



Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church

7032 Bowden Road
Jacksonville, FL 32216
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Pastor: Father Elie Abi Chedid
Deacon: Elias Shami

Mass Schedule: Sundays: 11:15 AM

April 2014

Volume 14 - Issue 4



Beloved parishioners:

The purpose of the Lenten season is to prepare us for **Easter**, the greatest glorious event of all time. Easter is a preview of the ultimate reality of our lives. Easter Sunday is the day the Lord has made to be our day, and he wants it to last forever.

Through his salvific death and resurrection, our Lord Jesus Christ conquered sin, death and evil on a cosmic level; He is yet to conquer sin, evil, and death in the life of each one of us. Saint Peter proclaimed in the Acts of the Apostles: "There is no salvation through anyone else (than Jesus), nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved." (Acts 4:12)

Through the Mystery of Redemption (Death & Resurrection of our Lord) true happiness and eternal life are offered us, believers. Alleluia

"Christ is risen, truly risen / Al Maseeh qam, haqqan qam" / Happy Easter

Father Elie

Passion Week and Easter Program:

Hosanna Sunday, April 13

11: 15 AM Divine Liturgy / Blessing of Palms and solemn procession.

Monday & Tuesday of Passion week April 14 &15

7:00 PM coming to the Harbor prayers followed by the Blessing with the Holy Cross.

Wednesday of Passion Week April 16

7:00 PM Rite of the Lamp & Anointing of the sick followed by the Blessing with the Holy Cross.

Thursday of the Mysteries, April 17

7:00 pm Last Supper Divine Liturgy & the Rite of Washing of feet.

Great Friday of the Crucifixion, April 18

6:00 PM Adoration of the Cross & Burial of Our Lord.
(Fasting and abstinence are obligatory).

Great Sunday of Resurrection, April 20

11:15 AM Easter Divine Liturgy & the Rite of Peace.

CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY RISEN...Halleluia

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Some directives for the use of the new church

- A new missal is being used in the new church. Please make sure to follow closely this new missal since some of the wording in Liturgy is now different.
- **We have 120 books. Each family/ individual is called to help defray the cost of this new missal (\$30 each). Also Sponsors for the new books are welcome.**
- Missals must not be removed from church nor handled by small children.
- **No food or drinks are allowed in the new church facility (including cry-room).**
- Mezzanine is not to be used except when no other seats are available in the nave (main sanctuary).
- **Special attention should be given (in particular to kids) to not touch fire alarm levers, the alarm will go off instantly, and we will be charged a fine (\$250 minimum). It is better not to mess with any switches or volume controls in the church.**
- Only toddlers 4 years of age and under are to be in cry-room with one of the parents. Cry-room is not a playground but a training ground. Please don't let kids wander in hallways during Mass.

- **It is preferred to use the eastward entrance door (closest to the hall) until landscape is finished. Drop-off area is to be used especially by elderly and in raining weather.**
- Normally the right-side of doors will be unlocked. The sacristy's door is a service door to be used only by clergy.
- **Since the pews are not screwed to the (marble) floor, do not force the pews to move when sitting.**
- Please always try to occupy the front of the church and be punctual. Readers, choir members and altar boys should be at church at least 10 minutes before Mass, and are required to be dressed with appropriate church attire.
- **Please make a special effort not to use restrooms during Mass since this is most disrespectful to God and disrupt the people around, and not to let small kids unattended in bathrooms. And please make sure all sanitary products are placed in trash receptacles.**
- All phones and devices are not allowed in the church or are to be turned off during Mass.
- **Smoking is not allowed by any church's entrance door. Also chewing gums are not allowed in church; Gums should be disposed of in trash cans.**
- Fellowship will be taking place immediately after Mass in the social hall not in church.
- **Hymnal sheets will be placed on the entrance table; kindly return them to the table at the end of the Mass.**
- The drop-off area is not a parking place; that area should remain unblocked.

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Church's News & Events

Fast and Abstinence during Lent

Fast is obligatory on Great Friday of Crucifixion. Abstinence from meat is obligatory on all Fridays during the Lenten Season.

Adoration of the Holy Cross

Every Friday during the Season of Great Lent the Service of the Blessing with the Holy Cross is held at 7:00 PM. Confessions are available after the service.

Choir practice

Choir practice will take place every Friday during Lent at 6:00 PM (before the service of the Holy Cross). We need more members to join the choir.

Second collections

A second collection will be taken for 'Bishop's Appeal' on all Sundays of Lent.
A second collection will be taken on Friday of the crucifixion for the Holy Land.

A second collection will be taken for building fund on Hosanna Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Falafel night

A falafel night and meatless dinner will be held on Friday April 11, 2014 at 7:30 PM (after the service of the Holy Cross) on the church's premises. The dinner is sponsored by the Karam family. Other sponsors are welcome.

Donation: \$10 (all what you can eat).

Maamoul Sale

Our thanks go to Maroun and Amale Ata for preparing and sponsoring the Maamoul sale this year that will take place on Hosanna Sunday April 13, 2014 after Mass.

Dedication date

Please mark down the date for the formal dedication of our new church: **Sunday November 16, 2014 at 5:00 PM** followed by a dinner reception.

Dedication Committee meeting

A meeting for the dedication committee is scheduled for Thursday April 10, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the church.

Commemorative Ad Book

A Commemorative Ad Book to mark the dedication of our church will be published along with the consecration Mass and ceremony. This publication will feature warm messages, greetings, memorials and tributes to loved ones from businesses, families and individuals. You are asked to place an ad in this book and also help find sponsors.

The ad/message can include pictures, letter-heads and logos.

You can either mail or e-mail your advertisement to the church at stmaronjax@stmaronjax.com. Please make checks payable to "Saint Maron's church". All donations are tax deductible.

-Full page **full color** \$1,500

-Full-page Gold Border \$1,300

-Full page Silver Border \$1,000

-Full page regular \$750

-Half page B/W \$500

-Qtr page B/W \$250

-Business card size B/W \$150

-Back Cover Full page/ Full color \$2,500 (sold)

-Inside Front Cover Full color \$2,000

-Inside Back Cover Full color \$2,000

For more information and assistance you may call Elias Trad (561) 809-8668 or Sanaa Saliba (904) 514-4114, Ad Committee.

Thank you for your support, promotion and consideration.

Use of the church hall

Even though our church hall is in need of some renovation especially floor replacement, it will be available for use for your celebrations. Please contact the church for reservations.

Sponsors for new Missals

Each family/ individual is asked to help defray the cost of the new missal (**\$30 each**). Also Sponsors for the new books are welcome.

Missals must not be removed from church nor handled by small children.

LED Candles



LED candles operating on battery for use in processions (instead of wax candles), are available at the church. They are practical, clean and safe. Donation: \$15 each.

Easter flowers

Your donation of Easter Lilies or monetary contribution toward the purchase of these Lilies in honor of, or in memory of your loved ones is greatly appreciated.

In-Parish tuition rates at Catholic schools

Bishop Felipe Estevez, Bishop of Saint Augustine Diocese, wrote to Father Elie informing him of a new Diocesan policy he introduced that the children of Eastern rite parishes located in this diocese be afforded the same in-parish tuition rates as Latin rite children attending the same parochial school. The only condition is that they reside within the territorial boundary of the parish whose parochial school they want to attend.

The parents of an Eastern Rite Catholic student should never be required or encouraged to register in a Latin Rite parish against their will, solely to obtain the Catholic in-parish tuition rate.

At the same time he asked that every effort should be done from Eastern parishes to support parochial schools which our students attend.

We heartily thank Bishop Estevez for his consideration.

51st Annual NAM Convention

This year's NAM (National Apostolate of Maronites) Convention will be hosted by Our Lady of Victory Maronite church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from July 2 to 6, 2014.

For reservation at the **Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown** 600 Commonwealth Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 call: (412) 391-4600. The code for special rate (\$125 per night) is: **NAM**. Registration forms will be available at the Church. For more information log on to: www.namnews.org

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Fulfillment of pledges

We are very grateful to our parishioners that have pledged and fulfilled their pledges for the building fund; however, there are still many parishioners who have not yet fulfilled their pledges or did not yet contribute to the building fund. We expect all our parishioners to be part of building God's House according to their ability; for those who have already made contributions towards building fund we hope they can be all the more generous and do a little more according to their means.

The balance for the completion of remaining items for the new church's construction, after loan (\$411,000.38), is now around **\$9,000.00**.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE NEW CHURCH

- Tree of life	\$2,200.00
- Dedication booklet printing	\$3,500.00
- Shed	\$800.00

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Maintaining God's House

We thank all families and individuals who give their annual dues / assessment. You are urged to make this contribution (\$250) for the year 2014 unless you are financially unable. You can always mail your tithing/ Sunday's offering and/ or assessment to the church even though you may not be attending.

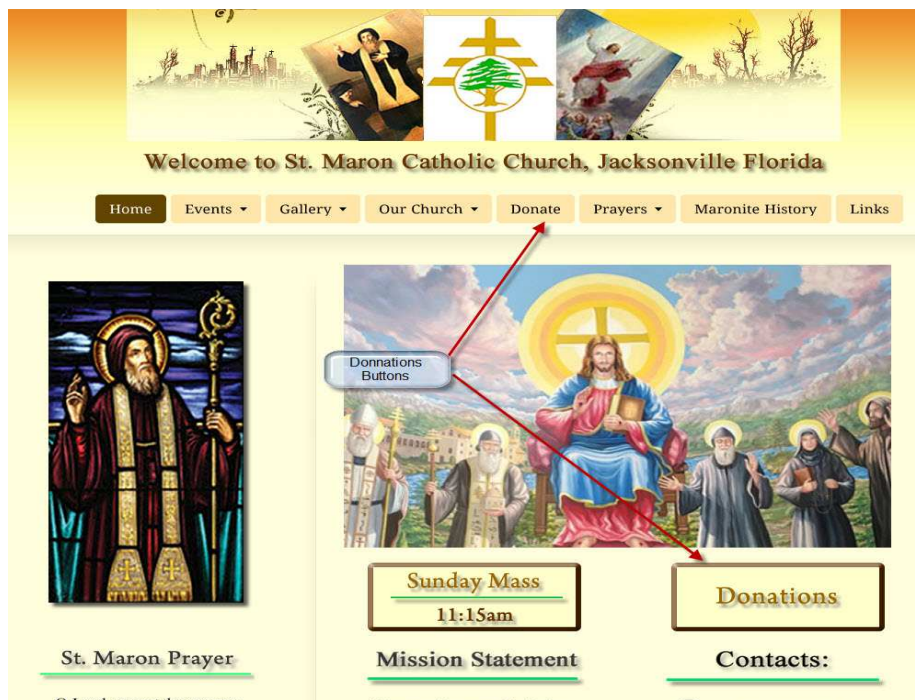
According to God's and Church's commandments, every working individual that receives a salary is required to tithe to the church on a personal level.

You are strongly encouraged to use the offering envelopes that are available at the church on the entrance table. The use of these envelopes enables you to get an accurate credit of your donations throughout the fiscal year, and help facilitate the church's financial procedures.

Church Website/Donate on line

Our church introduced a “Donate on line” program using credit cards. The program is available through the church’s website: www.stmaronjax.com .

Your benefits from this program are: 1-You earn points on your credit card; 2-You keep accurate records of your donation; 3- You save time and stamps on writing and mailing checks; 4-Your donation is tax deductible.



For more information you may contact Mrs. Sana’ Saliba at (904) 514-4114. If you would like to place an Ad on the website please contact Mr. Elias Trad at (561) 809-8668.

A reminder of the obvious

Out of respect first for God and second for those who are in church to worship Him, there needs to be a sincere effort to dress appropriately and decently, arrive on time, control your children, and keep your phones and all electronic devices off until after Mass.

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Protecting God’s children

Pamphlets outlining the pro-active policy of the United States Catholic Bishops to protect children are available at the Church, or by logging on to www.usccb.org/ocyp/. Likewise information on our own Eparchial policy on sexual abuse can be found on our Eparchial website www.stmaron.org. It takes a dedicated team effort to safeguard our children.

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Project Roots



The Maronite Eparchies of Saint Maron and of Our Lady of Lebanon join together to help people reconnect with their Christian spiritual roots in Lebanon and the Middle East. An office in Los Angeles will assist those interested to:

1. Register their vital life events.
2. Obtain their sacramental records from their country of origin.
3. Connect with family members living in their place of origins and throughout the world where they emigrated.
4. Obtain Lebanese citizenship if desired.
5. Obtain immigration records if desired.
6. Remain connected with the Maronite Church here and throughout the world.

For more information you may contact: Main office (CA) Ph: (310) 275-6634 / (310) 276-1939 MLM 333 South San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90048. Or visit websites: www.projectroots.net & www.registerlebnani.com

Project Roots is an endeavor of the two Maronite Eparchies in the US in collaboration with the Maronite Foundation in the World / Christian Lebanese Foundation (CLFW).

Register in Lebanon with us and **spread the word** about the need for registration. Your registration will NOT jeopardize your American citizenship. It will help Lebanon maintain the demographic and political power-sharing balance and prevent the Christians there from becoming only **10%** of the population.

Contact one of **Project Roots** representatives **today** and start the process. You can even use the website (www.projectroots.net) to register online and get a chance to win **free tickets to Lebanon**.

If you have already tried to register without success, sign the **Lebanese Citizenship Petition**:

www.yes-i-want.com. Together, we can effect change!

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Bequests and Planned Giving

Have you considered including your Parish in your will? A will is an expression of your commitment to the principles, people and institutions that you cherish here on earth. As an active participant and a supporter of your Church, a bequest in your will ensures that the work of the Maronite Church can continue after you are gone. It is a lasting testament that has great

significance.

Remembering your Parish in your will is easy to do. Here is an example of the words you can use to do this:

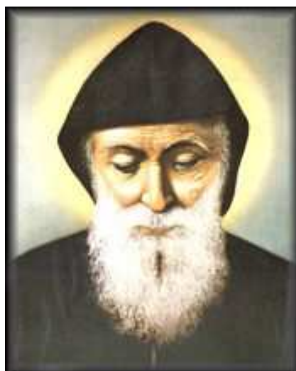
"I give and bequeath to St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church, located on 7032 Bowden Rd in Jacksonville, Florida, _____% of the residue of my estate [Or: The sum of \$_____."

Tax-Smart Giving of Appreciated Stock or other Assets

The gift of an asset such as common stock or mutual fund shares is a smart way to make a contribution and receive maximum tax benefits based on the value of the asset. Gifts of other appreciated assets such as land, antiques, and homes, can also be utilized as potential gifts with valuable tax benefits. Gifts of these assets should be considered on a case-by-case basis and discussed with an accountant or tax adviser.



Order of Saint Sharbel



Bishop Gregory Mansour has asked all clergy in the Eparchy of Saint Maron to assist in enriching the order of Saint Sharbel both spiritually and on the level of involvement.

The order of Saint Sharbel, established in 1980, is an organization of lay people and clergy who have pledged their spiritual strength and financial support to the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn.

Its first objective is to direct financial assistance towards educating the seminarians of our Eparchy.

When it will be possible the second objective is to provide additional benefits to our retired clergy in order for them to live with dignity and make it easier for them to share the wisdom of their years.

One way in sharing in the Order's objectives is to become a member. There are two forms of membership annual and perpetual. All billing comes from the Chancery Office and is paid to the Chancery.

Annual Membership

An Annual Member is one who pledges to donate \$500.00 annually or four equal installments of \$125.00 yearly (yearly membership starts from the month you join).

Perpetual Membership

A Perpetual member is one who makes a one-time donation of \$5,000 to the Order's Trust Fund. Perpetual members can choose to make four equal installments over a one-year period.

For more information you may visit the Eparchy's website: www.stmaron.org

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Reflection of the month:

“The higher one intends it, the deeper must the foundations be laid”

Saint Augustine

Reflection and motto of the year

**“Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things,
Nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
Nor any other creature will be able to separate us
From the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

Romans 8:38-39
