



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 2017

Volume 16 - Issue 10



Beloved parishioners:

The month of October is dedicated to the holy Rosary. According to our Maronite Liturgical calendar, the first Sunday of October marks the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The first week of this blessed month is also marked by two commemorations of two great saints: **Saint Theresia of Lisieux** (Feast Day October 1st) and **Saint Francis of Assisi** (Feast Day October 4).

Sister Teresa of the Child Jesus, Carmelite of Lisieux, better known as the Little Flower of Jesus, born at Alençon, France, January 2, 1873; died at Lisieux September 30, 1897 at the age of 24.

When she was fifteen she applied for permission to enter the Carmelite Convent, and being refused by the superior, went to Rome with her father, as eager to give her to God as she was to give herself, to seek the consent of the Holy Father, Leo XIII. Finally, in April 1888, at the unusual age of fifteen, Thérèse Martin entered the convent of Lisieux where two of her sisters had preceded her.

She was canonized in the year 1914, and declared Doctor of the Church in 1979.

St. Francis of Assisi is the Founder of the Franciscan Order, born at Assisi, Italy, in 1181, died on October 3, 1226.

Even though he came from a wealthy family, Francis showed an instinctive sympathy with the poor and wanted to embrace poverty.

While he was praying before an ancient crucifix in the forsaken wayside chapel of **St. Damian's** below the town, he heard a voice saying: "Go, Francis, and repair my house, which as you see is falling into ruin."

Early in August 1224, Francis retired to **La Verna**, there to keep forty days fast. During this retreat the sufferings of Christ became more than ever the burden of his meditations. It was on or about the feast of the **Exaltation of the Cross**, while praying on the mountainside that appeared on his body the visible marks of the five wounds of the Crucified (stigmata). After the reception of the **stigmata**, Francis suffered increasing pains throughout his frail body, already broken by continual mortification.

He found in all created things, however trivial, some reflection of the Divine perfection, and he loved to admire in them the beauty, power, wisdom, and goodness of their Creator. And so it came to pass that he saw sermons even in stones and good in everything; hence his custom of claiming brotherhood with all manner of animate and inanimate objects. The personification, therefore, of the elements in the "**Canticle of the Sun**" is something more than a mere literary figure. Francis's love of creatures arose from that deep and abiding sense of the **presence of God**, which underlined all he said and did.

The order that he founded "the poor brothers of Jesus" was recognized by Pope Urbanus. Francis died at the age of 45.

I wish you a Blessed month of October, and may the prayers of Our Lady of the Rosary, Saint Therese and Saint Francis be with us always. Amen

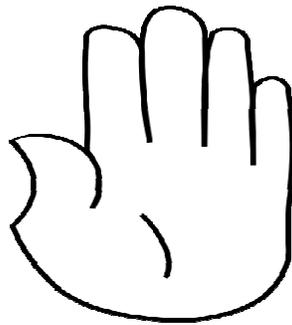
Fr. Elie



Saint Francis' Prayer before the Crucifix



Most High, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me
true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out
Your holy and true command. Amen.



Saint Francis' Blessing

May the Lord bless you.
May the Lord keep you.
May He show His face to you and have mercy. May He turn to you His
countenance and give you peace.
The Lord bless you.



Church's News & Events

Prayer of the Rosary

The prayer of the Rosary will take place before Mass, on Sunday October 1st, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary at 10:55 AM. You are encouraged to pray the Rosary daily especially during the month of October dedicated to the holy Rosary.

Memorial Mass

A Memorial Mass will be offered in memory of **John Charles Kowkabany** on Sunday October 1st. The Mass is requested by his sisters Denise and Claudia Kowkabany.

Pilgrimage to Our Lady's shrine

The feast of Our Lady de La Leche is celebrated on October 11. It was added for observance in the Diocese of St Augustine by the Vatican in 2012. Devotion to Mary under this title came to St Augustine city in the early 17th century by Spanish missionaries and colonists.

On **Thursday October 12**, our church is organizing a small pilgrimage to the shrine of our Lady of La Leche in Saint Augustine.

The prayer of the Rosary will be held at **11:00 am** at the shrine. If you would like to car pool please meet at St. Maron church at **10:00 am**.

The shrine' address is: 27 Ocean Ave, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

Mass on the 3rd Tuesday of the month

A Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday October 17, at 7:15 PM.

The Mass is served by Saint Charbel prayer group.

Choir practice

A choir practice will take place on Tuesday October 17, 2017 before Mass at 6:00 PM. everyone is welcome to join the choir practice.

Parish Council meeting

A meeting for the parish council is scheduled for Tuesday October 3rd, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the church.

Youth group meeting

A meeting for all the youth of our parish (age 13 and up) is scheduled for Saturday October 21, 2017 at 11:30 AM at the church.

All youth are encouraged to attend. Parents are also welcome to join the meeting.

Religious Education

Families who would like to enroll their kids in religious education program at Saint Maron church may contact Dr. Gaby Bahri, religious education coordinator (C: (904) 465-4216 / E-mail: Gaby@BahriDental.com), and provide their kids name, age and grade. Volunteering teachers are also needed.

Order of saint Charbel

This year, the third Sunday of October has been designated as “Order of Saint Charbel Sunday” in both Maronite Eparchies in the United States. The Order of Saint Charbel is vitally important in providing financial and spiritual support for our seminarians, who are crucial for the future of our Maronite Church. Please prayerfully consider joining the Order. For more information, please visit www.orderstsharbel.org

Second collection

A second collection will be taken on Sunday October 22, 2017 for “World Mission Sunday”.

On World Mission Sunday, all churches contribute to a collection for the work of evangelization around the world. This annual celebration gives us a chance to reflect on the importance of mission work for the life of the Church. It reminds us that we are one with the Church around the world and that we are all committed to carrying on the mission of Christ, however different our situations may be.

Black-Tie Gala

On the occasion of the third Anniversary of the solemn Dedication of our new church, the Parish Council is organizing a fund-raising Gala party. This event will take place on Saturday November 18, 2017 at St Charbel’s hall. Detailed information will be communicated to you later.

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.

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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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.

NAM Cedar's Tree Project



The National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) in cooperation with “*Jouzour Loubnan*” is sponsoring a memorial grove of 10,000 Cedar Trees in the mountains of Lebanon. Members and friends are asked to complete an application and forward it with a donation.

Trees may be sponsored by individuals, families, NAM Chapters, clubs, and organizations.

Each tree sponsored will be commemorated by an inscribed plaque to be mounted on a board which stands at the entrance of the forested area.

All participating donors will receive a Certificate of Appreciation noting their donation and the GPS location of their tree.

The plan will not only help conserve Lebanon natural beauty, but profits made from this project will help build Maronite Missions in the USA.

Sponsorship of a 15-20 cm tree is \$50.

Sponsorship of an 80-100 cm tree is \$100.

For more information, you may visit NAM's website at www.namnews.org and select Cedars Tree Project.

National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM)

National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) assists its bishops, serves as a link in unifying Maronite laity in the U.S., strengthens the bond between clergy and laity. NAM helps

preserve Syriac-Maronite traditions by making people aware of the rich Maronite heritage and by fostering pride in the Maronite Church.

Projects/Programs sponsored by NAM

- Ø National Annual Maronite Convention
- Ø Regional Conventions
- Ø Spiritual Retreats
- Ø Heritage Programs
- Ø Vocation Awareness
- Ø Scholarships for High School graduates
- Ø Scholarship for College Students
- Ø Scholarships for a semester in Lebanon
- Ø Supporting Missions in the US
- Ø Youth and Young Adults programs
- Ø Gold Massabki awards
- Ø Silver Massabki awards
- Ø Faith of the Mountain awards

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY/ KEEP THE FLAME BURNING /MAKE A DIFFERENCE

www.namnews.org / nam@namnews.org
[914-964-3070](tel:914-964-3070) / [914-964-3071](tel:914-964-3071) (fax)

Reflection of the month:

“Lord, what do you desire me to do?”

St. Francis of Assisi





**EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN
THE CHANCERY**

109 Remsen Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201-4212
Tel: (718) 237-9913 Fax: (718) 243-0444
chancerystmaron@verizon.net www.stmaron.org

2017

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

- January 22, 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.)
- February 27 -
April 14 (Lent)** **Eparchial Charities Appeal**
- April 14, 2017
(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 30, 2017** **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 7, 2017
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 28, 2017** **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 25, 2017
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 10, 2017** **Catholic University of America**
(This collection provides funding for academic scholarships at CUA. Our own seminarians are given a 50% discount in tuition.)

October 22, 2017 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 12, 2017 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 May 1, 2017.

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.)

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

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.
- 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.

The Diocese of Saint Augustine treats all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and deals with all allegations in a prompt, confidential and thorough manner. To Report Abuse, call: Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator (904) 262-3200, ext. 129, or the Department of Children and Families at 1-800-96-Abuse (800) 962-2873.

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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Charitable gift annuity to benefit the Eparchy of Saint Maron

A charitable gift annuity to benefit the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn and the local parish is a generous expression of your support for God's work on this earth. Catholic Gift Annuities are now available through a program offered by Catholic Extension Society, one of the largest, oldest and strongest managers of annuities in the U.S. By taking out a Catholic Gift Annuity you may be eligible for a charitable tax deduction, receive fixed payments for life and leave a legacy to the Eparchy of Saint Maron or to your parish. To learn how you can join thousands of Catholics who invest in the future of the Catholic Church, please visit www.catholicgiftannuity.org or call 1-800-842-7804 and tell them you want to establish an annuity to help the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn.

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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.

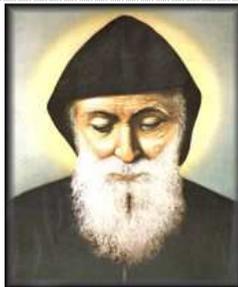
Remembering your Parish in your will is easy to do. Here is an example of the words you can use to do this:

"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 Charbel



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)

Type

Donation

- 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 *(only for individuals under 25 years old)*

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: _____