



Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church

7032 Bowden Road
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Ph: (904) 448-0203 / Fax: (904) 448-8277
E-mail: StMaronJax@Comcast.net

Pastor: Father Elie Abi Chedid
Deacon: Elias Shami

Mass Schedule: Sundays: 11:15 AM
April 2016
Volume 16 - Issue 4

Beloved parishioners:

We thank the Lord for the Easter celebrations we were able to celebrate together this year also so beautifully.

The season of Lent this year was so rich and loaded with too many activities: Saint Maron's feast celebrations, Saint Charbel's Relics visit, Fridays' services and dinners, kibbee and maamoul sales, St Joseph celebrations, Holy Week celebrations, Easter egg hunt festival etc... I appreciate your participation in all these activities in a spirit of love, fellowship and solidarity. I would like to express special thanks to every one of you who gave generously of their time and of their means.

Also, during Lent we had too many maintenance issues to deal with in addition to landscape work, concrete work, trees service, supplies etc...The value of all these extra expenses was around \$17,000. I want to thank those who helped with some of the maintenance issues. Sponsors for these extra expenses are needed and welcome.

Please keep in mind that your outstanding support to the church is very much needed for its survival and advancement. Tithing is God's rule; it is not optional, it is a religious obligation. You need to fulfill this obligation in order to be living in state of

grace, to be in good standing with the Church, and an active member of the community.

Tithing should be substantial and decent, and in accordance to one's income and means, not less than 3%. According to God's and Church's commandments, every working individual that receives a salary or has an income is required to tithe to the church individually as a part of his/her personal devotion. You can always mail your tithing and Sunday's offering to the church even though you may not be attending.

Only your active participation and support of your church can ensure the continuity of its work.

I hope every one of you, with no exception, will take this engagement at heart and so seriously.

Father Elie

Church's News & Events

Baptism congratulations

Our congratulations go to Dr. Joe & Sandra Harb for the baptism of their son **Luke Joe**. The baptism took place at our church on March 19, 2016. May God bless him and the entire family.

Our congratulations also go to Karl Kuhn for the baptism of his granddaughter **Valentina Maria George**. The baptism took place at our church on March 27, 2016. May God bless her and the entire family.

Second collections

A second collection will be taken on Sunday April 24 for Catholic Home Missions Appeal. And on Sunday May 1st for the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon.

Abouna's trip

Father Elie is going to be in Lebanon (from April 6 to 27) for the first anniversary of his father passing. You may contact Deacon Shami for pastoral services during this period.

53rd Annual NAM convention

The 53rd Annual NAM (National Apostolate of Maronites) Convention will be hosted by Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite church in San Francisco, CA from July 6 to 10, 2016. For reservation please check forms at the hall entrance. You may also visit:

<http://www.namnews.org/index.php?page=hotel>

For more information log on to: www.namnews.org

Property Insurance/Safety instruction

Catholic Mutual Group, our property insurance carrier, has developed a Risk Management program and recommends having all church's staff and volunteers review some online training courses. These courses provide valuable information to assist our members in reducing accidents, injuries and claims. Each course is less than 20 minutes long. To access and view them, please log on www.catholicmutual.org Login Name: *0327stm* / Password: *service* then select subgroup *Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn*. Thank you for your cooperation.

World Youth Day

Our youth are encouraged to attend the World Youth Day Pilgrimage that will take place in Krakow Poland, in July 2016.

Anyone who is interested in joining other youth from our Eparchy to attend WYD can get online registration.

The Eparchy's WYD coordinators are always available to help in the registration process. You may contact Chuck VanHeusen (910) 988-2421, Charles.vanheusen@yahoo.com, or Sister Therese Maria (508) 996-1753, srtherese2010@gmail.com



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 www.stmaron.org

2016

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

- January 24, 2016** **United States Catholic Bishops' Worldwide Charities**
(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.)
- February 8 -
March 27 (Lent)** **Eparchial Charities Appeal**
- March 25, 2016
(Good Friday)** **Holy Land Collection**
(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.)
- April 24, 2016** **Catholic Home Missions Appeal**
(This collection is used for Missions in the USA. Our Eparchy has received large grants from the USCCB from this collection for several years.)
- May 1, 2016
Feast of O. L.
of Lebanon** **National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon**
(All funds collected are sent from the Chancery directly to our Shrine in North Jackson, Ohio.)
- May 22, 2016** **Catholic Communications Campaign**
(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.)
- June 26, 2016
Feast of Sts.
Peter & Paul** **Holy Father's Collection (Peter's Pence)**
(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.)
- September 11, 2016** **Catholic University of America**
(This collection provides funding for academic scholarships at CUA. Our own seminarians are given a 50% discount in tuition.)

October 16, 2016 World Mission Sunday (formerly, Propagation of the Faith)
(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 13, 2016 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 April 10, 2016.

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.)

Fifty/Fifty draw

The Fifty/fifty draw takes place every month at our church. Tickets are: \$10

Loan payment

Our current and urgent goal is to pay off the church loan. Interest payment is a heavy burden on our church's budget. Your donations towards loan payment are very much needed.

With God's help we were able last year to reduce our loan to \$150,000.00. We hope this year we will be able to pay it off completely.



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
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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

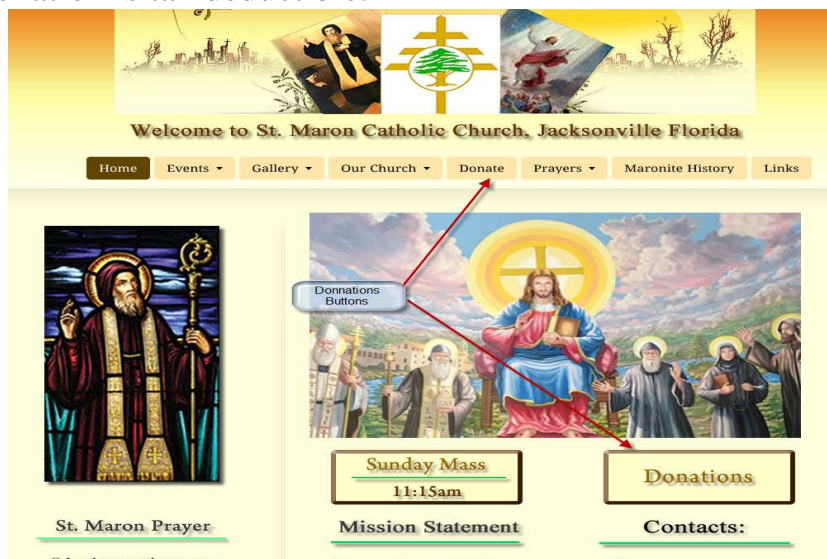
Date



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 .

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.

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/. 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.

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 & 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.

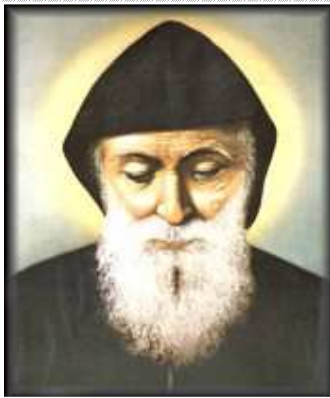
Remembering your Parish in your will is easy to do. Here is an example of the words you can use to do this:

"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.

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Saint Charbel Order

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

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 OR Four payments of \$1,250 within one year
2) Annual	\$ 500 each year OR 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: _____

Reflection of the month:

**“The longest way to God, the indirect, lies through the intellect.
The shortest way lies through the heart; here is my journey’s end and here
its start”**

Saint Therese