



Happy New Year 2011

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises, thank you for the gift of a new year. May it be a time of grace for me, a time to grow in faith and love, a time to renew my commitment to following Your Son, Jesus. May it be a year of blessing for me, a time to cherish my family and friends, a time to renew my efforts at work, a time to embrace my faith more fully. Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour of this new year, that the light of Christ might shine through me, in spite of my weaknesses and failings. Above all, may I remember this year that I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to You. Amen

Majdi Nasr



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House Blessings- If you wish to have your house blessed, please sign up by the candle counter at the back of the church.

The blessing of the home is a liturgical act with great symbolism and meaning. It is a visitation each family should look forward to on an annual basis. [The Church Fathers speak of the home as a small church](#). By inviting the priest to bless your “home church,” it reminds us that we are to act and fulfill Christ’s Holy Will always, not just on Sundays. It reminds us that our church life must remain with us constantly, even within our own homes! Therefore, the way in which we behave and act in church should mirror the way in which we behave and act within our homes.

To Prepare for the Priest:

- 1) **Shovel the sidewalk:** Allow the priest to approach your house without the chance of slipping on snow or ice.
- 2) **A Quiet and Holy Environment:** Turn off televisions, radios and computers before the priest arrives. Assemble all the family members.
- 3) **Prepare the table:** with a clean white table cloth, an icon, a candle on a stand, matches, a clean bowl in which Holy Water can be put in.
- 4) **Guide the Priest through the house:** Someone from the family should guide the priest through the house; turn lights on, clear a path, and open doors.
- 5) **Food and Drink:** It is not necessary to provide food and drink to the priest. If you are planning on preparing a meal, please inform him ahead of time. Also, please remember that the priest endeavors to the best of his ability to observe the fast days of the Church and appreciates the support of the faithful.

If you have any questions about receiving the priest in your home, please ask Father Michael when he calls to make an appointment with you to bless your house.

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