBANON

The Eparchy has asked that St. Elias sponsor 19 families who are in dire need in Lebanon.

TO SPONSOR A FAMILY

1. [\(Click here for a partial list of families in need.\)](#)
2. You can make payments as follows:
 1. Online through www.caritaslebanon.org;
 2. Send a check to:
Caritas Lebanon,
931 Lebanon Dr.,
St. Louis, MO 63104;
 1. Send a check to St. Elias with "Lebanon Family" in the memo.
 2. Donate online through St. Elias by going to www.stelias.org and clicking on the "Donate" button. From there you can click on "Sponsor Lebanon Family."
3. Note that you must be willing to sponsor the family for the remainder of 2021.

NEW OPPORTUNITY



Interested in Babysitting?

If you are a high school or college student and you want to earn some extra cash, babysitting is a wonderful way to do it. There are parishioners at St. Elias who are always in need of a babysitter and would welcome a fellow parishioner to do the job. Contact Rosa-Marie at 205-251-5057, ext. 2 to add your name to the list.

Note to those interested in hiring a babysitter: St. Elias will not do background checks and is making no statement as to the qualities, character or dependability of the babysitter. We will only supply the list of available babysitters as information to parishioners interested in using other parishioners as babysitters

Memorial Mass/Phoenician Club Meeting

The annual liturgy for deceased members of the Phoenician Club will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 9th at 5:00 PM at St. Elias. The liturgy will be concelebrated by Abouna Peter and Fr. Justin.

A Lenten Dinner will be served at the Phoenician Club following the March 9th Liturgy. If you plan to join us for dinner, please RSVP by noon on Monday, March 8. To reserve your dinner reservation, e-mail Phoenicianclubbhm@gmail.com or text (205) 533-5074.

Our hybrid in-person/zoom General Assembly meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on the 9th.

As always, masks, social distancing and temperature checks will apply.

March 21, 2021

There will be a drive-up Lebanese lunch- Sunday, March 21 from 11:00 -1:30. Plates are \$15.00.

- Menu:
 - Beef, Chicken or Shrimp kabob
 - Loobia and rice
 - Lebanese Salad
 - Hummus and pita bread
- Also: 4 piece sampler pastries \$10.00

More details will follow in next week's bulletin.

We Pray for the Sick

Please pray for our parish sick: Georgia Shalhoop, Gatha Brand, Josephine Wehby, Cindy Blankenship, Don Stewart, Donald Taccone, Louise Josof, and Ghazi Abikhaled.

St. Elias **WILL NOT** list the name of our parish sick unless it is specifically requested to be on the Sick List. Call 251-5057, ext. 3, to be on our prayer list.

If you are suffering from the Corona Virus or if you know someone suffering from it, please reach out to us so we can pray for you. We will keep your information private if you ask.

---Abouna Peter

To register for the COVID-19 Vaccine, [Click Here](#) and fill out the Jefferson County, Alabama Vaccination Self-Registration Form.

5th Annual Mattress Sale Fundraiser

Benefiting JCHS Athletics

Sunday, March 7th | 11am-5pm | JCHS Commons
Name brand mattresses 30%-40% less than retail!



Financing and Delivery Available



EASTER LILIES

I would like a lily placed on the altar at Easter,

In honor of:

In memory of:

Purchased by:

Lilies are \$10 each and can be purchased by sending a check to the Church Office, Attn: Rosa-Marie or by contacting LaVonne Williamson @205-936-9569. Please order by March 26, 2021 so we have time to purchase and place them on the altar.

(Church mailing address: 836 8th Street South, Birmingham, AL 35205)

Too Sick for Mass?

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want to grow!



Hardware Park

Birmingham's
home for
physical product
innovation.

Contact
Daniel Bolus
to rent space
(205) 482-4656
hardwarepark.org

JOIN SEMA
(St. Elias Maronite Adults)
Contact Jackie Semaan
Jackie@semaanrealty.com
A great group of
Fun-loving adults at
St. Elias!

VW GALLERIE



BIRMINGHAM LOCATION

3320 2nd Ave. S
Birmingham, AL 35222
Phone: 205.324.9521
Mon - Fri 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

PELHAM LOCATION

221 Industrial Park Dr.
Pelham, AL 35124
Phone: 205.663.1336
Mon - Fri 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
vwplumbingsupply.com

TUSCALOOSA LOCATION

711 21st Avenue
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403
Phone: 205.758.8621
Mon - Fri 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Carlo H. Joseph
205-365-4796
cjoseph@vwsupply.com

MCF Classes
9:15 AM
Every Sunday
Come learn about
your Maronite
Catholic Faith

To place an ad
In the bulletin

Contact
Jimmy Mezrano
jimmy.mezrano@cadencebank.com

MMSE

(Maronite Men of St. Elias)

Men of Prayer and Action
For St. Elias and the Community.

Contact: Maron Boohaker
mjboohakermph@gmail.com

TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE
LADIES' ALTAR SOCIETY, CONTACT
JAN JOSEPH @josephjandd@aol.com



DON'T FORGET
YOUR MASK!

To donate
flowers for
the altar,
Contact LaVonne
Williamson
lavonne.w@att.net