



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

September 2015

Volume 15 - Issue 9



Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Beloved parishioners:

The universal Church celebrates on September 14th the feast of “the Exaltation of the Holy Cross”. This feast commemorates the triumph of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Cross, over death, sin and evil.

The Liturgical season of the Holy Cross is directed toward the awaiting of the second coming of Christ, who will appear at the end of time carrying the Cross of light and triumph. The focus, during this season, is also on the Cross as standard of our salvation and as symbol of Jesus’ final victory.

We are particularly invited during this season to reflect on our spiritual life with regards to the eschatological (end-time) reality.

The Cross is the most eloquent expression of God's love and generosity. As true Christians, we should exalt the cross in our days through holding dear the virtues of sacrificial love and generosity.

The Church continues to carry out her mission of proclaiming at all times and until the end of times the saving message of the Cross, and to employ its power in the world.

Fr. Elie



Prayer to the Holy Cross

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, You have suffered death on the Cross for our sins.

O Holy Cross of Jesus, be my light!

O Holy Cross, fill my soul with good thoughts.

O Holy Cross, ward off from me all things that are evil.

O Holy Cross, ward off from me all dangers; save me from the second death
and give me life everlasting!

O Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me!

Through Your suffering on the Cross grant me strength to bear my cross without fear
and give me the grace that I may follow You. Amen.



Church's News & Events

Fish Fry Night

A fish fry dinner will take place on Friday September 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the church's ground/St Charbel hall. The menu includes: Fish fry, French fries, Hommos, salad and soft drink. Donation: \$10.

Knights of Columbus representative

Mr. Bill Kelly, a District Officer for the Knights of Columbus, in coordination with Dr. Gaby Bahri, St Maron's Council Grand Knight, would like to address our community, on Sunday September 13 at the end of the Mass, about some programs the order offers.

Second collection

A second collection will be taken on Sunday September 13, 2015 for Catholic University of America.

Fifty/Fifty Draw

A monthly fifty/fifty raffle to benefit the church's building fund is conducted on the last Sunday of the month. Tickets (at \$10) are sold every Sunday after Mass.

Our congratulations go to Mrs. Marie Karam the winner of last month's draw of \$150.

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.

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. With your thoughtfulness and generosity, we hope to pay off the loan in a short time. Your donations towards loan payment are very much needed.

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

7032 Bowden Road

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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.

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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:

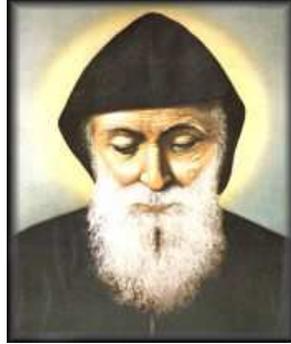
"I give and bequeath to St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church, located on 7032 Bowden Rd in Jacksonville, Florida, _____% of the residue of my estate [Or: The sum of \$_____."

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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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 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

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Reflection of the month:

"But may I never boast except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world".

Galatians 6:14