



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

November 2015

Volume 15 - Issue 11



Beloved parishioners:

The opening of the new **Liturgical Year** is upon us. The Maronite Church opens its "New Year" with the first Sunday of November with its **Commemoration of the Church** as Bride of Christ. The Church gives birth to us, her children, through her womb, the

waters of Baptism, and she nourishes us with the Sacraments-The channels of Grace-; that is why she is rightly addressed as "Holy Mother Church". To his Bride and to us as her children Christ has bequeathed his entire Treasure of Salvation. As St Cyprian of Carthage, a Father of the Church put it in his famous dicta: **“He who does not have the Church as his mother does not have God as his Father”!**

Following this Commemoration of the Church herself that opens the "New Year" is the **Season of Announcement**. It calls to mind and ponders the various Gospel Announcements heralding the Birth of Christ. They are the announcements to Zechariah & Elizabeth, to Mary, to Joseph, to the mount of Judea, to the shepherds...And the whole Genealogy of Jesus announces Christ as the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets to all nations and generations. At the Nativity of Jesus the announcement was: **“Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth and good will to all”!**

Then, the Church enters the **Season of Epiphany**; it reflects upon Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River and the initiation of His public ministry of the proclamation of the Kingdom of God and the remission of sins.

The **Season of the Great Lent** is the liturgical time par excellence that all Churches devote to spiritual healing through repentance and conversion. It is marked by fasting and good works, leading into and concluding with **Holy (or 'Passion') Week** and preparing for the celebration of Christ's Resurrection.

The Season of the **Holy Week** begins with the Saturday of Lazarus and Hosanna Sunday and concludes at noon on Saturday of Holy Week – the Saturday of the Awaited Light.

The **Season of the Resurrection** follows for the next six weeks. It reflects upon a few of the many appearances of the Risen Christ to his disciples during the 40 days between his Resurrection and Ascension and also upon the message they contain for us.

With Pentecost, the Church enters into the longest Liturgical season of all – the **Season of Pentecost**. This Season is by far the longest of the year, stretching into as many as eighteen weeks. During this Season, far more than any other, the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in the Church is on display.

The ultimate purpose of this work of the Holy Spirit in the Church, seen in the lives of all the saints, is the **Triumph of the Cross**. It is this that allows them [and us] to say, with the Apostle Paul: I live now not my own life, but the life of Christ Jesus is living in me! (Gal 2:20).

As January first starts again the secular year, so also the Sunday of the Church initiates a new cycle of the liturgical year. But, unlike the secular year that, of itself, has no eschatological goal, the liturgical year looks forward to the *Parousia* (Christ's final & glorious manifestation) that will usher in the true New Age to come. So, unlike the secular

year, which is therefore only circular or linear, the liturgical year is more like a spiral reaching toward the *Parousia*.

The purpose of the Liturgical calendar is to make us grow spiritually by living the events of our salvation throughout the year. This can be made possible only through our devotion to the Holy Church. The Church that our Lord founded on the Apostles is the only institution He commissioned to carry out His work of salvation to all generations.

With the beginning of a new liturgical year, we are reminded that our life on earth is a journey toward the kingdom of heaven that will usher in the true and Eternal Life with God.

May we be guided throughout this new Liturgical year by God's light and truth.
Amen

Fr. Elie

*** **

Church's News & Events

All Saints / Halloween celebration

Saint Maron's Youth Group is organizing **All Saints (Halloween) celebration & fall festival** that will be held Saturday October 31, 2015 on the church grounds/hall from 1-4 PM. There will be a \$15 entrance fee for all children ages 3 and up who would like to participate in games. Their lunch is included in the price. Kids are encouraged to wear dresses that represent saints and angels.

Adults will pay for food items individually; instead of an entrance fee (Donations are welcome).

Games will include: bounce house, face painting, balloon twisting, musical chairs, bean bag toss, and several others. There will also be Halloween baskets that will be raffled off.

Black-Tie Gala

On the occasion of the first Anniversary of the solemn Dedication of our new church, the Parish Council is organizing a fund-raising Gala to benefit the church's loan payment. The event, that will take place on Saturday November 21st, 2015 at St Charbel's hall, will feature soft live music, raffles and silent auction. A heavy Hors-D'oeuvres will be served.

Donation: \$100 / Open VIP Donations.

Fundraising goal is: **\$150,000.00**

For tickets you may contact parish council members.

Protecting God's children workshop

A presentation and a workshop on "Protecting God's children" using "Virtus" program will be held at our St Charbel hall on Saturday November 14, 2015 at 2:30 PM. The session will take approximately two hours. At the end of the session a certificate will be

issued to all participants. The session is free and open to everyone. Our youth and parents, especially those who work or may work with children in the future are required to take this program.

Condolences

Our sincere condolences are extended to Eva Sadaka Larocque and her family upon the passing of her brother **Charbel Sadaka** on October 27, 2015 in Minneapolis, MA. May Almighty God grant His servant **Charbel** eternal rest in His heavenly kingdom.

Our heartfelt sympathy also goes to Catherine Naddaf and Jocelyn El-Hajj and their families upon the passing of their brother **Tanios Najj Naddaf** occurred in Debel, Lebanon on October 28, 2015.

May Almighty God grant His servant **Tanios** eternal rest in His heavenly kingdom.

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

Jubilee year of Mercy

The extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy begins for the universal Church on December 8, 2015 when the Holy Father, Pope Francis, will open the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Parish Council News

Saint Maron's parish council held its meeting on October 20, 2015. The following items of discussion were on the agenda:

- 1- Loan payment issue.
- 2- Fundraising Gala / Black-Tie Party
- 3- Christmas concert and Spiritual movie nights.
- 4- Landscape care and Pond cleaning/ Water Fountain
- 5- Cook-out lunch & All Saints Party
- 6- Maintenance around property & Sound system fixing
- 7- Church Parties' organization

8- New car

Father Elie, Dr. John Assi and Mr. Tony Mahfoud had a very successful meeting with the Financial Officer of the Diocese of St Augustine; Interest and payments issues on our church's loan were properly addressed.

Dr. John Assi brought to the committee a proof print of the Gala Party invitation card (That will take place on November 21st, 2015) to be approved.

A massive effort involving all parishioners and extended to friends of our church is required for this project to succeed. Mr. Tony Mahfoud will extend special invitation to some officials such as Ms. Angela Corey, State Attorney, and Mayor Lenny Curry. All proceeds from this event will go toward loan payment.

Mrs. Sanaa Saliba, was approached by Mr. George Fadel with the offer of performing Christmas carols at our church. The council welcomed the idea and picked the 19th of December as the date for this concert. Mr. Elias Trad presented an initiative to incorporate a Movie Night after the concert, and to organize "Religious Movie Nights" at the hall occasionally.

Mrs. Carol Tegho presented a proposal from two companies for pond maintenance/installation of a water fountain, and Landscaping care. The council disregarded both estimates since they were very high.

Father Elie presented a long list of items around the property that need maintenance including trees' cutting and trimming. Father Elie will meet with contractor Gaby Hitti to help take care of these items.

On Sunday, October 25, a BBQ Event will take place. Dr. Assi offered to be in charge of organizing the event. Father Elie wished that our church's parties be well organized and to have better control of the hall facility.

The council praised the church's Youth Group for organizing an All Saints party/Fall festival on Saturday October 31st, and pledged their full support for their activities.

Father Elie is working with Mr. Ghazan Korkmaz, a car dealer, to help get a leased car. The council advice was to try to have the lease with no down payment, just trading with the old car, and to get higher mileage allowance.

Maintaining God's House

Our Lord said: "Give and it will be given to you; for the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." Lk 6:38

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 working individual that receives a salary is required to tithe to the church on a personal level.

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 and your thoughtfulness and generosity, we hope to hold a **"mortgage burning party"** on the special celebration of the feast of Saint Maron's, our Patron Saint, on February 6, 2016.



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 .

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.
- **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). 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.



Dedication Commemorative Ad Book

The Commemorative Ad Book published on the occasion of the dedication of our new church is available for purchase. Donation: \$25.

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.

*** **

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!

*** **

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 \$_____."

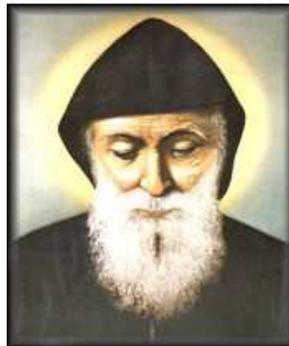
Tax-Smart Giving of Appreciated Stock or other Assets

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 Charbel

This year, October 11th is "Order of Saint Charbel Sunday" in both Maronite Eparchies in the United States.



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)

Type	Donation
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:

**I slept and dreamt that life was Joy;
Then I awoke and realized that life was Service.
And then I went to work - and, lo and behold,
I discovered that service is Joy.**

R. Tagore