



Saint John Maron Church

300 South Flower Street, Orange, CA 92868

714-940-0009

www.stjohnmaronchurch.org

We are a growing family of God that celebrates and witnesses the saving presence of Christ among us through worship, social interaction, and charity. While in full communion with the Pope, our worship follows the ancient Syriac Maronite Catholic Tradition with a vibrant, modern balance. We constantly seek to renew ourselves that we may set aside personal divisions and welcome everyone in a spirit of Christian Love!

The Year of Our Lord 2017, December 31
FINDING OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE
Liturgy of the Word pg.87, Creed pg. 748
Anaphora of St. James pg. 794

9:30 am and 11:30 am Liturgy offered for your intentions

New Year's Eve Liturgy: 7:00 pm

New Year's Day Liturgy: 11:30 am

WEEKDAY LITURGY

- Wednesday, Jan 3, 7:00 pm
- Thursday, Jan 4, 7:00 pm
- Friday, Jan 5, 7:00 pm, Epiphany Vigil, Blessing of the water, followed by Alpha
- Saturday, Jan 6, 6:00 pm (Epiphany)

ALPHA

- Session 9 — January 5
- Session 10 — January 12
- Session 11 — January 26
- Session 13 — February 2 [Final Session]

Maronite Youth Organization

—**MYO Outing:** MYO is going to XLT - a night of prayer, worship, an inspirational speaker and adoration. Sunday January 28th from 7:00-9:00 pm at St. Timothy Catholic Church in Laguna Niguel.

—**MYO Retreat with Father Gary:** March 2-4 2018

Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church
600 El Camino Real, Millbrae, CA 90430
Cost \$200, Application and payment in full are due by: January 29, 2018

—**MYO Parent Meeting:** Parent meeting for all interested in going to the MYO retreat with Father Gary March 2-4. We will have travel information and prices on group airfare. Meeting Sunday January 7th @10:30. We will meet in hall.

Last Week's Collections:

Saturday 6:00 pm- Sunday Vigil: \$91
Sunday, 9:30 am: \$345
Sunday, 11:30 am: \$498
Midnight Mass: \$5,844
Christmas Day: 2,610
Contributions: \$7,485

A Young Jesus

A young Jesus decides to stay in Jerusalem because he was drawn to the temple and its activities.

When we read this passage have we really stopped to reflect on how such a story is very different from our experiences today? Mary and Joseph don't seem worried that they hadn't seen their son for an entire day, 'assuming that he was in the group of travelers' (v44). Imagine that scene today. If parents don't know where their child is for a minute they would panic and go mad.

The fact Mary and Joseph were not frazzled by Jesus' absence for a day was because life was much more communal and safe back then. People resided in villages which were tight knit. Everyone knew everybody else. Children played outdoors all day with each other, friends were always there, there were plenty of cousins and neighbors new everybody else's business. It was a communal spirit, where people visited one another, ate together, celebrated together and did not stand on ceremony. Life was simple and good. So Mary and Joseph trusted that Jesus was in good hands as they traveled a day's journey back home.

Today the reality is very different. Many children grow up with much fewer siblings, little or no cousins, friends are only seen at school and most people have probably never been over to their neighbors. Adults are not so easily trusted especially alone with children. Unfortunately, there are too many stories of child abuse. Parents have become over protective of their children and all too often fill a child's life with possessions and empty their lives of relationships and important experiences.

Today's Gospel encourages parents to allow children to grow, to pursue interests, to explore and to trust in God. Amen

"Margaret Ghosn mshf"