

Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church



January 18-19, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Second Sunday of Epiphany and of the year (John 1: 35- 42)

We are celebrating the second Sunday of the year. In our reading this morning, we heard John after seeing Christ saying: Look there is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” For those two disciples it was like a new start, a fresh start, and from those words of John everything is changed for them. What is it that changes? Well, they begin to follow Jesus.

At the start, they are standing with John the Baptist, but when Jesus walks by; then they left John and went to follow Jesus believing in John's word. How do we follow Jesus today, when we can't see him? What does it look like to be a follower of Jesus? We're going to see three things from this passage that helps us to know what a follower of Jesus is.

First, knowing Jesus; second, spending time with Jesus; and thirdly, telling others about Jesus.

I want to suggest that it's a bit like following a football team.... such as the Eagle.

When you support a team, you try to know about them. So you know who's on the team, and who the manager is, and what they're like. In a similar way, when the disciples

start to follow Jesus, they come to know about him, and also to know him. When Jesus walked past, John the Baptist points to Jesus and says ‘Behold, the Lamb of God.’ (1:35). These words burned the hearts of those two disciples and followed Jesus. Why? Because Jesus was introduced to them as the Lamb of God who takes away the Sin of the world. He is the divine person that God has sent to stop all the sacrifices and the bloodshed that they used to offer on the altar of sacrifices in the Old Testament, and to be the only and true sacrifice that God will be so pleased to offer for the sin of the world. The first step in following Jesus is to know him as our Savior. Jesus died on the cross so that we can have life and have it in full and be friends with God.

First, it's so much more than just knowing about a football team. It's not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing him as our Savior, as the one who has changed things for us, through his death and his resurrection. The first question is this – do you know Jesus? Do you know that Jesus is your Savior? Second, we see about following Jesus is that we have to spend time with Him. Earlier I was saying about supporting your football team such as the Eagle because I support the team, I'll want to spend time with

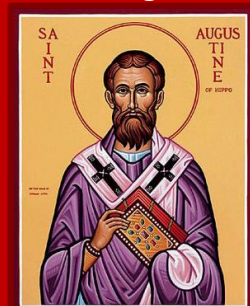
them – watching their games, reading about them, cheering them on and at their Stadium... It's just the same with Jesus. Look at the passage. The two disciples start to follow Jesus, and Jesus turned around and asked what do you want? And they asked Jesus? ‘Where are you staying?’ Jesus said to them; ‘Come and you will see’, they went to see, and ‘stayed with him that day, spent a quality time with him – talked to him and listened to him...

But how do we spend time with Jesus now? We can spend time with Jesus as we take the time to read his word, and time to pray. So, as you follow Jesus, do you take time with

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“God has no need of your money, but the poor have. You give it to the poor, and God receives it.”

Saint Augustine



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

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

him, reading your Bible and praying?

Third, to tell others about Jesus. Going back to the football, what is it like if your football team wins? It's good news, and you want to share it!

But more important than winning a football game, in our reading we see the joy and delight that Andrew has when he goes to tell his brother Simon. Do you see what he says? 'We have found the Messiah' (which means Christ). The Messiah was the person promised by God from Old Testament times; he would be God's great king who would free his people from oppression and hurt and sadness. He would also bring in God's kingdom. When Andrew finds the Messiah, he goes off and finds his brother and tells him. If you read on in the chapter, Jesus calls Philip to follow him, and Philip goes off and tells Nathanael as well. When we find Jesus, when we know Jesus, when we're saved by Jesus, when we follow Jesus, when we spend time with Jesus, then we naturally want to tell other people about Jesus too! When Jesus is our friend, we want other people to know him too, so we talk about him. In the passage we see Andrew telling his brother, Simon, and bringing him to Jesus. Do we share Jesus with our family and close friends? Sometimes it can be harder to close family than to strangers. Yet we want those we love to also know Jesus. So be encouraged today, to stick at it, and find ways to talk about Jesus at your home.

At the end of the day, I want to say that, following Jesus is the best thing we can do. Maybe you've not started yet – please do think about it – you won't regret it. Following Jesus is a fresh start – as we know Jesus, as we spend time with Jesus, and as we tell others about Jesus, Jesus works in our lives.

Fr. El-Badaoui Habib

MARTHA SIMON CASELLA FUNERAL ARRANGEMENT

It's our sad duty to announce that Martha Simon Casella passed away this week. The viewing will be **Tuesday, January 21, 2020** from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Saint Maron Church followed by the Funeral Liturgy at 11:00 AM. We extend our deepest sympathy to Tom Drew (her nephew) and the entire Simon and Casella families. May almighty God welcome Martha into his kingdom and may her soul rest in peace. Allah yerhamma!

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

This past week we lost our beloved Janie Robertson. Janie was a dear friend of St. Maron and St. Rita Churches. We extend our deepest sympathy to her brother Bill, her sister Teresa and the entire community of St. Maron Church. May Almighty God welcome Janie into his kingdom and may her soul rest in peace. Allah yerhamma!

SAINT MARON FEAST DAY HAFLI

We will have a St. Maron Feast Day Hafli on **Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 7:00 PM** in the Church Hall. Live music featuring Said Abi Akl. Tickets are now on sale. Adults tickets are \$50.00 per person and children (11 and under) \$25.00. Great food (variety of beef, chicken and fish), good music, dancing and cash bar will be available. Hope to see all of you there.

2019 TAX LETTERS

As the time approaches for tax season, our tax contributions are available at the Church Office. Please email or call the office so that we may prepare the papers needed for your income tax. These can only be done by those who use the envelope system. Thank you for your continued support.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

We will have a finance committee meeting on **Wednesday, January 22 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.

MYO/MYA LENTEN RETREAT

The MYO/MYA Regional Lenten Retreat day will be on **Saturday, March 7, 2020 from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM** at Saint John Paul II Maronite Catholic Church at Immaculate Conception, (199 North Broadway Sleepy Hollow NY 10591). The fee is \$25.00 donation per person. Teens (ages 12-18) and young adults (19-35) from the neighboring Maronite parishes in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania are welcomed to join. The Retreat activities will include: Interactive Icebreakers, activities & games, Meals & snacks, Prayer & Divine Liturgy, Presentations & Small group discussions, and Adoration & Confession. If you are interested in participating in this retreat please notify your MYO advisor or the Church office.

2020 MYA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 2020 MYA National Conference will be hosted at the University of St. Mary on the Lake Conference Center in Mundelein, Illinois **September 4-7, 2020**. The emphasis for this year's conference for our Young Adults (and they are happy to include the MYO advisors as well) will be on leadership and discipleship. Registration details will be announced soon. Please mark you calendar and notify the office if you are interested in attending this conference.

DIVINE LITURGIES

Saturday, January 18, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Athanasius of Alexandria) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Janie Robertson requested by the parishioners of St. Maron Church. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, January 19, @ 11:00 AM, (Feast of St. Macarius the Egyptian) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Helen Freedenberg requested by Debbie Freedenberg and Mary Pastore. May her soul rest in peace. Also liturgy is being offered as a 7 days memorial for the soul of Janie Robertson requested by the parishioners of St. Maron Church. May her soul rest in peace.

Tuesday, January 21, @ 9:00 AM, NO LITURGY

Wednesday, January 22, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Timothy) healing mass with the intercession of St. Sharbel.

Thursday, January 23, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Pope St. Sergius and St. Marianne)

Friday, January 24, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of St. Francis de Sales) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Josephine Rudolph requested by her daughters Jean and Judy.

Saturday, January 25, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of the conversion of St. Paul) liturgy is being offered for the deceased members of Ferhat family requested by Cookie Ferhat. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, January 26, @ 11:00 AM, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nahi Rai requested by Khalil and Madline Raie and family. May her soul rest in peace.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **St. Maron Feast Day Party,** Saturday February 8, 2020 @ 7:00 PM. Tickets are now on Sale.

HEALING MASS

On **Wednesday, January 22, 2020 @ 6:00PM,** we will celebrate a Healing Mass with the intercession of St. Sharbel. May Almighty God hear our prayers through the intercession of St. Sharbel and grant us the gift of healing!

2020 CHURCH ENVELOPES

The 2020 weekly envelopes are now available in the back of the church. 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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The first Friday of every month we will have Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM followed by Eucharistic Adoration. Please come and spend some time in prayer in the presence of our Lord.



AMAZON SMILE ACCOUNT

St. Maron Church in Philadelphia is registered with AmazonSmile. You can support our church by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com and choosing "St. Maron Church" as your organization. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same as the Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. **ST. MARON WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU ORDER.** Thank you for your continuous Support for our Church.

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 to everyone who contributed toward our goal, so far, we have raised \$6,700.00 and with your continuous help we will reach our goal soon.

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR January 11-12, 2020

Collection	\$ 1,731.00
Donation	\$ 325.00
Memorial	\$ 100.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 57.00
Total:	\$ 2,213.00

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers Kathy Dale, Donna Maglio, Nicole Giordano, Peter Perri, Neil Bohley Sr., Luke Farrell Jr., Linda DiBernardo, Patty Reynolds, Joan Speck, David Joseph Cook, Eddie Tayoun, Minarva Labbad, Dante Panichi, Dennis Strelchuk, 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, Lucy DiLuce, Cat Niven Glaze, Laurent Chidiac, Tom Hart, John Hart, Fadi Jaber, Joseph Realdine, Emily Stone, Elaine Nader, Eddie Gussin, Lisa Alestra, John Nader, Aminee Skaf, Yasmine Myers, Joey Gdowick, Francis Joseph Kerns, Samer Chokeir, Kathy Newman, Rita Arrigale, Maryann Bratton,

Renee Sahar, Sister Nahida Al-Sawa, Rose DeJesse, 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. 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.

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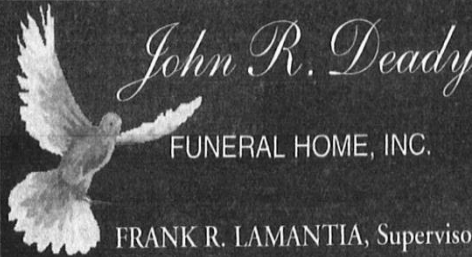
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