

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS
SEPTEMBER 22, 2019**



MASS INTENTIONS

- Sat. 9/21**
4:00 pm For Jeanette Ferguson,
 by Carol Rondeau.
- Sun. 9/22** **Second Sunday after Holy Cross**
11:00 am For Maurice Nasser,
 by Khalil Nasser.
- Mon. 9/23** **Saint Padre Pio**
12:00 noon For Rafael Mudafort,
 by Antoinette Tartak.
- Tue. 9/24** **Saint Thecla, First Woman Martyr**
12:00 noon For Youssef Lahoud,
 by Deacon & Mrs. Andre Nassar.
- Wed. 9/25**
12:00 noon For Rafael Mudafort,
 by Antoinette Tartak.
- Thur. 9/26**
10am-12 noon **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**
12:00 noon For Amelia Simon,
 by Elie and Mela Attie.
- Fri. 9/27** **NO DAYTIME MASS**
- Sat. 9/28**
4:00 pm For the Souls in Purgatory,
 by Antoinette Tartak.
- Sun. 9/29** **Third Sunday after Holy Cross**
11:00 am For Edmond Haboush,
 by Carlynn Haboush.



**SAINT THECLA,
FIRST WOMAN MARTYR**

According to writings from the 2nd century, Thecla was a saint of the early Christian Church and a follower of Saint Paul the Apostle.

Saint Thecla is known as the first woman to face martyrdom for her Christian faith – even though all attempts to kill her actually failed.

Thecla was miraculously saved from burning at a stake when a storm extinguished the fire.

Accused for being a Christian, a second time, she was sentenced to be eaten by wild beasts at an amphitheater. But again, was saved by the female beasts who protected her from the male beasts while she was in the arena.

Later in life she settled in the mountains of Lebanon where she lived a prayerful life as a hermit.

Saint Thecla helped to Christianize northern Lebanon and Maalooula and Seydnaya in Syria.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Thursday, September 26
10:00am to 12:00 noon**

We invite you to come and spend some quite time with the Lord in adoration and prayer.

"100 CLUB" NEWS

The drawing for the September winning ticket will be held next **Sunday, September 29th**, in the parish hall after Mass.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection	Sept. 14 & 15	\$ 1,458.00
Candles		\$ <u>77.00</u>
Total		\$ 1,535.00

Heart of Jesus Maronite Catholic Church

Men's Club

BBQ

Sunday, September 29, 2019



Please join the Men's Club
Sunday, September 29th
following Mass
for a Barbeque luncheon

MENU

Hamburgers

Hot Dogs

French Fries

Salad

and Soft Drinks

Donation \$10.00

(No charge for our Religious Education Students)

HEART OF JESUS PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM 2019

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind (MT 22:37)

Thank you for your contributions

For the past 7 years, Heart of Jesus Church has been slowly building a great community of believers. We come together on a regular basis to pray and give thanks to Almighty God for his many blessings, to ask him to help us in our needs, to socialize with each other, and to become better Christians. Like the early Christians who followed Jesus after his resurrection, we are growing little by little and we need the support and commitment of everyone in our community to continue in our mission.

As much as we do not like to hear about financial matters, the reality is that in our society, the Church, like all organizations, has bills to pay. So many of you are regular contributors to the collections each week, and we want to thank you sincerely because that has allowed us to grow and provide the support needed to ensure the church and our community can continue to thrive.

From time to time, we have special events to get us together as a community and to raise extra funds. These special events raise money to cover the short fall of funds needed to run the church and for larger items/repairs. Again, you, as members of our community have always been very generous in these endeavors.

Planning and Budgeting

So far, as is common with any new church or organization, we at Heart of Jesus have been living basically hand to mouth. But the time has come that we need to plan for the future to ensure we can continue to have a holy and dignified place of worship, and a welcoming and adequate social hall to gather and continue our mission within the community.

Today we are not looking toward any great or extensive project, we would simply like to start a process to improve the regularity of the donations which keep our church going from day to day. We want to make sure all our parishioners and friends are aware of the options available to contribute on a regular weekly/monthly basis.

The problem we have is that collections vary quite a bit from week to week, depending on the time of year, the intention of the Mass, other community activities, vacations, etc. It is very difficult to budget income and expenses in this way. Thankfully, we have some parishioners who donate regularly via their bank even when they are away. All in all, we are very grateful for all of your contributions.

A new planned giving program

All we are asking is for you to kindly consider providing more consistency in the amount contributed. It is not our intention in any way to tell you how much you should donate to your church. We would like **you** to decide how much you can donate to your church on a **regular basis** in order to have a more consistent budget. Having reviewed our past financial reports and our current basic expenses, we know that it would be ideal (and perhaps a dream) to have as a target a weekly income of \$3,500.

In total, today we have about 140 families registered in our parish. We do send out contribution envelopes to most of those families in order to help with a more regular commitment, yet not everyone uses them. If we could average \$25 per family, we could easily reach our goal. Of course, we know that not every family is able to contribute \$25 each week, but yet, there are other families who could contribute more. It would all work out in the end if everyone does their share. The most important part of this new campaign is that we would request you make a regular weekly pledge, based on what you believe you can do to help, even when you miss attending Mass.

Whatever you pledge, at any time you can change your weekly amount, depending on changes to your personal circumstances. We understand that some do not have a regular income, others are in very cyclical businesses, and others may be living on a small pension.

We encourage everyone to make a pledge

To start this process, we will be asking every family to consider what they can contribute each week and to let us know of their pledge. (A pledge form will be available in a few weeks.)

We encourage you to use the weekly parish envelopes in order to ensure your contribution is registered, and so that we can provide tax documentation at year-end to claim your contributions as a deduction.

If you prefer, you may place a check without an envelope into the collection basket, and we will be sure to keep a record of those checks as well.

A number of parishioners have an automatic weekly or monthly contribution mailed directly to the church from their bank. This type of donation is a blessing for the church in that it is the best way to make consistent contributions to the church, and makes it easier for you also.

Most banks have an automated check/payment process and we ask you to consider using these to ensure a regular contribution. If you need help with setting this up please call the parish office.

All of the above options will be clearly indicated on the pledge forms. Once you make your pledge and decide on your method of payment, you can stop it or make changes at any time. We would simply ask that you let us know. God bless you for your dedication to our church!