



Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



November 30-December 1, 2019

VISITATION OF THE VIRGIN TO ELIZABETH

THE FEAST OF THANKSGIVING

As we and hundreds of millions of Americans have celebrated the Feast of thanksgiving. It is necessary to ask ourselves why we do celebrate this Feast. When did it start and what is its meaning, spiritually and nationally? Why it was called Thanksgiving Day, to whom we have to direct our thank and how this Feast has developed during the History? The first documented of thanksgiving services on the American territory were conducted by the Spaniards and the French in the 16th century. In Florida celebrated by a Franciscan priest at the end of 1580s.

In 1619 The English settlers, after arriving to the New England, suggested "that the day of their ships arrival at the place assigned, in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually kept Holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God."

Those Pilgrims, (the English settlers) celebrated their first Thanksgiving as the feast of Harvest in October 1621. This feast lasted three days, and was attended by 90 Native Americans and 53 Pilgrims. It is the most prominent historic thanksgiving event in

American popular culture, where the settlers held a harvest feast after a successful growing season and celebrated it for three days and was observed by the Pilgrims at the Plymouth plantation.

However, the New England colonists were accustomed to regularly celebrating "thanksgivings" "as days of prayer thanking God for blessings such as military victory or the end of a drought or because they believed that God has saved them from the danger of the road while they were traveling through the seas and oceans.

The First National Proclamation of Thanksgiving was given by the Continental Congress in 1777 at Philadelphia, stated: "For as much as it is the indispensable Duty of all Men to adore the superintending Providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with Gratitude their Obligation to him for Benefits received, and to implore such farther Blessings as they stand in Need of: And it having pleased him in his abundant Mercy,"

From 1774 to 1789, issued several "national days of prayer, humiliation, and thanksgiving" a practice that was continued by presidents Washington and Adams

under the Constitution, and has manifested itself in the established American observances of Thanksgiving and the National Day of Prayer today.

It being the indispensable duty of all nations, not only to offer up their supplications to Almighty God, the giver of all good, for His gracious assistance in a time of distress, but

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day."

St. Gianna Molla



Fr. El-Badaoui Habib, Pastor | Fr. David Fisher, Weekend Assistant

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Website: www.saintmaron.org | Church Office: saintmaronphiladelphia@hotmail.com | Instagram Page: @saintmaronphiladelphia

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm.

also in a solemn and public manner, to give Him praise for His goodness in general, and especially for great and signal interpositions of His Providence in their behalf; therefore, the United States in Congress assembled, taking into their consideration the many instances of Divine goodness to these States in the course of the important conflict, in which they have been so long engaged.

On Thursday, September 24, 1789, the first House of Representatives voted to recommend the First Amendment of the newly drafted Constitution to the states for ratification. The next day, President Washington, was requested to proclaim a day of thanksgiving for "the many signal favors of Almighty God". In returning to Almighty God their sincere thanks for the many blessings he had poured down upon them."

As President, on October 3, 1789, George Washington made the following proclamation and created the first Thanksgiving Day saying: Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor, and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me "to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

The, President Abraham Lincoln, has proclaimed Thanksgiving Day, a day to be celebrated on the 26th, the final Thursday of November 1863, as a day of God's blessing, abundance, health and wealth and

peace between us and all the nation, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelt in the Heavens.

No hesitation that this feast was celebrated by different group of people, Catholics and non-Catholics and every community hold different meaning for their Thanksgiving celebration but the statement that the ex- president of the American republic Mr. John F. Kennedy which he issued in his Proclamation 3560 on November 5, 1963 stating, "Over three centuries ago, our forefathers in Virginia, and in Massachusetts, far from home in a lonely wilderness, set aside a time of thanksgiving. On the appointed day, they gave reverent thanks for their safety, for the health of their children, for the fertility of their fields, for the love which bound them together and for the faith which united them with their God."

Thanksgiving traditions in America varied from region to region. A traditional New England Thanksgiving, for example, consisted of a raffle held on Thanksgiving Eve (in which the prizes were mainly geese or turkeys), a shooting match on Thanksgiving morning (in which turkeys and chickens were used as targets), church services—and then the traditional feast, which consisted of some familiar Thanksgiving staples such as turkey and pumpkin pie, and some not-so-familiar dishes such as pigeon pie. In addition to that, it develops to be a time for thinking of the poor and the needy in every community but we lost the true meaning of it as we lost the true connection with God. It is not anymore a time of prayer and worship, a time for thanking the Almighty God but only a time of family gathering, watching sports or sitting around a table that is full of Turkey and other stuff...

Fr. El-Badaoui Habib

2020 CHURCH ENVELOPES

The 2020 weekly envelopes are now available in the church hall. If anyone does not have a set of envelopes and would like them please contact the office and we will have a set ready for you. In this way we can give you tax recognition at the end of the year.

BIBLE STUDY

We will have bible study with Fr. David Fisher on **Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 7:00PM** in the church hall. Hope you can join us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Christmas Party**, Sunday December 15, 2019 following Divine Liturgy.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Our Christmas Novena will start on **Sunday, December 15, and ends on Monday, December 23** it will be every night at **7:00 PM**. During these days, daily Liturgies from Monday to Friday will be at 6:30 PM. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to join us.

GIVING TREE

Thank you for everyone that is participating. Details about the individual are listed on the back of the tags that you picked. **PLEASE BRING ALL GIFTS "UNWRAPPED" WITH THE GIFT CARD TO THE CHURCH NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 15.** These gifts will be wrapped by Annie and the MYO and delivered to St. Cyprian church. If you pick a name and do not bring the gift in by **December 15**, that child or person will not have a gift. If you have any questions, please contact Annie Dallegro. Thank you for your help.

DIVINE LITURGIES

Saturday, November 30, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Andrew)

Sunday, December 1, @ 11:00 AM, liturgy is being offered for the soul George Sholi requested by Sholi and Raie families. May his soul rest in peace.

Tuesday, December 3, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of St. Francis Xavier)

Wednesday, December 4, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Barbara)

Thursday, December 5, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Saba the Hermit)

Friday, December 6, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of St. Nicholas)

Saturday, December 7, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Ambrose) liturgy is being offered for the souls of Yvonne and Tony Impo requested by Patty Impo. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, December 8, @ 11:00 AM, (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) liturgy is being offered for the souls of Girgious and Deebee Semaan requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace.

SAINT MARON CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 15, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Barbara has a list for those of you who can bring a dish to pass. Please see her to inform her of your plans. There is no charge for the party as we have relied on the generosity of this community. There will be a special visitor for the children as well.

FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a finance council meeting on **Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 PM.** Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you are unable, please let me know. Thank you for your dedication.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a parish council meeting on **Monday, December 9, at 6:30PM.** Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you are unable, please let me know. Thank you for your dedication.

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CEMETERY

John Turrline, area director of Catholic Cemeteries, will be at our parish on **Sunday, December 8, 2019** immediately following Divine Liturgy. He will be here to answer and help anyone who is interested in cemetery plots at Sts. Peter and Paul. As you may know, an area of that cemetery has been reserved for the parish of St. Maron and St. Sharbel. I know this may be unpleasant for many to think about, however, John is here to help in this process. Also, there will be a discounted price for those who are interested of 30% off the price of the plots.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers Luke Farrell Fr., Linda DiBernardo, Patty Reynolds, Joan Speck, David Joseph Cook, Eddie Tayoun, Martha Simon Casella, Minarva Labbad, Dante

Panichi, Dennis Strelchuk, Anthony Leuzzi, Carol Krestos, Gladys Dalcourt, Denise Furey, Chucky Simon, Michael Winter, Kevin McCrea, Kevin Khoury, Mirta Ruiz, Tina Grassi, Rita Impo, Lisa and Henry Schaffer, Jade Kellam, Marion Thomas Branca, Francesca Impo, Raja Kaldany, Lucy DiLuce, Cat Niven Glaze, Laurent Chidiac, Tom Hart, John Hart, Fadi Jaber, Joseph Realdine, Emily Stone, Roseann Anthony, Elaine Nader, Eddie Gussin, Lisa Alestra, John Nader, Aminee Skaf, Yasmine Myers, Joey Gdowick, Francis Joseph Kerns, Samer Chokeir, Kathy Newman, Rita Arrigale, Helen Freedenberg, Maryann Bratton, Renee Sahar, Sister Nahida Al Sawa, Rose De Jesse, James Cordisio, Stacey Fuentes, Debbie Freedenberg, Noel Andjuhar, Angel Salerno, Dennis McGiney, and Bonnie Sabatini. We ask Almighty God to bless them with good health so that they may join us in the Church and give glory and thanksgiving to God. Please notify the Church office of any family member who is ill so that we may remember them in our daily prayers and on our altar of intentions.

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR November 23-24, 2019

Collection	\$ 1,526.00
MYO Shawarma	\$ 642.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 21.00
Total:	\$ 2,189.00



Christmas Divine Liturgies Schedule

Tuesday, December 24, 2019	Christmas Eve	6:00 PM
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Tuesday, December 24, 2019	Midnight Mass	11:00 PM
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Wednesday, December 25, 2019	Christmas Day	11:00 AM
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PLEASE REMEMBER TO SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND BEEPERS WHEN YOU ENTER THE CHURCH. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

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Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



November 30-December 1, 2019

First Reading

Ephesians 1:1-14

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians. Your blessing father...

Brothers and Sisters:

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Praise be to God always.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل أفسس

يا إِخْوَتِي، مِنْ بُولُسَ، رَسُولِ الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ بِمَشِيئَةِ اللَّهِ، إِلَى الْقَدِيسِينَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي أَفَسَسَ وَالْأَمْنَاءَ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ: الْنِعْمَةُ لَكُمْ وَالسَّلَامُ مِنَ اللَّهِ أَبِينَا وَالرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ! تَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ أَبُو رَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، الَّذِي بَارَكَنَا بِكُلِّ بَرَكَاتٍ رُوحِيَّةٍ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ فِي الْمَسِيحِ؛ فَإِنَّهُ اخْتَارَنَا فِيهِ قَبْلَ إِنْشَاءِ الْعَالَمِ، لِنَكُونَ فِي حَضْرَتِهِ قَدِيسِينَ، لَا غَيْبَ فِيْنَا؛ وَقَدْ سَبَقَ بِمَحَبَّتِهِ فَحَدَدْنَا أَنْ نَكُونَ لَهُ أَبْنَاءَ بِالنَّبِيِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، بِحَسَبِ رِضَى مَشِيئَتِهِ، لِمَدَحِ مَجْدِ نِعْمَتِهِ الَّتِي أَنْعَمَ بِهَا عَلَيْنَا فِي الْحَبِيبِ؛ وَفِيهِ لَنَا الْفِدَاءُ بِدَمِهِ، أَيِ مَغْفَرَةِ الزَّلَّاتِ، بِحَسَبِ غِنَى نِعْمَتِهِ، الَّتِي أَفَاضَهَا عَلَيْنَا فِي كُلِّ حِكْمَةٍ وَفَهْمٍ؛ وَقَدْ عَرَفْنَا سِرَّ مَشِيئَتِهِ، بِحَسَبِ رِضَاهُ الَّذِي سَبَقَ فَجَعَلَهُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ، لِيُحَقِّقَ تَدْبِيرَ مِلءِ الْأَزْمِنَةِ، فَيَجْمَعَ فِي الْمَسِيحِ تَحْتَ رَأْسٍ وَاحِدٍ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ؛ وَفِيهِ أَيْضًا اخْتَارَنَا مِيرَاثًا لَهُ، وَقَدْ سَبَقَ فَحَدَدْنَا بِحَسَبِ قَصْدِهِ، هُوَ الَّذِي يَعْمَلُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ بِقَضَاءِ مَشِيئَتِهِ، لِنَكُونَ مَذْحًا لِمَجْدِهِ، نَحْنُ الَّذِينَ سَبَقْنَا فَجَعَلْنَا فِي الْمَسِيحِ رَجَاءً؛ وَفِيهِ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضًا، بَعْدَ أَنْ سَمِعْتُمْ كَلِمَةَ الْحَقِّ، أَيِ إِنْجِيلِ خَلَاصِكُمْ، وَأَمَنْتُمْ، خُتِمْتُمْ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ الْمَوْعُودِ بِهِ، وَهُوَ عُرْبُونُ مِيرَاثِنَا، لِفِدَاءِ شَعْبِهِ الَّذِي أَقْتَنَاهُ، وَلِمَدَحِ مَجْدِهِ.

والتسبيح لله دائماً.

Gospel Reading

Saint Luke 1:39-45

The Apostle Writes:

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.' **This is the truth. Peace be with you.**

مِنْ إِنْجِيلِ الْقَدِيسِ لَوْقَا

فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ (بعد البشارة بيسوع)، قَامَتِ مَرْيَمُ وَذَهَبَتْ مُسْرِعَةً إِلَى الْجَبَلِ، إِلَى مَدِينَةٍ فِي يَهُودَا. وَدَخَلَتْ بَيْتَ زَكَرِيَّا، وَسَلَّمَتْ عَلَى الْيَصَابَاتِ. وَلَمَّا سَمِعَتْ الْيَصَابَاتُ سَلَامَ مَرْيَمَ، ارْتَكَضَ الْجَنِينُ فِي بَطْنِهَا، وَامْتَلَأَتْ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ. فَهَنَقَتْ بِأَعْلَى صَوْتِهَا وَقَالَتْ: "مُبَارَكَةٌ أَنْتِ فِي النِّسَاءِ، وَمُبَارَكَةٌ ثَمَرَةُ بَطْنِكَ! وَمَنْ أَيْنَ لِي هَذَا، أَنْ تَأْتِي إِلَيَّ أُمُّ رَبِّي؟ فَهَذَا مُنْذُ وَقَعَ صَوْتُ سَلَامِكَ فِي أُذُنِي، ارْتَكَضَ الْجَنِينُ ابْتِهَاجًا فِي بَطْنِي! فَطُوبَى لِلَّتِي آمَنَتْ أَنَّهُ سَيَتِمُّ مَا قِيلَ لَهَا مِنْ قِبَلِ الرَّبِّ!".
حَقًّا وَالْأَمَانُ لَكُمْ جَمِيعًا.