



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

October 2014

Volume 14 - Issue 10



Beloved parishioners:

The time has come for the formal dedication of our newly built church. The dedication of our new church is certainly a joyful and blessed event, and a milestone in the history of our community. It represents the crowning of all our challenging endeavors and efforts.

As we now got to the blessed and memorable day of the formal consecration of our church, where we can gather as one family in a permanent House of God, we rejoice in dwelling and worshipping in this new House of God.

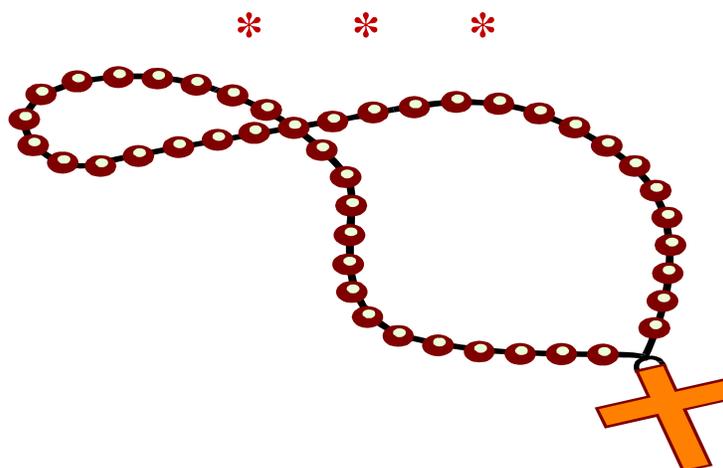
Every one of us should consider himself/herself in charge of the House of God. Everyone's involvement for the success of this great event is needed. No one of us should consider himself a guest in the Church of God but an active and responsible member of His household. And, in everything we do in this life, as believers, we should be seeking first and foremost the glory and the love of God.

Let each one of us ask oneself: what can I do for my community, for my church? How can I serve others better? How can I use my time, talents and treasure in witnessing to God, serving His Church and fostering my faith? How can I carry out human and Christian values in this dark and difficult time our world is going through today? How can I bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to people around me? How can I build up God's kingdom on earth, as I pray in the Lord's Prayer: "Your kingdom come..."? Our Lord said: "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. (Mt 12:30)

When I fall short in practicing my faith I contribute to the destruction of God's work! For instance, the faithful that does not show up for church commits triple sin: He does not observe God's commandment to keep holy the Lord's Day; he does not support his brothers and sisters' faith; he does not support the church so causing it to fail.

I pray that this exciting and special occasion for our community be joyful, blessed, fruitful, and filled of God's richest graces.

Father Elie



October, month of the Rosary

The month of October is dedicated to the prayer of the rosary honoring Our Lady of the Rosary. We should all benefit from this simple yet very powerful prayer.

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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.
- **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.



Church's News & Events

Formal dedication of our church

The formal dedication of our new church will take place on **Sunday November 16, 2014** at **5:00 PM**. Please note that **there will be no other Mass on that Sunday**.

If you have special guests you would like to invite to this special ceremony please inform the priest as soon as possible in order to make proper arrangements.

Dedication Banquet

After the solemn Mass of consecration of the new church, a dinner reception will be held at JACKSONVILLE MARRIOTT. Admission is only \$50. You are urged to purchase your tickets as soon as possible.

Please note that the price per ticket will be \$75 after October 20.

Sponsors for the Dedication Banquet

The dedication committee decided to lower the ticket price for the banquet to make it accessible to all parishioners. Since the charge for the banquet is less than our cost we welcome sponsors for the banquet. Sponsors will be recognized by name during the dinner reception.

Sponsors for entrance gate

An electronic entrance gate is needed for the church. The cost is approximately \$11,500.00 (according to two received bids). We are trying to find lower price. Your sponsorship or donation towards this project is welcome and needed.

Second collection

A second collection will be taken on Sunday October 19, 2014 for World Mission Sunday (Formerly, Propagation of the Faith).

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.

Entrance door during Mass

In order to maintain quiet and undistracted atmosphere at Mass. The side doors will be locked once the Mass has started. The entrance door to be used during Mass is from the drop-off area.

Choir Practice

Choir practice will be taking place once or twice weekly in preparation of the dedication Mass. Announcements for practice schedule will be made at Mass. Choir Practices on schedule now are for Wednesdays October 8 and 15 at 6:30 PM.

Wedding Congratulations

Our warm congratulations go to **Angela Karam & Abdallah Hannoush** on their holy union in the Sacrament of Matrimony. Their marriage took place in Springfield, MA on August 31, 2014. May God bless their life together.

Memorial Mass

Our sincere condolences go to Rachad Mahfouz and his family upon the death of his mother **Victoria Mahfouz** in Lebanon.

A forty days Memorial Mass will be offered for the rest of her soul on Sunday October 26, 2014 at our church.

Commemorative Ad Book

The deadline to place an Ad in the commemorative Ad Book, that will be published to mark the dedication of our church, **has been extended to October 20, 2014**. A sample catalogue of Ads is available at the church to help you choose your advertisement/message.

This publication is featuring 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.

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.

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

Our church hall is 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.

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.



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 to help pay off the church loan.



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) 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.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:

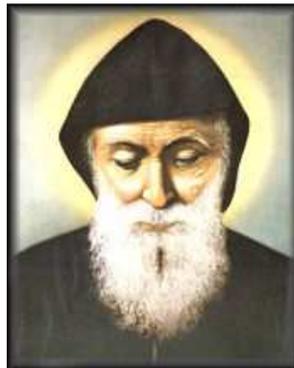
"I give and bequeath to St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church, located on 7032 Bowden Rd in Jacksonville, Florida, _____% of the residue of my estate [Or: The sum of \$_____."

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.



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:

“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to God and each other”

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

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
