



Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church

7032 Bowden Road
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Ph: (904) 448-0203 / Fax: (904) 448-8277
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Pastor: Father Elie Abi Chedid
Deacon: Elias Shami

Mass Schedule: Sundays: 11:15 AM

February 2016

Volume 16 - Issue 2



LENT

Beloved parishioners:

This year we enter the Lenten journey on February 8 with Ash Monday. This spiritually intense Liturgical season is a favorable time to be reconciled to God, to others and to the whole creation. It is also a favorable time to strongly practice Fasting, Prayer, and Almsgiving described as the three Lenten pillars.

We are particularly urged during the current year declared by Pope Francis a **Jubilee year of mercy** to intensely practice acts of mercy, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Mercy is a virtue influencing one's will to have compassion for, and, if possible, to alleviate others' misfortune. It is the teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas that although mercy is the spontaneous product of charity, yet it is to be reckoned a special virtue adequately distinguishable from this latter. In fact the Scholastics also consider it a quality of justice mainly because, like justice, it controls relations between distinct persons. Obviously the need to be taken care of can be either of body or soul. Hence it is customary for both corporal and spiritual works of mercy to be combined.

We are recommended to strongly put into practice the **corporal works of mercy**: Feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked; shelter the homeless; visit (comfort) the sick; visit (ransom) the captive; bury the dead. And the **spiritual works of mercy**: Counsel the doubtful; instruct the ignorant; admonish sinners; comfort the afflicted; forgive offenses; bear wrongs patiently; pray for the living and the dead. They are acts of compassion by which we help others with their emotional and spiritual needs.

Also, we need not neglect or ignore God's commandments and the Church precepts prescribed for our well-being and salvation.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, or THE DECALOGUE

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord God in vain
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day
4. Honor your father and your mother
5. You shall not kill
6. You shall not commit adultery
7. You shall not steal
8. You shall not bear false witness
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife/husband
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods

The 7 commandments / or precepts of the church

- I. To attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- II. To observe the days of abstinence and fasting.
- III. To confess sins to a priest, at least once a year.
- IV. To receive Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist at least once a year during Easter Season.
- V. To contribute to the support of the Church/Tithing.
- VI. To obey the laws of the Church concerning Matrimony.
- VII. To participate in the Church's mission of Evangelization.

We need to be aware as well of the deadly sins that separate us from God:

The 7 original or capital deadly sins:

1. Pride
2. Envy
3. Gluttony
4. Lust

5. Anger
6. Greed
7. Sloth

The 7 New deadly sins

1. ``Bioethical' violations such as birth control
2. ``Morally dubious" experiments such as stem cell research
3. Drug abuse
4. Polluting the environment
5. Contributing to widening divide between rich and poor
6. Excessive wealth
7. Creating poverty

Mortal sins such these can cause sinners serious devastation, the loss of God's grace, and eternal condemnation. Individuals who have committed mortal sins are in desperate need of healing through repentance and obtaining absolution of their sins through the Sacrament (Mystery) of Reconciliation.

Many Christians, adults and children, do not know the "Act of Contrition" that penitents are required to recite in confession. It is recommended that the "Act of Contrition" be recited daily following an examination of conscience especially at the end of the day; there are several versions of the Act of Contrition. This is one of the most common versions:

Act of Contrition

فعل الندامة

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

رَبِّي وَإِلَهِي أَنَا نَادِمٌ مِنْ كُلِّ قَلْبِي عَلَى جَمِيعِ خَطَايَايَ لِأَنِّي بِالْخَطِيئَةِ خَسِرْتُ نَفْسِي
وَالْخَيْرَاتِ الْأَبَدِيَّةَ وَاسْتَحَقَّيْتُ الْعَذَابَاتِ الْجَهَنَّمِيَّةَ، وَلَكِنْ بِالأَكْثَرِ أَنَا نَادِمٌ لِأَنِّي
أَغْظَيْتُكَ وَأَهَنْتُكَ أَنْتَ يَا رَبِّي وَإِلَهِي أَنْتَ الْمُسْتَحَقُّ كُلُّ كِرَامَةٍ وَمَحَبَّةٍ، وَلِهَذَا
السَّبَبِ أَبْغَضُ الْخَطِيئَةَ فَتَوْقَ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، وَأُرِيدُ بِنِعْمَتِكَ أَنْ أَمُوتَ قَبْلَ أَنْ أَغِيظَكَ
فِي مَا بَعْدَ، وَأَقْصِدُ أَنْ أَهْرُبَ مِنْ كُلِّ سَبَبِ خَطِيئَةٍ وَأَنْ أَفِي بِقَدْرِ اسْتِطَاعَتِي عَنْ
الْخَطَايَا الَّتِي فَعَلْتُهَا. آمِينَ

The purpose of the Lenten season is to prepare us for **Easter**, the celebration of Christ salvific death and resurrection, the basis of our Christian belief.

May this holy Liturgical season of Lent be for all of us a driving force for purification and sanctification.

Father Elie

Church's News & Events

Feast of Saint Maroun



Saint Maron's Feast Day falls on February 9th. A solemn Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday February 9, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Also, in celebration of the feast of St. Maron, our church's patron saint, a "Fundraising Hafli" will be held at St Charbel social hall, on Friday February 5, 2016, marking also the second Anniversary of "First Mass" in new church.

Sponsors for this event are welcome. All sponsors will be recognized at dinner and in the church's newsletter.

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 5, 2016** at **St Charbel social hall**.

The party coincides this year with the celebration of the "CARNIVAL (EL-MARFA3) WEEK" that precedes Lent.

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

-Live music entertainment by singer and organist Samer Hilmi, and a violinist.

-Full course buffet dinner prepared by Chef Samir Gebrael.

-BYOB (Bring your own bottle).

Donation: \$50 Adults / \$35 Children under 12
(Sponsors for this event are welcome)

For reservation you may contact any member of the Parish Council
or the church at (904) 448-0203

Ash Monday

According to the Maronite Liturgical calendar, Lent starts this year on Monday, February 8; 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.

Adoration 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.

Second collections

A second collection will be taken on Sunday February 7, 2016 for the church building fund/Loan payment (traditionally taken on the feast of St Maron), and during all Sundays of Lent for “Eparchial Charities Appeal”.

Saint Charbel’s Relics visit Saint Maron’s church

Saint Maron’s Maronite Catholic church, located at 7032 Bowden road, Jacksonville, FL 32216, will be hosting first class Relics of Saint Charbel from Sunday February 14 to Tuesday February 16.

Saint Charbel, a Maronite monk, priest and hermit from Lebanon (May 8, 1828 – December 24, 1898), is one of the greatest saints of modern times. During his life he obtained a wide reputation for holiness and performed many miracles.

A few months after his death, a bright light was seen surrounding his tomb and the superiors opened it to find his body still intact. Since that day, a blood-like liquid flows from his body. Experts and doctors were unable to give medical explanations for its incorruptibility and flexibility. In the years 1950, 1952, 1955 and 1965 his tomb was opened and his body still had the appearance of a living one.

On December 5, 1965 Pope Paul VI presided at the beatification of Father Charbel at the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council. The Pope said: “A hermit of Mount Lebanon is enrolled in the number of the Blessed... a new eminent member of monastic sanctity has by his example and his intercession enriched the entire Christian people ... may he make us understand, in a world largely fascinated by wealth and comfort, the paramount value of poverty, penance and asceticism, to liberate the soul in its ascent to God.”

On October 9, 1977 Pope Paul VI presided at the canonization of Blessed Charbel. He was the first Confessor of the East to be raised to the Altars according to the formal canonical norms and procedures of canonization of the Catholic Church.

As a member of the Lebanese Maronite Order and as a Saint of the Maronite rite, St Charbel is an exemplar of the Maronite expression of Catholic holiness and values. As a Saint of the Universal Church, St Charbel Makhlouf's example of virtue and intercessory power is made available to Christians of all backgrounds; healings and favors received through his intercession were also recognized by non- Christians.

Since his death up to present days, thousands of miracles, worldwide, have been attributed to Saint Charbel. Today this great saint is well-known and venerated in all over the world.

Schedule:

Sunday February 14, 2016

6:00 PM: Welcoming procession followed by Evening prayer (Vespers).

7:00 - 8:00 PM: Devotional prayer and veneration of Relics

Monday February 15, 2016

11:00 AM: Prayer of the Rosary

12:00 PM-1:00 PM: Devotional prayer and veneration of relics

6:00 PM: Devotional prayer and veneration of relics

6:30 PM: Mass

7:30 PM-8:30 PM: Eucharistic Adoration/ Devotional prayer and veneration of relics

8:00 PM: Movie of St Charbel (in St Charbel's social hall)

Tuesday February 16, 2016

11:00 AM: Chaplet of Divine Mercy / Devotional prayer and veneration of relics

12:00 PM: Mass

Parish Council news

Saint Maron's Parish Council held their monthly meeting on January 20, 2016.

The following topics were discussed:

- 1- St. Maron's celebration
- 2- St. Charbel's Relics visit
- 3- Lebanese Food Festival planning
- 4- St. Charbel Order Coordinator /Promotion
- 5- Parish Directory in Excel for Eparchy and parishioners
- 6- Purchase of additional 60 Missals
- 7- Bishop Mansour pastoral visit
- 8- Loan monthly payment
- 9- Financial reports: Profit and Loss/Balance sheet

Topic 1:

St. Maron's Feast Party is scheduled for Friday February 5th.

Dr. John Assi offered to sponsor the entertainment that will feature singer and organist Samer Hilmi with a violinist.

Buffet style food will be prepared by Chef Samir Gebrael; we are looking for a food sponsor.
Donation: \$50 for adults and \$35 for kids.
We will have a 50-50 raffle divided into 3 prizes: \$35%, \$10, and \$5% giving chance to more winners.
For alcohol, we decided each will bring their own. We will provide ice.
Set up will take place Thursday prior to party.

Topic 2:

St. Charbel's Relics will get to our parish coming from Tampa at 6:00PM on Sunday February 14th.
There is lot of printing needed: Ramsho prayers, Mass, Eucharistic adoration and prayers etc.
Our Eparchy is sending 600 pictures of St. Charbel to be distributed.
A nice small table is needed to lay the Relics, also a nice cover and flowers decoration.
Elias Trad offered to approach St. Charbel Family for printing needs. He offered to print poster to advertise these events in our Church.
Small incense bags will be provided to be given out to visitors.
Invitation will be extended to Catholic churches and Eastern churches in Jacksonville.
The next parish where Relics are to be taken is Atlanta, GA. Tony Mahfoud suggested to provide air transportation for the Relics. Dr. John suggested that his daughter Dr. Gabriella will drive them to Atlanta.

Topic 3:

Lebanese Festival: after a long discussion and several suggestions about convenient dates and preparation requirements, the final decision was to have "the Lebanese food festival" organized by our church in February close to St. Maron's day starting next year.

Topic 4:

St. Charbel Order Coordinator: The Eparchy asked that our parish assigns a coordinator to "St Charbel Order". Elias Trad offered to approach the Family of St. Charbel prayer group to assign a member for this position and promote membership.

Topic 5:

Parishioners' contact information: All parishioners are asked to update their contact information: Address, phones, e-mails etc... The Eparchy would like to have a parish directory in Excel sheet. Mrs. Sanaa Saliba volunteered to be in charge of this task.

Topic 6:

Abouna ordered 60 additional Missals to help parishioners participate more actively in the Mass.

Topic 7:

Bishop's Pastoral Visit: Bishop Mansour expressed his wish to visit with us on the celebration of the second Anniversary of the dedication of our church. The visit is scheduled for the weekend of November 19-20 2016; the bishop would like to be present at the special "mortgage burning celebration" that is planned to take place at the fundraising Gala party that will be organized on November 19, 2016.

Topic 8:

The current balance of our church loan is \$150,000.00. Our monthly loan payment is \$1,035.87.

Topic 9

2015 P&L and Balance Sheet reports were presented by Abouna. The reports will be posted on the bulletin board in the hall.

Condolences

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Lina Badaoui Torbey and her family upon the passing of her father **Elias Badaoui** occurred on January 21, 2016 in Baabda, Lebanon.

Our sincere condolences also go to Dr. John Assi and Elie Assi and their family upon the passing of their mother **Safa Karam Assi** occurred on January 23, 2016 in Lebaa, Lebanon.

We pray for the rest of their soul in the kingdom of heaven.

2016 Middle Eastern Women's Show

St George Orthodox church is organizing "2016 Middle Eastern Women's Show" on Saturday February 27th, 2016 from 10am to 4pm at St. George Orthodox Church Banquet Hall, 6300 Bowden Rd. Jacksonville, FL 32216.

Featuring vendors, Exhibitors, Arts & Crafts, Gift Baskets, and much more.....

For more detail regarding renting a booth please contact Sawsan Sousou; Event Chairwoman @ 904-307-9599.

Free Admission.

Property Insurance/Safety instruction

Catholic Mutual Group, our property insurance carrier, has developed a Risk Management program and recommends having all church's staff and volunteers review some online training courses. These courses provide valuable information to assist our members in reducing accidents, injuries and claims. Each course is less than 20 minutes long. To access and view them, please log on www.catholicmutual.org Login Name: 0327stm / Password: *service* then select subgroup *Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn*.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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

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.



EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN
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2016

**DATES FOR SECOND COLLECTIONS
EPARCHIAL CHARITIES APPEAL & ASSESSMENTS**

January 24, 2016	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.)
February 8 - March 27 (Lent)	Eparchial Charities Appeal
March 25, 2016 (Good Friday)	Holy Land Collection (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 24, 2016	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 1, 2016 Feast of O. L. of Lebanon	National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon (All funds collected are sent from the Chancery directly to our Shrine in North Jackson, Ohio.)
May 22, 2016	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 26, 2016 Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul	Holy Father's Collection (Peter's Pence) (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 11, 2016	Catholic University of America (This collection provides funding for academic scholarships at CUA. Our own seminarians are given a 50% discount in tuition.)

October 16, 2016 World Mission Sunday (formerly, Propagation of the Faith)
(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 13, 2016 Maronite Patriarchal Charities
(All the proceeds from this collection are sent directly to our Patriarch for his charitable works.)

Second Collections should be submitted to the Chancery within 2 weeks of the collection

The Eparchial Charities Appeal should be submitted to the Chancery by April 10, 2016.

Assessments will be divided into 10 segments to be paid at the beginning of each month from February through November (inclusive).

(Note that the following three collections, authorized by the USCCB, are **not** taken in our Eparchy: Campaign for Human Development, Retirement Fund for Religious, The Church in Africa, Black and Indian Missions, and the Archdiocese for Military Services.)

Fifty/Fifty draw

The Fifty/fifty draw takes place every month at our church. Tickets are: \$10

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 we were able last year to reduce our loan to \$150,000.00. We hope this year we will be able to pay it off completely.



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.



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.

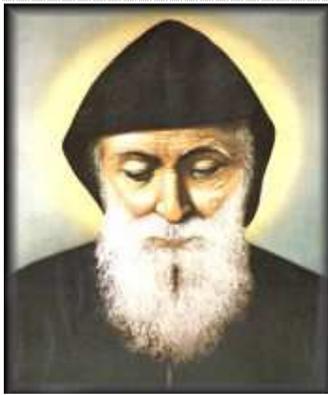
Remembering your Parish in your will is easy to do. Here is an example of the words you can use to do this:

"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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Saint Charbel Order

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)

<u>Type</u>	<u>Donation</u>
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:

“The life of a Christian is nothing but a perpetual struggle against self; there is no flowering of the soul to the beauty of its perfection except at the price of pain”.

St. Padre Pio