



Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



February 8-9, 2020

SUNDAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND JUST SAINT MARON FEAST DAY

Saint Maron's life story

Mar Maroon "the little lord" was born in Cyrrhus, a small town near Antioch in about 350AD. When he grew up he left the world and went up to a hill to live in solitude. Theodoret explains that pagans previously worshiped on the hill. St Maron converted the hill to a place of Christianity and his "soul received the words of the Gospel." He chose the "poverty of Christ over the riches of this world." His asceticism (a life of abstinence) was also marked by a continued attachment to people. They came to him and St Maroun prayed and healed "not only the infirmities of the body, but applied suitable treatment to souls as well." He set examples of chastity, prayer, meditation, and labor and of course love. St Maron example inspired many disciples, both men and women. St Maron died around 410AD.

The other source we have about St Maron is St John Chrysostom. While in exile, and during one of the most difficult times of his life, St John Chrysostom wrote to St Maron and asked him to pray for him. Below is an extract of the letter.

"[Dear Maron], we are bound to you by love and interior disposition, and

see you here before us as if you were actually present. For such are the eyes of love; their vision is neither interrupted by distance nor dimmed by time... we address ourselves to your honor and assure you that we hold you constantly in our minds and carry you about in our souls wherever we may be... please pray for us."

After St Maron's death, a great monastery was built in the year 452AD called Bet Moron and the monastery flourished for 500 years. However, from the sixth century, things became dangerous for the first Maronites and they were persecuted for their obedience to the Catholic faith and the Council of Chalcedon. In the year 517AD, three hundred and fifty Maronites Monks were killed. The Maronites, elected their first Patriarch, St John Maron in the year 685. He was affirmed by Pope Sergius I, highlighting that the Maronite Church was in communion with Rome since the beginning. In 694, five hundred Maronites were killed and by 938 Bet Maron was completely destroyed and the Maronite Patriarch fled to the Mountains of Lebanon. The persecution resulted in many Maronites migrating from Syria to Mount Lebanon.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

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."



Fr. El-Badaoui Habib MLM, 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.

The Maronite Church flourished in the Rocky Mountains under the Cedars of Lebanon and prospered in the hills and valleys of Qannoubine and Qadisha. By the 13th Century things once again became volatile for the Maronites. They were attacked in the north of Lebanon and in the Maronite villages of Ehden, Bsharre, Hadath El-Jibbe, Miefook and other villages. Patriarch Daniel El Hadsheeti was killed and in 1367 Patriarch Gabriel Hejola was burned alive. During that time many Maronites escaped to Cyprus where the Maronite Church.

In 1440, to escape persecution, the Maronite Patriarchate moved from Miefook to Wadi Qannoubine, where it took refuge.

In 1860, under the Ottoman rule, many villages, churches, and monasteries were completely destroyed. During this time many Maronites were martyred. On July 10, 1860, the Massabki brothers: Francis, Abed El-Moati, and Raphael were martyred in Damascus. They remained steadfast in the face of persecution and refused to deny their faith. Pope Pius XI beatified them on October 1, 1926.

By 1915, Ottoman rule, famine, disease and war created a great wave of migration in particular to the Americas. It is also at this time that Maronites first started to migrate to Australia seeking opportunity. Many Maronites became scattered throughout the world, which made the Church grow outside of Lebanon. The Maronite Church became inter-national. No longer were they Maronites of the Middle East, but also American, Brazilian, European, African and of course Australian Maronites. We are all witnesses to the flourishing of our Maronite Church in Australia.

As can be seen, our Maronite ancestors overcame great persecution to protect their Church

and their faith. They remained steadfast in the face of persecution and committed to Christ. Their shield was prayer. Out of their experience developed a superb liturgy and many beautiful traditions. We are called by the Universal Catholic Church to protect those traditions. In his very beautiful apostolic letter, *Oriente Lumen*, Blessed Pope John Paul II declared. "...I listen to the Churches of the East, which I know are living interpreters of the treasure of tradition they preserve. In contemplating it, before my eyes appear elements of great significance for fuller and more thorough understanding of the Christian experience...the Christian East has a unique and privileged role as the original setting where the Church was born..."

VISIT FROM BISHOP GREGORY MANSOUR

Bishop Gregory Mansour will be joining us for Divine Liturgy on **Ash Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7:00 PM**. Please mark your calendars and join us for this beautiful service to begin our Lenten Season.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

We will have a parish council meeting on **Monday, February 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM**. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you are unable, please let me know. Thank you for your dedication.

FESTIVAL GENERAL MEETING

We will have a general festival meeting on **Monday, March 2, 2020 @ 7:00 PM** in the Church Hall. We are inviting everyone who is interested in volunteering this year. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to join us so we can plan another successful festival.

DIVINE LITURGIES

Saturday, February 8, @ 6:00 PM, *Divine Liturgy followed by St. Maron Novena*. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Michael (Chubby) Simon requested by Chucky Simon. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, February 9, @ 11:00 AM, (Feast of St. Maron) *Divine Liturgy followed by St. Maron Novena*. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Rizk Frangie requested by Faraj Frangie and family. May his soul rest in peace. Also, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nicholas Dib requested by Fawaz and Bushra Dib. May his soul rest in peace. Also Liturgy is offered for the Parishioners of St. Maron Church. God Bless you all.

Tuesday, February 11, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes)

Wednesday, February 12, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Meletius of Antioch)

Thursday, February 13, @ 6:00 PM,

Friday, February 14, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius)

Saturday, February 15, @ 6:00 PM, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Tom Baxter requested by his wife Patty. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, February 16, @ 11:00 AM, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Melhem ElHajal requested by Manal and Claudine ElHajal. May his souls rest in peace.

HEALING MASS

On **Saturday, February 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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Healing Mass**, Saturday, February 22, 2020 @ 6:00PM.
- **Visit from Bishop Gregory Mansour, Ash Monday**, February 24, 2020 @ 7:00 PM.
- **Stations of the Cross**, Friday, February 28 @ 7:00 PM.
- **Festival General Meeting**, Monday, March 2, 2020 @ 7:00 PM.
- **Eucharistic Adoration**, Friday, March 6, 2020 @ 9:30 AM.

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.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, February 28, @ 7:00 PM will begin the Lenten services with the Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please join us every Friday during this holy season of Lent.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

On **Friday, March 6, 2020** 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.

CATHOLIC EXTENSION GRANT

We have been given the opportunity to receive a conditional matching grant of \$10,000.00 from Catholic Extension Society.

With everyone's contribution we were able to reach our goal. Thank you for your continuous support to St. Maron Church and God Bless you.

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 your calendar and notify the Church office if you are interested in attending this conference.

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR February 1-2, 2020

Collection	\$ 1,677.00
Donations	\$ 1,000.00
Coffee Hour	\$ <u>81.00</u>
Total:	\$ 2,758.00

SEEKING CAREGIVER

Seeking the right person, who is a mature female, to take care of our 92 years old mother, in exchange for free room and board. (South Philadelphia area). Please email to: ninamontrose.1@gmail.com or call 215-462-9669, for details and information. References and background check required.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers Sue Flacco, Joe Maglio, Marie McCrea, 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,



Save the Date
Thursday, October 1, 2020

Join us for the
*Eleventh Annual Benefit Dinner for
The Eparchy of Saint Maron*

At The Water Club, New York

Details to follow

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 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.

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