

ANNUAL LEBANESE MAHRAJAN NOTICE



July 10, 2020

“The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all” (Psalm 34:19)

Dear Parishioner,

We hope this letter finds you and your family well and healthy.

Around this time of the year, you would have received a letter announcing our Mahrajan. Due to the global COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, the Mahrajan committee made the hard and necessary decision to cancel this year's Annual Mahrajan. The choice is made to meet local and federal regulations as well as protecting the health, safety, and well-being of our parishioners and attendees.

Over the years, the Mahrajan has become part of our history. Thousands gather from multiple states to come and enjoy our culture, traditions, and hospitality. Businesses donate their products and offset our large expenses. Parishioners prepare to solicit for sponsorships and raffles, while others cook and bake. Our youth practice for hours to perform our traditional dabke dance as attendees enjoy with a drink from our bar. For days, we set up tents, tables, chairs, lights and grills to provide a venue for our guests, a place to lay out the variety of baskets and souvenirs, that come straight from Lebanon. We will miss seeing everyone and taking pictures that capture the great memories we create during our festival. This event is always a great success. It is our largest annual fund raiser that helps grow and sustain our church. That success happened because of you and your contributions. We appreciate your tireless commitment and support.

We are blessed that we have received Christ Jesus as Lord. We pray that we continue our lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith, and overflowing with thankfulness (Colossians 2:6-7) for our community and church and keep our community strong. **Cancelling this years' event, does not mean that we are beaten or defeated by the pandemic. Be on the look-out for future announcements.** We will be planning future events to fund raise for the church. The Lord tells us in Psalm 34:19 “The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all”. We are His children who will persevere and triumph over this tribulation through prayer and faith.

Thank you for your love, commitment and understanding. You may contact any of the committee members listed below at rectory@stanthonylawrence.org for any questions or concerns.

In Christ,

Fr. Elie Mikhael

Elias Azzi

Kurt Bistany

Mounira Daher

George Kalil

Wissam Merheb

Raghida Ramey