

Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



December 7-8, 2019

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

THE SECOND PILLAR OF THE CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY IS DAILY PRAYER

Meditation about:

*Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 Romans
5:12-17 and Matthew 4:1-11*

The First reading speaks to us that God after formed man out of the dust of the earth and blew into his nostrils the breath of life; the man became a living being. However, this man was tempted by the snake that is representing the power of evil in our world. This Tempter said to Eve: "You certainly will not die. God knows well that when you eat of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, you won't die but your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know good and evil." So she ate and she gave Adam to eat and then their eyes were opened and they saw themselves naked- which means they lost the grace of God.

The second reading from the Roman stresses that as through one person sin entered the world and through sin, death and thus

death came to all, and that death reigned from Adam to Moses and that after one sin there was the judgement and condemnation but later on grace, forgiveness of sins and life eternal came through Jesus Christ to whom we have to direct our prayer and worship.

However, we see in the third reading of Saint Matthew that Jesus was led by the Spirit to the wilderness to pray, there he was tempted by the devil on the level of the flesh, soul and spirit and there he overcame all temptation and showed us how to be the children of God, and how he appeared as the new Adam who broke the kingdom of Satan once for all, because he taught us through his special relationship with his Heavenly Father, how not to resist under the temptation of the devil but to tell Him like Jesus; **"Get away Satan! For it is written: The Lord your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."**

It is impossible to have a clear mind and strength without daily prayer. Prayer is that special connection, relationship with the Lord. It is that power that makes

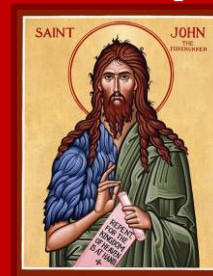
us resist the daily temptation of the evil one and live as the children of God in the world. No one in the world is able to live a normal life without daily prayer and therefore without God.

Prayer is the central to the Christian life and experience. A Christian life is not sustainable without it, because growth in the Christian life is not possible without prayer. If we want to grow in Character and virtue and learn how to hear the voice of God in our lives and walk where he calls us we must create a discipline of prayer and worship.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Behold the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of
the world!"*

John the Baptist



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

Mrs. Rosemarie Marrone, Religious Education Director | Address: 1013 Ellsworth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

Office: 215-389-2000 | Hall Reservations: 215-334-1884 | For Emergencies: 724-912-8840

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

Facebook Page: Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church of Philadelphia

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

Prayer required a daily commitment- Many people failed to establish a daily habit of prayer in their lives, because they approached it with wrong expectations. Most people expect the prayer to be easy task. The truth is that prayer is the most difficult thing we will ever do. How many times while you were praying, your mind, thoughts and emotions were distracted in so many different places. From time to time, we may get carried away by a moment of inspiration in our prayer, but for the most part, prayer is a very hard work.

If anyone neglects prayer for a day he is the only person to notice that, and the only person who can tell the difference that will happen on his life if he prays. When you do not pray for a day, you have less patience, fast to anger and resentment and less focused. But if you neglect prayer for a week or two or three, several people around you will notice that, and maybe almost everyone around you will recognize that you are not at your best.

We say to worship God is a habit, I call all of you today to start a serious habit of prayer in your personal life, because when you are with God, you are a new person, a person of grace, of love and at peace. As a priest, I cannot imagine a life without prayer- I don't know how people survive in this crazy, noisy and busy world without a daily routine of prayer. Please do not forget that there are many reasons to pray and many ways to pray. So do not forget to create a daily habit of prayer in your personal life and in the life of your family. Do you take each day a time to speak with the lord

your God; and to tell him "May my prayer rise like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands, like the evening sacrifice"? Amen.

Fr. El-Badaoui Habib

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

This is the first Banns of Marriage for Frank Gregorio and Elissa Dodeline who will be married on January 10, 2020. If anyone knows of any reason that these two should not be married speak now or forever hold your peace.

CATHOLIC EXTENSION GRANT

We have been given the opportunity to receive a conditional matching grant of \$10,000.00 from Catholic Extension Society. In order to receive this Grant we need your help to raise donations totaling at least \$10,000.00. To help us reach our goal please make checks payable to "St. Maron Church" and write "Donation" in the memo. Thank you in advance for your generosity and your support to St. Maron Church.

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.

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.

SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION

At this time, our brothers and sisters in Lebanon are going through countless difficulties. Therefore, we will have a special second collection next Sunday, December 15, 2019. This collection will be to help *Caritas Lebanon* and/or the other Catholic Service Institutions in Lebanon during this most difficult crisis. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

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, 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.

Tuesday, December 10, @ 9:00 AM, NO DAILY LITURGY

Wednesday, December 11, @ 6:00 PM, NO DAILY LITURGY

Thursday, December 12, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Spiridion the wonderworker)

Friday, December 13, @ 9:00 AM,

Saturday, November 14, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Nemtallah El-Hardini)

Sunday, December 15, @ 11:00 AM, liturgy is being offered for the soul Robert Cherfane requested by St. Maron Church. May his soul rest in peace.

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.

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.

BIBLE STUDY

We will have bible study with Fr. David Fisher on **Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 7:00PM** in the church hall. Hope you can join us.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers Luke Farrell Jr., 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,



Christmas Divine Liturgies Schedule

Tuesday, December 24, 2019	Christmas Eve	6:00 PM
Tuesday, December 24, 2019	Midnight Mass	11:00 PM
Wednesday, December 25, 2019	Christmas Day	11:00 AM

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.

BEEF & BEER PARTY

Total Income	\$ 2,677.00
Total Expenses	\$ 863.83
Profit	\$ 1,813.17

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR November 30-December 1, 2019

Collection	\$ 1,251.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 49.00
Total:	\$ 1,300.00

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND BEEPERS WHEN YOU ENTER THE CHURCH. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

MONTI RAGO FUNERAL HOME, INC.
 2531-35 S. BROAD STREET · PHILADELPHIA, PA 19148
 P: (215) 462-0992 F: (215) 462-4699
www.monti-ragofuneralhome.com
 Mark J. Rago - Funeral Director
 Samuel J. Monti- Supervisor - Founder
 Nicholas A. DiValentino - Office Manager
Dignified. Personal Service. Pre-planning Specialists.
Traditional Service and Cremation Service Available.
 Newly renovated facility.

*Proudly Serving The St. Maron Church
 And The Lebanese People*



Ronald Rex Piselli, Supervisor, President
 Richard G. Piselli, Vice President
 Harry J. Hoch, Office Manager



*Ronald Rex Piselli
 "The Funeral Chapel"*
215-271-0950
 email: ronrex@comcast.net

CASKET SHOWROOM - OFFICES
 1213 S. Broad Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19147

Quinn's Flowers
Flowers For All Occasions




Serving The Philadelphia Area For Over 75 Years
215-468-2881
QuinnFlowers@yahoo.com
 2008 S. 3rd St.
 Phila., PA 19148



"A face you can recognize with a reputation for excellence"

2237-41 S 3rd St.
 Philadelphia, PA 19148
www.murphyruffemach.com
 215-334-1578



Brian W. Donnelly
 Supervisor

Winner of the "Civilian of the Year" by the Veterans Advisory Commission.
 Voted best of Philadelphia 2015.

A percentage (5% of funeral home and merchandise costs) of your loved ones funeral will be donated in their memory returned back to St. Maron's Church



TRANSLATION
 Need documents translated from Arabic/French/Italian into English?
 Call William Hanna
267-808-0287
IMMIGRATION
 We provide you with the best service and the least expensive!




John R. Deady
 FUNERAL HOME, INC.
 FRANK R. LAMANTIA, Supervisor
www.deadyfuneralhome.com
 2501 S. Camac St. • 215.468.1200

Marmoura Favors & Party Planning
 السعادة تبدأ مع لمسات مرمورة



Palm Sunday Candles
 (Can be custom decorated)
Favors
 (Baptism, 1st Communion, Wedding)
Complete Party Planning from A to Z
 (832) 643 - 9987 | marmourafavors@gmail.com
 P.O.Box 18605, Sugar Land, TX 77496
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/MarmouraFavors>

Elias I. Photography
 Capture your priceless moments



Philadelphia, PA
 610-790-3770
 Facebook & Instagram
 Elias I. Photography




SEWELL
 DENTAL DESIGNS
 COSMETIC · RESTORATIVE
 IMPLANT · ORTHODONTICS
 DR. FRED HADDAD, D.M.D.
 (856) 589-7789 | sewelldentaldesigns.com
 477 Greentree Road, Suite C, Sewell, NJ 08080

George's Painting
 Interior & Exterior
 Residential & Commercial
 25 years experience
 Call us today for a free estimate
267-570-7077

Together We Can Donate More to St. Maron's Church

For every real estate transaction that we complete with you, you will receive a rebate from our commission, so that you can donate it to St. Maron's Church, Philadelphia PA, if you wish.



AFFINITY REAL ESTATE TEAM
 Tony - 215-285-6435

Tony & Leen Salloum
 LICENSED IN PA & NJ
 Leen - 484-432-0424

TheAffinityTeam.com
COMPASS
 610-822-3356



Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



December 7-8, 2019

First Reading

Galatians 4:21-31, 5:1

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

Brothers and Sisters:

Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, 'Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children, burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than the children of the one who is married.' Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. But just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. But what does the scripture say? 'Drive out the slave and her child; for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance with the child of the free woman.' So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman. For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Praise be to God always.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل غلاطية

يا إِخْوَتِي، قُولُوا لِي، أَنْتُمْ الَّذِينَ تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَكُونُوا فِي حُكْمِ الشَّرِيعَةِ، أَمَا تَسْمَعُونَ الشَّرِيعَةَ؟ فَإِنَّهُ مَكْتُوبٌ: كَانَ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ ابْنَانِ، وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْجَارِيَةِ، وَوَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْحُرَّةِ. أَمَّا الَّذِي مِنَ الْجَارِيَةِ فَقَدْ وُلِدَ بِحَسَبِ الْجَسَدِ، وَأَمَّا الَّذِي مِنَ الْحُرَّةِ فَبِقُوَّةِ الْوَعْدِ. وَفِي ذَلِكَ رَمَزٌ: فَسَارَةُ وَهَاجَرُ ثُمَثَلَانِ عَهْدَيْنِ، عَهْدًا مِنْ جَبَلِ سَيْنَاءَ يُلِدُ لِلْعُبُودِيَّةِ، وَهُوَ هَاجَرُ؛ لِأَنَّ هَاجَرَ هِيَ جَبَلُ سَيْنَاءَ الَّذِي فِي بِلَادِ الْعَرَبِ، وَتُؤَافِقُ أُورُشَلِيمَ الْحَالِيَّةَ، لِأَنَّهَا فِي الْعُبُودِيَّةِ هِيَ وَأَوْلَادُهَا. أَمَّا أُورُشَلِيمُ الْعُلْيَا فَهِيَ حُرَّةٌ، وَهِيَ أُمُّنَا؛ لِأَنَّهُ مَكْتُوبٌ: «إِفْرَحِي، أَيَّتُهَا الْعَاقِرُ الَّتِي لَمْ تَلِدْ؛ إِنْدَفَعِي بِالتَّرْنِيمِ وَاصْرُخِي، أَيَّتُهَا الَّتِي لَمْ تَتَمَخَّضْ؛ لِأَنَّ أَوْلَادَ الْمَهْجُورَةِ أَكْثَرُ مِنْ أَوْلَادِ الْمَتَرَوِّجَةِ». أَمَّا أَنْتُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، فَإِنَّكُمْ أَوْلَادُ الْوَعْدِ مِثْلُ إِسْحَقَ. وَلَكِنْ، كَمَا كَانَ حِينَئِذٍ أَلْمُولُودُ بِحَسَبِ الْجَسَدِ يَضْطَهِدُ الْمُولُودَ بِحَسَبِ الرُّوحِ، فَكَذَلِكَ الْآنَ أَيْضًا. وَلَكِنْ مَاذَا يَقُولُ الْكِتَابُ؟ «أَطْرُدِ الْجَارِيَةَ وَابْنَهَا، لِأَنَّ ابْنَ الْجَارِيَةِ لَا يَرِثُ مَعَ ابْنِ الْحُرَّةِ». إِذَا، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، لَسْنَا أَوْلَادَ جَارِيَةٍ، بَلْ أَوْلَادُ الْحُرَّةِ. إِنَّ الْمَسِيحَ قَدْ حَرَّرَنَا لِنَبْقَى أَحْرَارًا. فَانْتَبِهُوا إِذَا وَلَا تَعُودُوا تَخَضَعُونَ لِنِيرِ الْعُبُودِيَّةِ.

والتسبيح لله دائماً.

Gospel Reading

Saint Luke 1:57-66

The Apostle Writes:

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

This is the truth. Peace be with you.

مِنْ إِنْجِيلِ الْقَدِيسِ لَوْقَا

تَمَّ زَمَانُ الْيَصَابَاتِ لِتِلْدَ، فَوَلَدَتْ أَبْنًا. وَسَمِعَ جِيرَانُهَا وَأَقَارِبُهَا أَنَّ الرَّبَّ قَدْ عَظَّمَ رَحْمَتَهُ لَهَا، فَفَرَحُوا مَعَهَا. وَفِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّامِنِ جَاءُوا لِيُخْتِنُوا الصَّبِيَّ، وَسَمَّوْهُ بِاسْمِ أَبِيهِ زَكَرِيَّا. فَأَجَابَتْ أُمُّهُ وَقَالَتْ: «لَا! بَلْ يُسَمَّى يُوْحَنَّا!». فَقَالُوا لَهَا: «لَا أَحَدَ فِي قَرَابَتِكَ يُدْعَى بِهَذَا الْأَسْمِ». وَأَشَارُوا إِلَى أَبِيهِ مَاذَا يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُسَمِّيَهُ. فَطَلَبَ لَوْحًا وَكَتَبَ: «إِسْمُهُ يُوْحَنَّا!». فَتَعَجَّبُوا جَمِيعُهُمْ. وَأَنْفَتَحَ فَجْأَةً فَمُ زَكَرِيَّا، وَأَنْطَلَقَ لِسَانُهُ، وَجَعَلَ يَتَكَلَّمُ وَيُبَارِكُ اللَّهَ، فَاسْتَوَلَى الْخَوْفُ عَلَى جَمِيعِ جِيرَانِهِمْ، وَتَحَدَّثَتِ النَّاسُ بِكُلِّ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورِ فِي كُلِّ جَبَلِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ. وَكَانَ كُلُّ مَنْ سَمِعَ بِذَلِكَ يَحْفَظُهُ فِي قَلْبِهِ قَائِلًا: «مَا عَسَى هَذَا الطِّفْلُ أَنْ يَكُونَ؟». وَكَانَتْ يَدُ الرَّبِّ حَقًّا مَعَهُ. حَقًّا وَالْأَمَانُ لَجَمِيعِكُمْ.