



## Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church

7032 Bowden Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32216  
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E-mail: StMaronJax@Comcast.net

Pastor: Father Elie Abi Chedid  
Deacon: Elias Shami

**Mass Schedule: Sundays: 11:15 AM**  
**February 2017**  
**Volume 17 - Issue 2**



Beloved parishioners,

The feast of **Saint Maron**, Father of the Maronite Catholic Church and our parish's patron Saint, is celebrated on February 9<sup>th</sup>. For us Maronites, and for all those affiliated to the Maronite Church, it is a particular time to reflect on our spiritual roots in order to strengthen our commitment to our Christian faith.

The life of the saints is a great inspiration for us and a pattern to follow in our imitation of Christ. According to Vatican II, all believers are called to holiness by their belonging to the holy Church.

Saint Maron was a priest and a hermit; he lived in the fourth century in the mountain area of Antioch, which was one of the five major sees of early Christianity. Even though he sought a solitary ascetic life, his light of holiness could not be hidden, but it shone in that region and attracted to him a lot of people. After his death that occurred in the year 410 AD, those who embraced Christianity through the preaching and the example of this great saint, and later through his disciples, were called Maronites; but they did not become a canonical Church until the year 685 AD when Saint John Maron was elected as the first Patriarch of Antioch for the Maronites.

The historical period in which Saint Maron lived in Northern Syria, that is between the third and the fifth centuries, was a period of great transformation in the life of the universal Church as Christianity became the religion of both the Roman and the Byzantine empires, East and West. At that time Bishop Theodoret of Cyrrhus wrote in his book “*historia religiosa*” (*History of the Selected people of God*) about some hermits that lived in the area of his diocese. About St Maron he wrote:

“Maron was the ornament of the Divine choir of Saints.

When he decided to live in the quiet of solitude, this saint ascended the summit of a mountain once sacred to the pagans. He dedicated there to the true God a once Pagan temple and nearby he erected a small tent for shelter, which he used very seldom for most of his time was spent in open air.

He was not satisfied with the ordinary exercises of piety, but added to them what he himself invented to secure the wealth of wisdom...

God granted him the gift of miracles so abundantly that his fame spread to all surrounding districts and attracted people from far and near.

Those who came to him for a cure always had their hope realized, because by the dew of his benedictions, the fever slowed down, the nerves were quieted, the devils driven out and the various diseases were cured, all by the same remedy. Not only was he to cure the ailments of the body, but also those of the soul...

After his death, the people of the neighboring places had a dispute over the possession of his body; but the inhabitants of the nearest and most populous village came in great numbers, took possession of the precious remains and built over them a magnificent church. To our own day, they venerate these relics with great solemnity and obtain many miracles.

As for us, we enjoy his benedictions, although we are far away. We must be satisfied with invoking his name when we cannot visit his temple”.

May the prayers of saint Maron be with us.

**Father Elie**

## **Church's News & Events**

### **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

In celebration of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the temple that falls on February 2<sup>nd</sup> (40 days after the Birth of the Lord), a solemn Mass will be celebrated on Thursday February 2 at 7:00 PM.

### **Feast of Saint Maroun**

In celebration of Saint Maron's Feast Day, a solemn Mass will be celebrated on Thursday February 9, at 7:00 PM.

# *St Maron's Hafli*

**In celebration of the Feast of Saint Maroun, our church's Patron saint, the Parish Council is organizing a big hafli**

**On Saturday February 11, 2017 at St Charbel social hall**

- Doors open at 7:30 PM /Dinner served at 8:15 PM.
- Music and dance.
- Full course buffet dinner prepared by Chef Samir Gebrael.
- BYOB (Bring your own bottle).

**Donation: \$50 Adults / \$30 Children under 12**

**(Sponsors for this event are welcome**

**All sponsors will be recognized at dinner and in the church's newsletter)**

**For reservation you may contact any member of the Parish Council  
Or the church at (904) 448-0203**

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## **Ash Monday**

According to the Maronite Liturgical calendar, Lent starts this year on Monday, February 27; Mass and distribution of Ashes will be celebrated on Monday evening at 7:00 PM.

## **Fast and Abstinence during Lent**

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

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## **Protecting God's children learning session**

In coordination with the Diocese of St Augustine, there will be a VIRTUS course session for "Protecting God's Children" program at our church. The session will take place at St Charbel hall on Tuesday March 7, 2017 from 6 PM to 9 PM.

The class capacity is 40 people with Mrs. Julie Rothery, facilitator.

Preregistration is required. It can be made on line at [www.virtus.com](http://www.virtus.com) or at [www.dosafl.com](http://www.dosafl.com) or by contacting Mrs. Linda Vasquez, diocesan coordinator, at (904) 262-3200 ext 104.

For more information you may contact Mrs. Joyce Bahri or the church.

This program is a requirement for all Church's employees and volunteers.

A certificate will be issued to all participants.

## 2017 MYO Regional retreat

The MYO (Maronite Youth Organization) Far Southern Regional retreat will be hosted by our parish on March 25-26, 2017.

Sponsors for the retreat are needed to cover the travel expense for the Sisters of the Maronite Servants from Dartmouth, Mass., and for food and lodging.

## Fifty/Fifty Draw

A monthly fifty/fifty raffle to benefit the church is conducted on the last Sunday of the month.

Tickets (at \$10) are sold every Sunday after Mass.

## Cars Parked at the church

Please notify the priest anytime you need to leave your car parked in the church's parking after functions; you may call (904) 448-0203 and leave a message and indicate what time you are picking your car.

In case of a need to pull the rope at the parking entrance please make sure to pull it to the other end and not drive over it.

## Maintaining God's House

We thank all families and individuals who tithe regularly and generously to the church. Please note that the annual registration dues (**\$250**) are meant to be just a part of tithing's fulfillment. Suggested tithe is **3%** of one's income and means.

All families/Individuals are urged to make this contribution unless they are financially unable.

You can always mail your tithing and Sunday's offering to the church even though you may not be attending.

According to God's and Church's commandments, every salaried individual is required to tithe to the church on a personal level for personal Spiritual growth and as an essential part of true devotion.

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## NAM Cedar's Tree Project



The National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) in cooperation with “*Jouzour Loubnan*” is sponsoring a memorial grove of 10,000 Cedar Trees in the mountains of Lebanon. Members and friends are asked to complete an application and forward it with a donation.

Trees may be sponsored by individuals, families, NAM Chapters, clubs, and organizations.

Each tree sponsored will be commemorated by an inscribed plaque to be mounted on a board which stands at the entrance of the forested area.

All participating donors will receive a Certificate of Appreciation noting their donation and the GPS location of their tree.

The plan will not only help conserve Lebanon natural beauty, but profits made from this project will help build Maronite Missions in the USA.

**Sponsorship of a 15-20 cm tree is \$50.**

**Sponsorship of an 80-100 cm tree is \$100.**

For more information, you may visit NAM’s website at [www.namnews.org](http://www.namnews.org) and select Cedars Tree Project.

## **National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM)**

National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) assists its bishops, serves as a link in unifying Maronite laity in the U.S., strengthens the bond between clergy and laity. NAM helps preserve Syriac-Maronite traditions by making people aware of the rich Maronite heritage and by fostering pride in the Maronite Church.

### Projects/Programs sponsored by NAM

- Ø National Annual Maronite Convention
- Ø Regional Conventions
- Ø Spiritual Retreats
- Ø Heritage Programs
- Ø Vocation Awareness
- Ø Scholarships for High School graduates
- Ø Scholarship for College Students
- Ø Scholarships for a semester in Lebanon
- Ø Supporting Missions in the US
- Ø Youth and Young Adults programs
- Ø Gold Massabki awards
- Ø Silver Massabki awards
- Ø Faith of the Mountain awards

**BECOME A MEMBER TODAY/ KEEP THE FLAME BURNING /MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE**

[www.namnews.org](http://www.namnews.org) / [nam@namnews.org](mailto:nam@namnews.org)

[914-964-3070](tel:914-964-3070) / [914-964-3071](tel:914-964-3071) (fax)

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## Reflection of the month:

*“Praise adds nothing to your holiness, nor does blame take anything from it.”*

*Thomas a Kempis*



EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN  
THE CHANCERY  
109 Remsen Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11201-4212  
Tel: (718) 237-9913 Fax: (718) 243-0444  
[chancerystmaron@verizon.net](mailto:chancerystmaron@verizon.net) [www.stmaron.org](http://www.stmaron.org)

2017

### DATES FOR SECOND COLLECTIONS EPARCHIAL CHARITIES APPEAL & ASSESSMENTS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>January 22, 2017</b>                                     | <b>United States Catholic Bishops' Worldwide Charities</b><br>(This collection combines the four USCCB collections: Central and Eastern Europe, the Church in Latin America, Catholic Relief Services, and Operation Rice Bowl [which is part of CRS]. The total is divided accordingly.)           |
| <b>February 27 -<br/>April 14 (Lent)</b>                    | <b>Eparchial Charities Appeal</b>   |
| <b>April 14, 2017<br/>(Good Friday)</b>                     | <b>Holy Land Collection</b><br>(Part of this collection is sent through the USCCB to the Holy Land and another part is sent directly to the Maronite Eparchy of Haifa.)   |
| <b>April 30, 2017</b>                                       | <b>Catholic Home Missions Appeal</b><br>(This collection is used for Missions in the USA. Our Eparchy has received large grants from the USCCB from this collection for several years.)   |
| <b>May 7, 2017<br/>Feast of O. L.<br/>of Lebanon</b>        | <b>National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon</b><br>(All funds collected are sent from the Chancery directly to our Shrine in North Jackson, Ohio.)  |
| <b>May 28, 2017</b>   | <b>Catholic Communications Campaign</b><br>(Following the norms established by the USCCB, 50% of this collection is sent to them for national Catholic television, radio and other media, and 50% is retained by our Eparchy for the Maronite Voice and any other communication needs we may have.) |
| <b>June 25, 2017<br/>Feast of Sts.<br/>Peter &amp; Paul</b> | <b>Holy Father's Collection (Peter's Pence)</b><br>(The entire collection is sent to the Holy Father for him to assist with emergency financial assistance to aid the most needy throughout the world.)   |
| <b>September 10, 2017</b>                                   | <b>Catholic University of America</b><br>(This collection provides funding for academic scholarships at CUA. Our own seminarians are given a 50% discount in tuition.)  |

**October 22, 2017    World Mission Sunday**

(As established by the USCCB, 91% of this collection goes to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and 9% to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association [CNEWA]).

**November 12, 2017    Maronite Patriarchal Charities**

(All the proceeds from this collection are sent directly to our Patriarch for his charitable works.)

**Second Collections should be submitted to the Chancery within 2 weeks of the collection**

**The Eparchial Charities Appeal should be submitted to the Chancery by May 1, 2017.**

**Assessments will be divided into 10 segments to be paid at the beginning of each month from February through November (inclusive).**

(Note that the following three collections, authorized by the USCCB, are **not** taken in our Eparchy: Campaign for Human Development, Retirement Fund for Religious, The Church in Africa, Black and Indian Missions, and the Archdiocese for Military Services.)

**Policy for the use of Saint Charbel Hall** (Page 1)

7032 Bowden Road

Jacksonville, FL 32216 / Ph: (904) 448-0203

The Hall capacity is 160 people (Provided dance space).

- 1- Security deposit/Registration in the amount of \$400 is required upon registration for the hall. This deposit is refundable after damage assessment.
- 2- In case of cancellation, a notification is requested at least two weeks ahead of the event; otherwise half of the registration fee will not be refunded.
- 3- The fees for the use of the hall are in accordance to the number of occupants for the event and the hours of operation:  
Up to 75 people: \$650 / Up to 100 people: \$750  
Up to 130: \$850 / Up to 160: \$950
- 4- Any damage occurring to the hall or to any artifacts within the perimeter of said property will be deducted from the security deposit. Debris from food and drink including candy wrappers etc. must be disposed of properly. Cans and bottles should be emptied and recycled; no liquids should be trashed in garbage bags. Damages exceeding the security deposit will be the responsibility of the undersigned.
- 5- The hall is and shall remain a smoke free environment. Remains from smoking are to be kept in proper containers outside of the building.
- 6- The hall is to be evacuated by 11:45 PM. A charge of \$100 will be added when that time is exceeded.
- 7- Decoration attached with tapes or tacks on walls and / or drapery, removing items from walls, the use of confetti, standing on chairs and tables, are strictly prohibited. Decorations on tables and suspending from the ceiling are allowed.
- 8- An additional fee in the amount of \$200 is to be charged for food preparation in the kitchen.
- 9- Table linens are available if desired; fees are negotiable.
- 10- Additional fees will apply for cleaning and garbage disposal.

\* **Attention:** Set up and decorations should take place the same day of event, if needed to be done one day in advance or to take more than five hours, an additional charge will apply. In case of the preparation of food in the kitchen takes more than four hours or needed to be done a day before, an additional charge will apply also.

Respectful communication should be observed to the landlord at all times and strict adherence to the rules above.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Policy for Saint Charbel Hall Use (Page 2)**

**Disclaimer Proclamation**

I, the undersigned.....,

am aware and agree that I am fully responsible for any damages and accidents that occur on the premises of Saint Maron property during my occupancy. This includes all persons and personal property affiliated with me or my function.

In the case of monthly use I agree to pay the proper deposit and Advanced payment at the beginning of the month.

I also agree to be responsible to make sure all utilities, electrical and water are properly turned off, and doors locked at the end of the function.

I understand that no alcohol be served for underage drinking, and that alcohol use is the liability of the occupant.

**Signature**

**Date**

**Policy for the use of Saint Charbel Church/Hall** (Page 3)

**7032 Bowden Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32216 / Ph: (904) 448-0203**

Name.....

Address.....

Phone number.....

Date of event: .....

Duration of function: From..... To.....

Time of Hall's set up and opening.....

Type of food preparation.....

Type of Music.....

Number of guests.....

**Requirements:**

\*A photocopy of Driver License or Photo ID.

\*Deposit payment.

\*Full payment a week before function if paid by check.

\*Hall is to be cleared by 11:45 PM.

Signature

Date



## 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](http://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.

## 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.
- 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). 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, please 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.
- **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.
- **Unless for emergency, please use bathrooms in the hall. 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.



## 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.

## Protecting God's children

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

## Seating in church

Please always occupy the pews in the front of the church (The last four or five pews on each side are not to be occupied unless there are no free pews in the front).

Please be punctual for Mass. Readers, choir members and altar boys should be at church at least 10 minutes before Mass.

Everyone is required to be dressed with appropriate church attire.

## Entrance door during Mass

In order to maintain quiet and undistracted atmosphere at Mass. The entrance door to be used during Mass is from the drop-off area.

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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](http://www.projectroots.net) & [www.registerlebnani.com](http://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](http://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](http://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:

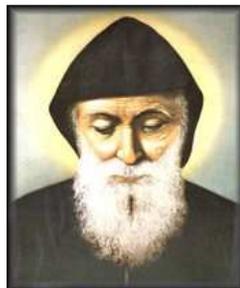
"I give and bequeath to St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church, located on 7032 Bowden Rd in Jacksonville, Florida, \_\_\_\_\_% of the residue of my estate [Or: The sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_."

### 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.

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### Order of Saint Charbel



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

The order of Saint Charbel, 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](http://www.stmaron.org)

## **Order of Saint Charbel Application Form**

**To apply for Membership in the Order of Saint Charbel, please follow these directions:**

1. Fill out this Application Form (print all information)
2. Circle appropriate Membership category
3. Make check payable to "Order of Saint Charbel"
4. Mail check and application to: Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn  
109 Remsen Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

### **Membership Category (Please circle one)**

<u>Type</u>	<u>Donation</u>
1) Perpetual	\$ 5,000 one time <b>OR</b> Four payments of \$1,250 within one year
2) Annual	\$ 500 each year <b>OR</b> Four payments of \$125 each year.
3) Youth	\$ 250 each year <i>(only for individuals under 25 years old)</i>

### **Member Information**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I.: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Member's Business Mailing Address**

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Spouse's Information**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I.: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Spouse's Business Mailing Address**

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Parish/ Mission**

Name, City, State: \_\_\_\_\_