



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

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Beloved parishioners:

New Year's Day is designated **World Day of Peace** by the Church and the United Nations. Peace remains the most relevant issue on the mind of every human person of the inhabitants of the earth. Peace has a primordial value on every level: Social or individual, national or international, physical or spiritual. God Almighty is the source of peace. Jesus was called in prophecies the prince of peace (Isaiah 9: 5).

The Bible tells us that man can find and enjoy peace only by seeking God's glory. God Almighty is revealed to those who seek Him with a pure and peace-loving heart; in other words, God can be known by living the virtues of peace, charity and fraternal love, as the maxim goes: "**Where is charity and love there is God**" (*Ubi Caritas et amor Deus ibi est*).

Among those whom Jesus classifies as most blessed in his sermon on the mount, are the peacemakers for “they will be called the children of God” (Matthew 5: 9).

Full trust in God’s supremacy over time and events is the lead for peacemaking (truly living and seeking peace).

The Biblical concept of peace contains much more than the absence of strife and war. Peace has a positive content. Peace is about wholeness and well-being in a large sense. It is about everything that makes life worth living.

The famous prayer of Saint Francis about being ourselves instruments of peace offers us a genuine living style as children of God:

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

May the Lord, the King of Peace, fill our life with this most precious gift. Amen

Father Elie

Church’s News & Events

Feast of the Glorious Epiphany

The Glorious Feast of Epiphany (*Ghtas*) with the rite of blessing of Epiphany water will be celebrated on Sunday January 5.

Bishop’s visit

Bishop Gregory Mansour will have a pastoral visit to our parish on the weekend of January 11-12, 2014.

The Bishop will celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sunday January 12; and he would like to meet with the parish youth on Saturday January 11 at 5:00 PM at the church.

Second collection

A second collection will be taken for United States Catholic Bishops’ Worldwide Charities on Sunday January 26.

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Welcome

Our warm welcome is extended to **Charbel & Nada Ghantous and their daughter** who moved to Jacksonville from Lebanon and joined our church.

Fulfillment of pledges

We are very grateful to our parishioners that have pledged and fulfilled their pledges for the building fund; however, there are still many parishioners who have not yet fulfilled their pledges or did not yet contribute to the building fund. We expect all our parishioners to be part of building God's House according to their ability; for those who have already made contributions towards building fund we hope they can be all the more generous and do a little more according to their means.

The remaining balance for the completion of the new church's construction, after loan, is now around **\$26,000.00**.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE NEW CHURCH

- 3 aisle runners	\$1,700 (each)
- Tree of life	\$2,200.00
- Dedication booklet printing	\$3,500.00



Maintaining God's House

We thank all families and individuals who give their annual dues / assessment. You are urged to make this contribution (\$250) for the year 2014 unless you are financially unable. You can always mail your tithing/ Sunday's offering and/ or assessment 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.

You are strongly encouraged to use the offering envelopes that are available at the church on the entrance table. The use of these envelopes enables you to get an accurate credit of your donations throughout the fiscal year, and help facilitate the church's financial procedures.

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) 519-6619. 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.

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Protecting God's children

Pamphlets outlining the pro-active policy of the United States Catholic Bishops to protect children are available at the Church, 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.

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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:

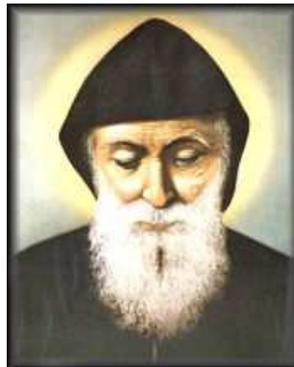
"I give and bequeath to St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church, located on 7032 Bowden Rd in Jacksonville, Florida, _____% of the residue of my estate [Or: The sum of \$_____."

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 Sharbel both spiritually and on the level of involvement.

The order of Saint Sharbel, 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:

"There comes a time in life when birthdays are not for counting candles so much as for counting blessings"

Reflection and motto of the year

**“Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things,
Nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
Nor any other creature will be able to separate us
From the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

Romans 8:38-39

**Our congratulations and good wishes go to
Nicholas Antar & Nammour Nammour
For the opening of their new restaurant
St. Mary's Seafood & More...**

Located At
11290 Old St. Augustine Rd, Jacksonville, Fl 32256

Ph: (904) 233-3319
