



Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church

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Pastor: Father Elie Abi Chedid
Deacon: Elias Shami

Mass Schedule: Sundays: 11:15 AM

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Beloved parishioners:

The Lord God has granted us and the whole world, this year too, another opportunity to celebrate, during this special Liturgical season of Christmas, the amazing event of the saving Mystery of Incarnation.

With the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, and with all the first witnesses who welcomed Emmanuel-God with us- into the world, we stand in awe and admiration before the great Mystery of the Word-made-flesh. In their example, we also ponder in our hearts the depth and the dimensions of this unique saving event, since it has a dramatic, a direct, and a decisive impact on each one of us and on all humanity.

With all the comfort our modern world is enjoying especially thanks to gigantic scientific progress, our times remain very troubling; they are full of bloody conflicts, massive shootings, malicious terrorist attacks; They are plagued with hatred and immorality, with insecurity, and with fear of what may come next. Moral values have been shaken; and, in general, what matter more than anything else to people are material goods and self-interest.

As Christians, we offer our chaotic world the message of Christmas that is one of hope, love and peace. God gave the world hope when He fulfilled the longing of the human heart for peace, happiness and immortality through the gift of His Son Jesus. God showed His infinite love in sending His Son to save the world, as St John the Divine proclaimed: “In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through Him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins”. (1 Jn 4:9-10).

Through love that is still found today in so many good hearts, Our Lord continues to conquer evil. The light of His truth continues to dispel darkness; and the power of His grace continues to defeat sinfulness.

In faith we know that Jesus is with us always, to the end of time (Mt 28:20), and that He will have the final word.

Christmas time is for us an occasion to stop and reflect on what is essential in life, and on what gives our lives meaning and objective.

The coming of God into our lives is not an event of the past, but an event in the “here and now”. With welcoming and joyful hearts that are full of faith, love and hope, we cry out this Christmas as at all times: Maranatha, come Lord Jesus.

I wish you all a Blessed Christmas 2017.

Fr. Elie



Church's News & Events

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

In observation of the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception that occurs on December 8, and which is a Holy day of obligation, a solemn Mass will be celebrated on Thursday December 7, at 7:00 PM.

Christmas Novena

Christmas Novena is celebrated during the nine days preceding the feast of the Glorious Birth of our Lord. Prayers include Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, where Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, is mystically present with us and graciously communicates Himself to us.

The Novena Prayers will take place every day at 7:00 PM starting on Friday December 15th (Except for Saturday & Sunday since the prayers will take place at Mass). Confessions will be available upon request before or after the Novena's service.

Christmas Midnight Mass

Our solemn and traditional Midnight Christmas Mass will be celebrated on **Sunday December 24th, at 11:00 PM**.

Liturgy on Christmas Day will be celebrated at 11:15 AM.

Christmas Party

The Annual celebration of Christmas party will take place this year on Sunday December 17 after Mass. Volunteers are needed to be in charge of organizing the party.

Sponsors for Christmas party are welcome.

Our sincere thanks go to Mrs. Yasmine Mahfouz and Mrs. Rita Assi that will prepare the food for Christmas party.

Santa Claus will distribute your symbolic gifts to your children.

Admission: \$20 Adults / \$15 Kids under 12

Fund for needy at Christmas

Christmas is about love, charity and sharing. It is a special time to think of the less fortunate among us. Your contribution to a fund set for this purpose in our parish for needy families is an expressive way of living Christmas in its true dimension.

Please let the priest know if you would like to make a contribution towards this fund.

Parish Council meeting

A meeting for the parish council is scheduled for Tuesday December 5, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the church.

Youth Group activity

The Youth Group will meet on Saturday December 2, at 11:30 AM to put up and decorate the Christmas tree in Saint Charbel Hall.



Christmas recital

A Christmas recital will be performed by St Charbel choir on Friday December 15, 2017 at 7:30 PM at our church.

Toys for Tots

A box is placed in the hall in order to collect Christmas gifts for needy children; your donation of a new (not used) unwrapped gift is welcome. The box will be removed one week before Christmas.

New Year's Day Mass

New Year's Day is a Holy Day of Obligation; it is the feast of the circumcision of our Lord, World Day for Peace, and the beginning of a Christian Year (2018 Anno Domini). Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Monday January 1st at **6:00 PM**.

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Christmas Party



Join us in the celebration of a Christmas Party at Saint Charbel hall
On Sunday December 17, 2017, at 12:30 PM (after Liturgy)

Please bring a symbolic gift to your child; Santa Claus will distribute the gifts to your children.

The menu will consist of: **Chicken & Rice (Roz 3a djaj), Fettucini, Kibbee, salad, Dessert and soft drinks.**

Entertainment features Christmas carols, music, dance, and raffle.

Admission: **\$ 20** for Adults / **\$ 15** for Kids.



Choir practice

A choir practice will take place on Tuesday and Thursday December 19 and 21 at 6:30 PM before the Novena's prayers.

Christmas flowers

You are welcome to bring Christmas flowers to the church or to make a donation towards purchasing flowers.

Spiritual Retreat

Aylet Mar Charbel welcomes all parishioners to its "End of the year" retreat at Marywood retreat center on December 29 -30, 2017 starting at 7 PM Friday and ending around 3 PM Saturday.

Saturday lunch cost \$10, other meals are provided free.

Overnight optional accommodations: \$65 to \$75 per night.

The theme of the retreat is "Christian Marriage".

Birth Congratulations

Our congratulations go to Daoud and Marcelle Naddaf for the birth of their new daughter **Emma Christine**.

May God bless her and the entire family.

Maronite Calendars 2018

Maronite calendars 2018 are available at the church for a donation. The proceeds benefit vocations in our Eparchy.

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.

Church Website

You may find more materials and forms on our church's website. Log on www.stmaronjax.com and click on Events/Announcements.

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 as an essential part of true devotion.

Reflection of the month:

“Oh Christian, remember your dignity, and be aware that you share in God's own nature”

Pope St Leo the Great

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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.

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.

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