

2016 LEBANESE FESTIVAL RAFFLE

Drawing May 29, 2016 at 7 PM

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Ticket Price \$25

For tickets call (858)883-3043 or e-mail mimahabchi@gmail.com
St. Ephrem Church Office (619) 337-1350

St. Ephrem Lebanese Festival Donation Update

As of March 27th, we have received over \$12,000 in cash donations for our upcoming Festival! We would like to sincerely thank our donors for their generous contributions. If you have not donated yet, please see the form accessed on line or in the office. We will start recognizing donor levels in next month as we get closer to the Festival.

Register Now for the 53rd National NAM Convention
July 6 to 10
Our Lady of Lebanon Church, San Francisco
<http://www.namnews.org>



Basket Collection from March 20th:
\$4,064.00



**Festival
Pre-paid
parking
Reserve
your space
now!**

Dear fellow parishioners:
With the festival fast approaching we would like to ask you to take this opportunity to reserve your parking space in advance. A \$50.00 donation to St. Ephrem Church will guarantee you an all-day parking spot for Saturday, May 24th and Sunday May 25th. You will enjoy the freedom to come and to go as you please knowing your spot remains available to you. Since space is limited, please reserve as soon as possible by calling George Habchi at 858-883-3042. Please make your checks to St. Ephrem church. Reserve before May 11th. You can mail your reservation with donation to: St. Ephrem Church, 750 Medford Street, El Cajon, CA 92020. Thank you.

Interested in selling your merchandise during our Annual Festival?

Booth Space is now available.
Potential Vendors can contact
Gisele Chalhoub
@858-531-3181

(Neither food nor religious items may be sold by any vendor)

**WE NEED YOUR
HELPING HANDS!**

Support the Annual Festival
Please contact the office (By phone or by email) to place your name on the Volunteer Roster Volunteer Team Leaders will be making contacts to schedule. With our team of volunteers the festival will be a great success!



Christ has Risen from the dead and by his death he has trampled upon death and has given life to those who are in the tomb.

Christ Is Risen! He Is Truly Risen

*Lord our God, on this Easter Day,
may we who recall the wondrous work of our creation
and the still greater work of our redemption,
be renewed and remain faithful to the Spirit
whom we have received. Amen.*

Alleluia.

Fr. Toufic Nasr

*Deacon Georges Ghosn and Deacon George Geagea
wish you a most blessed and grace-filled Easter season.*

Easter 2016

My friends:

During this past week we have gathered to commemorate the events in the life of one man that affected all people and all creation for all time. Our Easter Sunday celebrations bring us to the pinnacle of those commemorations. Today we say that in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, one who lived long ago and far away, we not only saw the depth of God's love, but we have been given new life ourselves.

As we gather with family and friends to celebrate Easter, the Risen Lord Jesus is present with us. As we listen to the scriptures proclaimed, as we share in his Body and Blood, and as we gather around our tables at home and look into the faces of those we love, the Risen Lord Jesus is present.

As we remember loved-ones who no longer gather with us, and as we reflect on the disappointments of the past year, the Risen Lord Jesus is with us. As we celebrate a new relationship or reconciliation with a person we have been estranged from, the Lord Jesus is with us.

His Risen presence today, right now, is what our celebrations of Easter are all about. Sometimes we can be misled, because of the nature of our liturgical celebrations, into thinking that all we do on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday is look back on something that happened 2000 years ago in a small town in the Roman Empire.

But our liturgies are much more than historical reenactments. When we gather for liturgy we return to our roots and our remembering of what God did long ago is a dynamic experience. In our remembering we are plunged once again into the saving power of those events of long ago. But we are plunged into those events not because we are somehow transported back in time to Jerusalem, but because those saving actions of God are made present to us today in San Diego California!

We believe that power of God is still here among us because we believe it is the Risen Christ who gathers us together. We remember those events of the past with the aid of the Holy Spirit of God who lives with us right now. Why does this matter? Because the God who accompanied Jesus in his life on earth and raised him from death to new life, is the same God who is present to us today, accompanying us on our way. It is this same God who raises our loved ones from death to new life with Him, and will raise us also someday to be with Him and with all our loved ones forever. It is the same God who will, at the end of time, restore all creation according to the pattern of his risen and glorified body.

It is in this Spirit that we gather each Sunday of the year. It is in this Spirit that each "first day of the week," we come together as a community of faith to give praise and thanks to God for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each Sunday is like a "little Easter."

In all of our celebrations we give thanks for what God has done, is doing, and will continue to do until the end of time. That work of God is always about bringing new life out of death. In these days of Easter may all of us draw near to the Risen and Glorified Christ so that he may show us the way to new and eternal life. Amen, Alleluia!

God Bless,

Fr. Toufic Nasr

Upcoming Events:

*Feast of Our
Lady of
Lebanon
Sunday May
1st

*Parish First
Holy
Communion
Saturday,
May 7th

*St. Ephrem
Church's
13th Annual
Lebanese
Festival
May 27, 28
& 29, 2016


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www.stephremchurch.com

Beit Maroun  House of Maron

Volume 18-Issue 13 March 27, 2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Liturgies:
Saturday..... 5:30PM
Sunday
.....9:30AM
.....11:00AM
.....12:30PM
ConfessionsBy appointment

First Friday Adoration Noon until
Benediction at 6:00PM

Baptism: Contact the office to
schedule

Religious Education: Saturdays
from 11am-12pm

First Communion Class: Sunday
from 1030AM to 12:30AM- To
register, please contact the parish
office.

Matrimony: Please contact the
parish office at least eight months
prior to the desired date

Parish Office Hours: Monday
through Friday 9:00AM to 5:00PM

Pastor: Reverend Toufic Nasr
Deacon Georges Ghosn
Deacon George Geagea

Visiting Priest:
Reverend Canon Thomas Thompson

Divine Liturgy Intentions:
The Glorious Resurrection
Readings: *Phil 1:1-13 Jn 12:12-22*

Divine Liturgy on Saturday, March 26th*
5:30PM & 11:00PM

Sunday, March 27th*
9:30AM & 11:00AM

Monday of the Apparition of Our Lord
March 28th*
11:00AM

*All Liturgies will be offered for
Parishioners Intentions

+ Saturday, April 2nd
5:30PM –

+ Sunday, April 3rd
9:30 AM –
11:00AM – 40 Day Memorial for Jameela
Naaman offered by her son Salam Rassam and
Family
12: 30PM – 40 Day Memorial for Jeanette
Fattouh offered by the Family
Also (M) Fouad Ashoo offered by the family