



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

June 2014

Volume 14 - Issue 6



Beloved parishioners:

The feast of Pentecost is upon us. On the day of Pentecost Jesus fulfilled his promise to send the Holy Spirit, the Advocate and Paraclete. Pentecost marks the end and the goal of the Easter season. For the Christians it is a memorial of the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and the Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues, an event that

took place fifty days after the resurrection of Our Lord. It also commemorates the official inauguration of the Church by the apostolic preaching.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is something to be shared with others. By its Divine nature, it moves its recipients to action in accord with the Gospel.

The Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1-11) describes in detail the miraculous transformation that took place during the first Pentecost. There was first "a noise like a strong driving wind." Then there were "tongues as of fire" resting on the disciples, and each of them was filled with the Holy Spirit. The first manifestation of their reception of the Holy Spirit came when the apostles began to proclaim the Good News of Jesus, and everyone there (regardless of their many different native languages) was able to understand them "in his own tongue." These languages are in reference to the Jews in the crowds that came from sixteen different geographical regions.

The miracle of tongues on Pentecost therefore reverses the confusion of tongues wrought by God at the Tower of Babel, as described in Genesis 11. Later Acts describes how the Holy Spirit empowered the early Christians to bear witness to Christ by their sharing of love and strong faith. This "anointing by the Holy Spirit" also strengthened the early Christian martyrs during the period of brutal persecution that followed.

St. Paul explains how the sharing of the various spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit enriches the Church. He refers to the varieties of gifts given to the church as coming from the same Spirit who activates all of them in everyone for the common good. They are described as the gifts, fruits and charisms of the Spirit. They may take different forms like prophecy, teaching, administration, acts of charity, healing and speaking in tongues, and they may reside in different persons like apostles, prophets, teachers, healers, and so on.

St. Paul also lists the fruits of the Holy Spirit in his Letter to the Galatians "What the Spirit brings is ... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control" (5:22).

How beautiful is the thought that the Holy Spirit lives within us! Saint Paul reminds the Corinthian community of this fact when he asks, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (I Corinthians 3:16). It is the Holy Spirit who develops our intimacy with God. "God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying, 'Abba! Father!'" (Gal 4:6). "God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). "No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit" (I Corinthians 12:3). Moreover, we know that it is the Holy Spirit who teaches us to pray (Romans 8:26).

The Holy Spirit invigorates, enlightens, guides, and sanctifies the Church. He is at the heart of the sacramental life of the Church. Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders are the Sacramental Mysteries in which people receive the seal of the Holy Spirit. It would be impossible for us to receive Jesus in the Eucharist without the descent of the Holy Spirit at the Epiclesis of the Divine Liturgy. Even forgiveness of sins comes through the power of the Holy Spirit (John 20:21-23).

We need to permit the Holy Spirit to direct our lives by constantly remembering and appreciating his holy presence within us, by seeking the assistance of the Spirit in our

thoughts, words, and deeds, and in the breaking of our evil habits, by listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us through the Bible and through the good counsel of others, by fervently praying for the gifts, fruits and charisms of the Holy Spirit, and by renewing our lives.

Life in the Holy Spirit is a life of commitment, of sacrifice, and of joy. May the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, fix our broken world, and may He bring forth love, sanctity, harmony and peace. Amen

Father Elie

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Prayer to the Sacred Heart

Hail! O Sacred Heart of Jesus, living and quickening source of eternal life, infinite treasure of the Divinity, and burning furnace of divine love. Thou art my refuge and my sanctuary, O my amiable Savior. Consume my heart with that burning fire with which Thine is ever inflamed. Pour down on my soul those graces which flow from Thy love, and let my heart be so united with Thine, that our wills may be one, and mine in all things, be conformed to Thine. May Thy divine will be equally the standard and rule of all my desires and of all my actions. Amen.

(The month of June is dedicated to the adoration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus)

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Shrine Dedication





On Sunday May 4, 2014, the feast of Our Lady of Lebanon, our church community celebrated the dedication ceremony of the newly erected shrine of our Lady of Lebanon that was built on the church's ground between the new church and the hall. After Mass, parishioners held a procession to the shrine where Father Elie consecrated the shrine with special prayers of dedication and the sprinkling of Holy Water. Afterward, the Ziah "Ya Om Allah" along with the blessing with the icon of Our Lady of Lebanon was conducted.

Average construction cost
Our Lady's shrine and area on the church's ground

-Engineering/Permit & Management	\$15,000
-Stones (Material & Labor)	\$15,000
-Foundations/Structure steel/Sheathing	\$4,000
-Slab	\$2,000
-Walls/CMU blocks/Stucco (Labor & Material)	\$2,000
-Lift	\$750
-Scaffold	\$400
-Tiles (Material & Labor)	\$1,200
-Pavers/stepping-stones (Material & Labor)	\$6,000
-Sand	\$1,000
-Plastic wraps	\$150
-2 cedars trees	\$500
-Irrigation pipes and faucet	\$500

-Draining pipes	\$750
-Pressure wash/painting (Pond & shrine)	\$2,000
-Stone sealer/Crown/Base coat	\$200
-Electric work/Lights	\$1,500
-Door	\$200
-Trees cut & trimming	\$3,000
-Clearing bushes and trees by creek	\$800
-Fence (around shrine area)	\$5,000
-Concrete slabs/shrine area	\$5,500
-Spiral stairs on tower (to be done)	\$2,500
-Statue	\$750
-Plaque	\$130
-Dumpster/ Portable sanitation	\$330
-Landscape & cleaning (1 year)	\$300
TOTAL:	\$71,460.00
Donations made towards shrine:	\$24,200.00
Savings /volunteering:	\$28,510.00
Balance paid from building fund:	\$18,750.00
Actual cost	\$42,950.00
Cost of shrine (excluding area)	\$33,330.00



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, 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.
- **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. Unless for emergency, please use bathrooms in the hall.**
- All phones and devices are not allowed in the church or are to be turned off during Mass.
- **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.



Church's News & Events

Feast of Pentecost

The feast of Pentecost is one of the major Christian feasts. It falls this year on June 8. According to Eastern rite Tradition a special rite of kneeling to the Most Holy Trinity and blessing and sprinkling of Holy Water takes place at Mass after Epiclesis and before the communion of the faithful.

Father's Day celebration

In celebration of Father's Day, Saint Maron's council of the Knights of Columbus is organizing a barbecue luncheon after Mass on the shrine premises.

Adults: \$15 / kids under 12: \$10

In preparation to this event the Knights of Columbus and the youth group will help with cleaning and set-up work around the shrine on Saturday June 14, at 10:00 AM.

Our thanks go to Saint Maron's council of the knights of Columbus for sponsoring the ten concrete tables; the council will be organizing a fundraising for the picnic area tables and benches. Total cost: \$5, 600 (Including transportation and installation).

Second collections

A second collection will be taken on Sunday June 1st, 2014 for Catholic communications Campaign and on Sunday June 29, 2014 for Peter's Pence (the Holy Father collection).

Dedication date

Please mark down the date for the formal dedication of our new church: **Sunday November 16, 2014 at 5:00 PM** followed by a dinner reception.

Rope at the entrance of the church

Please make sure when you come in and go out from the church parking to pull the rope all the way to the hook. Please do not drive over the rope. Hopefully soon an electronic gate will be installed. Sponsors for church gate installation are welcome.

Graduation Congratulations



Free Printables - Fantastic Family Party
www.fantasticfamilyparty.com

Our wholehearted congratulations go to:

- Sarah Marie Saliba**
- Andree Basset**
- Chris Richa**
- Christopher Larocque**
- Taylor Shami**

For their graduation from high school.

And to

- Maroun Abou Tayeh**
- Daniella Sousou**

For their graduation from college

Commemorative Ad Book

A Commemorative Ad Book will be published to mark the dedication of our church along with the consecration Mass and ceremony. This publication will feature warm messages, greetings, memorials and tributes to loved ones from businesses, families and individuals. You are asked to place an ad in this book and also help find sponsors.

The ad/message can include pictures, letter-heads and logos.

You can either mail or e-mail your advertisement to the church at stmaronjax@stmaronjax.com. Please make checks payable to "Saint Maron's church". All donations are tax deductible.

- Full page **full color** \$1,500
- Full-page Gold Border \$1,300
- Full page Silver Border \$1,000
- Full page regular \$750
- Half page B/W \$500
- Qtr page B/W \$250
- Business card size B/W \$150
- Back Cover Full page/ Full color \$2,500 (sold)**
- Inside Front Cover Full color \$2,000**
- Inside Back Cover Full color \$2,000**

For more information and assistance you may call Elias Trad (561) 809-8668 or Sanaa Saliba (904) 514-4114, Ad Committee. Forms are available at the church and through Dr. John Assi or Dr. Gaby Bahri. Although the deadline for submitting all Ads is August 30, 2014 you are encouraged to place your Ad as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support, promotion and consideration.



Commemorative Ad Book Form
 SAINT MARON MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
 7032 BOWDEN ROAD, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32216
 CONTACT: (904) 448-0203/E-MAIL: STMARONJAX@COMCAST.NET



CHURCH DEDICATION
 NOVEMBER 16, 2014

There are many opportunities to advertise and sponsor

All ads appear in the commemorative ad book and will be also listed in a local guide. Other options include full color ads, name on web site, logo or name on a digital screen or sponsor wall.

Book Size: The commemorative ad book is 8.5"x11", perfect bound with no bleeds. Full page is about 7"x 9", half page horizontal is about 7"x 4.25", and quarter page ads are 3" x 4".

Digital: Upload or email your high resolution PDF, JPG, TIFF or EPS file(s)

Text-Only Ads: Clearly print copy that you would like to be typeset on paper and send to address below

Camera-Ready: Mail your camera-ready art to the address below. Paste-up or tape clean text, images and photos at the correct size. It may be resized to fit. Send camera-ready art with your order form and payment to:

Saint Maron Church
 7032 Bowden Rd. Jacksonville, FL 32216 / Ph: (904) 448-0203

For more information and assistance you may call Elias Trad (561) 809-8668 or Sanaa Saliba (904) 514-4114, Ad Committee

Submit your ad by e-mail:
www.stmaronjax@stmaronjax.com

1] Please circle the ad(s) you are placing and calculate total cost.

AD SIZE	DESCRIPTION	COST
Diamond Sponsor	Full page color, sponsor wall, digital screen, guide and web	\$ 1,500
Gold Sponsor	Full page color, digital screen, guide and web	\$ 1,300
Silver Sponsor	Full page color, guide and web	\$1,000
Full Page	B&W	\$ 750
Half Page	B&W	\$ 500
Quarter	B&W	\$ 250
Business Card	B&W	\$150

Special Pages

Inside Front Cover	Full Page/Color	\$2,000
Inside Back Cover	Full Page/Color	\$2,000
Total Cost \$		_____

3] Please provide your information

Parish/ Business* _____
 Your Name* _____
 Address* _____
 City* _____ State* _____ Zip* _____
 Phone* _____-_____ FAX* _____-_____
 Email* _____

For full and half page ads, please use another sheet. For smaller ads, please use space below to lay out ad.
 I would like to sponsor an educational page (please add up to 3 lines below to be added at the bottom of the page)

Church OFFICE USE ONLY AMT. PD. \$ _____ CHK# _____ CASH _____ DATE _____
COPIES: White – Church Yellow– Your Copy

Use of the church hall

Even though our church hall is in need of some renovation especially floor replacement, it will be available for use for your celebrations. Please contact the church for reservations.

Sponsors for new Missals

Each family/ individual is asked to help defray the cost of the new missal (**\$30 each**). Also Sponsors for the new books are welcome.

Missals must not be removed from church nor handled by small children.

51st Annual NAM Convention

This year's NAM (National Apostolate of Maronites) Convention will be hosted by Our Lady of Victory Maronite church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from July 2 to 6, 2014.

For reservation at the **Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown** 600 Commonwealth Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 call: (412) 391-4600. The code for special rate (\$125 per night) is: **NAM**. Registration forms will be available at the Church. For more information log on to: www.namnews.org

In-Parish tuition rates at Catholic schools

Bishop Felipe Estevez, Bishop of Saint Augustine Diocese, wrote to Father Elie informing him of a new Diocesan policy he introduced that the children of Eastern rite parishes located in this diocese be afforded the same in-parish tuition rates as Latin rite children attending the same parochial school. The only condition is that they reside within the territorial boundary of the parish whose parochial school they want to attend.

The parents of an Eastern Rite Catholic student should never be required or encouraged to register in a Latin Rite parish against their will, solely to obtain the Catholic in-parish tuition rate.

At the same time he asked that every effort should be done from Eastern parishes to support parochial schools which our students attend.

We heartily thank Bishop Estevez for his consideration.

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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.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE NEW CHURCH

- Tree of life	\$2,200.00
- Dedication booklet printing	\$3,500.00
- Shed	\$800.00
- 10 tables with benches (Shrine area)	\$560 (each set)
- Entrance gate	\$11,500.00



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.

Welcome to St. Maron Catholic Church, Jacksonville Florida

Home Events Gallery Our Church Donate Prayers Maronite History Links

St. Maron Prayer

Sunday Mass 11:1.Sam

Mission Statement

Donations

Contacts:

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.

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.registerlebani.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!



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:

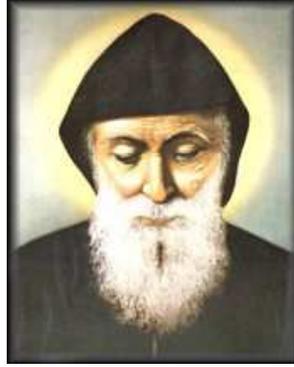
"I give and bequeath to St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church, located on 7032 Bowden Rd in Jacksonville, Florida, _____% of the residue of my estate [Or: The sum of \$_____."

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.



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:

**“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for your selves”**

Our Lord Jesus (Mt 11:29)

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
