



## Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church

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Jacksonville, FL 32216  
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Pastor: Father Elie Abi Chedid  
Deacon: Elias Shami

Mass Schedule: Sundays: 11:15 AM

**February 2018**

Volume 17 - Issue 2



**Beloved parishioners,**

The Maronite Catholic Church celebrates the feast of **Saint Maron** (+410), her Father and her Patron saint, on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

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, those who embraced Christianity through his preaching and his example, and later through his disciples, became known as “Beit Maroun” / the “House of Maron” or Maronites; but they did not become a distinct Church until the year 685 AD when Saint John Maron was elected as the first Patriarch of Antioch for the Maronites.

The identity of the Maronite Church is described by five distinguishing marks:

-Maronites are Antiochene -where Christ’s followers were called Christians for the first time- (Acts 11:26).

-Maronites are heirs of Syriac cultural and religious heritage.

-Maronites are Chalcedonian, meaning they were staunch supporters of the Council of Chalcedon, convened in 451 A.D., which taught that Jesus was true God and true man.

-The Maronite Church is a Patriarchal and Monastic Church.

-The Maronite Church is Catholic, in full communion with the Apostolic See of Peter in Rome.

-The Maronite Church is tied to Lebanon, her spiritual homeland and the residence of her Patriarch.

May the prayers of our Father saint Maroun be with us.

**Father Elie**

## **Church’s News & Events**

### *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 Friday February 9, 2018 at St Charbel social hall**

-Doors open at 7:30 PM /Dinner served at 8:15 PM.

-Music and dance.

-Full course buffet dinner.

-BYOB (Bring your own bottle).

**Donation: \$60 Adults / \$35 Children under 10**

**(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**

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## **Ash Monday**

According to the Maronite Liturgical calendar, Lent starts this year on Monday, February 12. 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.

## **Service of the Holy Cross**

Every Friday during the Season of Great Lent, the Service of the Blessing with the Holy Cross (Ziah Assaleeb) will be held at 7:00 PM. Confessions will be available upon request before or after the service.

## **Lenten dinner**

A Lenten meatless dinner will be served on Friday February 23, 2018 at 7:30 PM after the service of the Cross at the church hall. Sponsors are welcome. Donation: \$12

## **Second collections**

A second collection will be taken during all Sundays of Lent for "Eparchial Charities Appeal". On Good Friday the collection will be taken for the Holy Land.

## **Condolences and Memorial Masses**

Our sincere condolences are extended to Rania Saikali and her family upon the passing of her mother **Souad Francis Wakim** occurred in Mieh w Mieh -Lebanon on January 9, 2018.

A Memorial Mass will be offered for the rest of her soul at our church on Sunday February 4, 2018 at 11:15 AM.

Condolences can be offered to the family after Mass at our St Charbel social hall.

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

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Our sincere condolences are also extended to Dr. George Nassar and his family upon the passing of his mother **Georgette Bshara Nassar** occurred in Bekfaya-Lebanon on January 12, 2018.

A Memorial Mass will be offered for the rest of her soul at our church on Sunday February 11, 2018 at 11:15 AM.

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

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Our sincere condolences are also extended to Roula Saliba and her family upon the passing of her father **George Nicholas Rizk** occurred in Lebanon on January 12, 2018.

A Memorial Mass will be offered for the rest of his soul at our church on Sunday February 18, 2018 at 11:15 AM.

Condolences can be offered to the family after Mass at our St Charbel social hall.

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

Our sincere condolences are also extended to George Haddad and his family upon the passing of his sister **Elham Haddad Abi Haydar** occurred in Lebanon on January 18, 2018.

A Memorial Mass will be offered for the rest of her soul at our church on Sunday February 25, 2018 at 11:15 AM.

Condolences can be offered to the family after Mass at our St Charbel social hall.

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

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### **Mass on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month**

A Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Tuesday February 20, at 7:15 PM.

The Mass is served by Saint Charbel Family prayer group.

### **Parish Council meeting**

A meeting for the parish council is scheduled for Tuesday February 20, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the church.

### **Wedding Congratulations**

Our congratulations and best wishes go to **Yara Assi & Nicholas Pappadis** for their holy union in the Mystery of Matrimony. The wedding was held on New Year's Eve at our church.

### **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](http://www.stmaronjax.com) and click on Events/Announcements.

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### **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.

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### Reflection of the month:

**“The fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service.  
The fruit of service is peace”.**

*Mother Theresa*

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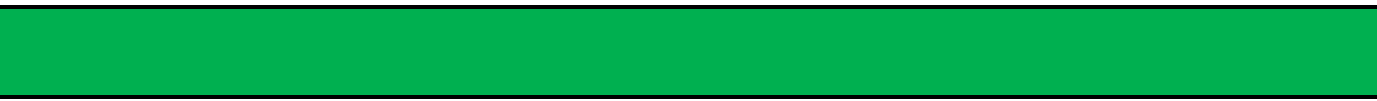
### **Church Website/Donate on line**

Our church introduced a “Donate on line” program using credit cards. The program is available through the church's website: [www.stmaronjax.com](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.



## 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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### EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN 2018 DATES FOR SECOND COLLECTIONS

#### **January 28, 2017 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.)

#### **Lent: Feb. 12 - March 30, 2018 Eparchial Charities Appeal**

#### **March 30, 2018 Holy Land Collection**

(**Good Friday**) (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 15, 2018 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 6, 2018 National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon**

**Feast of O. L. of Lebanon** (All funds collected are sent from the Chancery directly to our Shrine in North Jackson, Ohio.)

#### **May 27, 2018 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 24, 2018 Holy Father's Collection (Peter's pence)**

**Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul** (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 9, 2018 Catholic University of America**

(This collection provides funding for academic scholarships at CUA. Our own seminarians are given a 50% discount in tuition.)

#### **October 21, 2018 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 11, 2018 Maronite Patriarchal Charities**

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

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