



## Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church

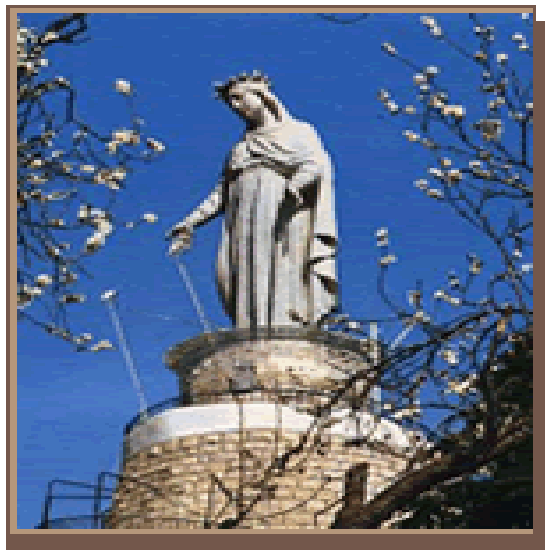
7032 Bowden Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32216  
Ph: (904) 448-0203 / Fax: (904) 448-8277  
E-mail: StMaronJax@Comcast.net

Pastor: Father Elie Abi Chedid  
Deacon: Elias Shami

**Mass Schedule: Sundays: 11:15 AM**

**May 2014**

**Volume 14 - Issue 5**



### **Beloved parishioners:**

On the first Sunday of May, the Maronite Church celebrates the feast of **Our Lady of Lebanon**. This feast was established by Patriarch Howayek in the year 1908 at the dedication of the great national shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon erected on the hill of Harissa-Lebanon. The building of this shrine was to mark the Golden jubilee of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception that was declared by Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1854, and the apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Lourdes, France.

**Our Lady of Lebanon** is a Marian shrine and a pilgrimage site, honoring the patron saint of the Mediterranean country of Lebanon. The Lebanese Christians as well as the

Druze and Muslims have a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Maronite Patriarch of Antioch named her the "Queen of Lebanon" in 1908 upon completion of the shrine. Overlooking the bay of Jounieh, the shrine has become a major tourist attraction and an international Marian site.

Maronite Patriarch Elias Howayek and the Apostolic delegate in Lebanon and Syria, the Archbishop Carlos Duval were the first to come up with the idea of building the sanctuary of Our Lady of Lebanon in order to honor the Virgin Mary and to mark the love of the Lebanese people for her throughout generations.

In 1907, the French-made, painted in white, 20 tons-bronze statue of the Virgin Mary, was placed on the top of a natural stones tower erected on top of a hill, 650 meters above sea level, in the village of Harissa, 25 km north of Beirut. It was made up of seven sections. The stone base has a bottom perimeter of 64m, an upper perimeter of 12m and with an overall height of 20m. The height of the statue is 8.50m while its perimeter is 5.50m.

In 1954, Saint Pope John XXIII, then Cardinal Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, was delegated to Lebanon as representative of Pope Pius XII to preside over the Centennial jubilee celebrations of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception and the Golden jubilee of the erection of the national shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon.

Saint Pope John Paul II visited the shrine when he made an official visit to Lebanon on May 10, 1997. He celebrated Mass in the modern Basilica.

On December 8, 1998, the Vatican announced that the World Day of the Sick would be celebrated on February 11, 1999 at Our Lady of Lebanon in Harissa. In his message for the World Day of the Sick, Pope John Paul II prayed that Our Lady of Lebanon who had watched over the agonizing suffering of the Lebanese people could help all those who were suffering in the world.

Pope Benedict XVI launched an appeal for peace in Lebanon and the Middle East on January 28, 2007 by invoking the protection of Our Lady of Lebanon. He said, "To Christians in Lebanon, I repeat the exhortation to be promoters of real dialogue between the various communities, and upon everyone I invoke the protection of Our Lady of Lebanon." Pope Benedict XVI also visited the shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon during his apostolic visit to Lebanon in September 2012 and celebrated private Mass in the old chapel. The Papal Embassy, as well as the residences of four Eastern Rite Catholic Patriarchs, is in the vicinity of Our Lady of Lebanon's shrine of Harissa.

As Maronites and Eastern Catholics, our entire history was combined to our immense love to the Virgin Mary; in spoken Lebanese we affectionately address her with "Adra". We promptly invoke her name in our needs and distress.

On her Feast Day, we rededicate our churches and families, as well as our homeland, Lebanon, to her motherly care evoking the words of the Holy Bible in this regard: "You are all beautiful, my beloved, and there is no blemish in you. Come from Lebanon, my bride, come from Lebanon, come"! (Song of Songs 4:7-8). We pray through her intercession for peace in the world, particularly in the turbulent Middle East. Amen

**Father Elie**

# “REGINA CEILI LAETARE”

## PRAYER

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, Alleluia.  
The Son whom you merited to bear, Alleluia.  
Has risen as He said, Alleluia.  
Pray for us to God, Alleluia.  
Rejoice and be glad O Virgin Mary, Alleluia!  
For the Lord is truly risen, Alleluia.



### 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
-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
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$71,460.00</b>
<b>Donations made towards shrine:</b>	<b>\$24,200.00</b>

<b>Savings /volunteering:</b>	<b>\$28,510.00</b>
<b>Balance paid from building fund:</b>	<b>\$18,750.00</b>
<b>Actual cost</b>	<b>\$42,950.00</b>
<b>Cost of shrine (excluding area)</b>	<b>\$33,330.00</b>



### 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.

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## Church's News & Events

### Feast of Our Lady of Lebanon/Shrine dedication

The first Sunday of May is the feast of Our Lady of Lebanon. After Mass, the dedication of the newly erected shrine of our Lady of Lebanon on the church's ground will be conducted. A procession will take place to the shrine where the prayers of dedication and the "Ziah Assoura" (Blessing with the Icon of Our Lady) will be held.

### Marian prayers

The Ladies of the Rosary will have Marian prayers at the new church during the month of May on Thursdays at 11:00 AM; everyone is invited and welcome to join them.

### First Holy Communion Congratulations

Our congratulations go to:

- Celina Richard Meouchi
- Elias Charley Akel
- Rayan Robert Assi
- Leah Nassim El-Hajj
- Ranya Imad El-Jassous



On the occasion of their first holy communion; we pray for God's blessings upon them. The First Communion ceremony in our church will be held on Sunday May 18, 2014.

### Second collection

A second collection will be taken on Sunday May 4, 2014 for the National shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in North Jackson, Ohio.

### 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.

## 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](mailto: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. The deadline for submitting all Ads is August 30, 2014.

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](mailto: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.

## **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.

## **51<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.namnews.org)

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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.



The balance for the completion of remaining items for the new church's construction, after loan (\$411,000.38), is now around **\$7,000.00**.

### ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE NEW CHURCH

- Tree of life	\$2,200.00
- Dedication booklet printing	\$3,500.00
- Shed	\$800.00
-8 tables and 16 benches (Shrine area)	\$500 (each set)



### **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](http://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
- Our History
- Links



Donation buttons

The official inauguration of our new church, St. Maron, will be November 16th, 2014.

### St. Maron Prayer

O Lord, accept the prayers we offer in memory of our Father, St. Maron. Bless and protect the people who bear your name. Make us worthy of his holy legacy that we may carry the message of your Gospel throughout the world. Grant faithfulness to his people and courage to his inheritance.



### Mission Statement



To practice our old Christian faith, and witness to it according to one of the oldest Traditions of the Catholic Church, the Aramaic Antiochene Tradition, which pure origin is our Lord Jesus Christ and his Apostles.


### Praying The Rosary



### Mass

Every Sunday 11:30 a.m.


[Click to Donate](#)




**He who builds God's house, God will Build his house.  
Thank you for your Donation.**

### Contact Information

Pastor: Father Elie Abi Chedid  
904.448.0203

Address: 7032 Bowden Rd. Jacksonville, Florida 32216  
904.448.8277

Email: [stmaronjax@stmaronjax.com](mailto:stmaronjax@stmaronjax.com)

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/](http://www.usccb.org/ocyp/). Likewise information on our own Eparchial policy on sexual abuse can be found on our Eparchial website [www.stmaron.org](http://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](http://www.projectroots.net) & [www.registerlebnani.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.yes-i-want.com). Together, we can effect change!

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## Bequests and Planned Giving

Have you considered including your Parish in your will? A will is an expression of your commitment to the principles, people and institutions that you cherish here on earth. As an active participant and a supporter of your Church, a bequest in your will ensures that the work of the Maronite Church can continue after you are gone. It is a lasting testament that has great significance.

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

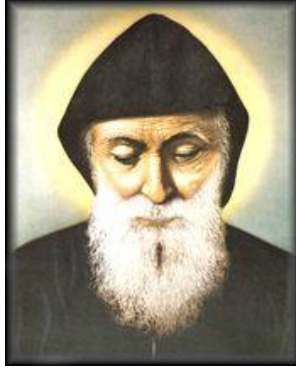
"I give and bequeath to St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church, located on 7032 Bowden Rd in Jacksonville, Florida, \_\_\_\_\_% of the residue of my estate [Or: The sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_."

## Tax-Smart Giving of Appreciated Stock or other Assets

The gift of an asset such as common stock or mutual fund shares is a smart way to make a contribution and receive maximum tax benefits based on the value of the asset. Gifts of other appreciated assets such as land, antiques, and homes, can also be utilized as potential gifts with valuable tax benefits. Gifts of these assets should be considered on a case-by-case basis and discussed with an accountant or tax adviser.

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# Order of Saint Sharbel



Bishop Gregory Mansour has asked all clergy in the Eparchy of Saint Maron to assist in enriching the order of Saint Sharbel both spiritually and on the level of involvement.

The order of Saint Sharbel, established in 1980, is an organization of lay people and clergy who have pledged their spiritual strength and financial support to the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn.

Its first objective is to direct financial assistance towards educating the seminarians of our Eparchy.

When it will be possible the second objective is to provide additional benefits to our retired clergy in order for them to live with dignity and make it easier for them to share the wisdom of their years.

One way in sharing in the Order's objectives is to become a member. There are two forms of membership annual and perpetual. All billing comes from the Chancery Office and is paid to the Chancery.

## **Annual Membership**

An Annual Member is one who pledges to donate \$500.00 annually or four equal installments of \$125.00 yearly (yearly membership starts from the month you join).

## **Perpetual Membership**

A Perpetual member is one who makes a one-time donation of \$5,000 to the Order's Trust Fund. Perpetual members can choose to make four equal installments over a one-year period.

For more information you may visit the Eparchy's website: [www.stmaron.org](http://www.stmaron.org)

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**Reflection of the month:**

**“He who is devoted to the Virgin Mary will never perish”**

Saint Sharbel

**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

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