



# Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church



February 15-16, 2020

## SUNDAY OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

### I BELIEVE IN LIFE EVERLASTING"

This Sunday reading exposes us on life and death. As Christians what do we think of life after death? Historically most religion believes in life after death, the Egyptians had used the mummification for the bodies of their dead and bury with them some food and money believing that they will come back to life. Buddhists believe death is a natural part of the life cycle. They believe that death simply leads to rebirth. This belief in reincarnation – that a person's spirit remains close by and seeks out a new body and new life – is a comforting and important principle.

All life is in a cycle of death and rebirth called samsara. When someone dies their energy passes into another form. The Buddhist believes also in karma or 'intentional action'. Through good actions, such as ethical conduct, and by developing concentration and wisdom, Buddhists hope to either gain enlightenment or to ensure a better future for themselves. These good actions are set out in the Eightfold Path, which includes right speech, right livelihood, and right concentration. Good actions will result in a better rebirth, while bad actions will have the opposite effect. Depending on the actions performed in previous lives, rebirth could be as a human or animal or even ghosts, demi-gods, or gods. Being born as a

human is seen by Buddhists as a rare opportunity to work towards escaping this cycle of samsara. The escape from samsara is called Nirvana or enlightenment. Once Nirvana is achieved, and the enlightened individual physically dies, Buddhists believe that they will no longer be reborn. But Buddhist doesn't believe in souls or an eternal creator God because of two words: Anicca - Buddhists believe that nothing is permanent. Everything changes. So, this means that things like everlasting souls or eternal gods cannot exist. Buddhism, unlike other religions, does not believe in a creator God or an eternal or everlasting soul. Anatta - Buddhists believe that there is no permanent self or soul. Because there is no unchanging permanent essence or soul, Buddhists sometimes talk about energy being reborn, rather than souls. Buddhists believe in life after death because the Buddha taught that human beings are each born an infinite number of times, unless they achieve Nirvana.

However, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that the Christian believe in the eternal life that is based on the life with Christ. If we live with Him, we will die with Him. Life with Christ and death with Christ is the most important step towards the entrance into everlasting life. Death puts an end to human life as the time open to either accepting or rejecting the divine grace manifested

in Christ. The New Testament speaks of judgment primarily in its aspect of the final encounter with Christ in his second coming, but also repeatedly affirms that each will be rewarded immediately after death in accordance with his works and faith. The parable of the poor man Lazarus and the words of Christ on the cross to the good thief, as well as other New Testament texts speak of a final destiny of the soul a destiny which can be different for

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"If today we are remembering these brothers and sisters of ours who lived before us and are now in heaven, they are there because they were washed in the Blood of Christ, that is our hope and this hope does not disappoint. If we live our lives with the Lord, He will never disappoint us."*

*Pope Francis*



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](http://www.saintmaron.org) | Church Office: [saintmaronphiladelphia@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

some and for others. Each man receives his eternal retribution in his immortal soul at the very moment of his death, in a judgment that refers his life to Christ: either entrance into the blessedness of heaven-through purification or immediately, or immediate and everlasting damnation. at the evening of life, we shall be judged on our love. Either we go to Heaven or to Purgatory or to Hell. Those who will go to Heaven are those who die in God's grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live forever with Christ. They are like God for ever, for they "see him as he is," face to face: They are those who had a perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity - This communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed - is called "heaven." Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness. They are also those who knew that to live in heaven is "to be with Christ." The elect live "in Christ Jesus who by his death and Resurrection has "opened" heaven to us. While those who will go to Purgatory are those who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. This teaching is based on the practice of prayer for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture: "Therefore Judas Maccabeus made atonement for the dead that they might be delivered from their sin." Hell is a state of life, a free choice we took during our life on earth where we couldn't show love to God, but we insist on living in sin and doing grave sin against God, against our neighbor or against ourselves: "He who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no

murderer has eternal life abiding in him." Our Lord warns us that we shall be separated from him if we fail to meet the serious needs of the poor and the little ones who are his brethren. to die in mortal sin without repenting and accepting God's merciful love means remaining separated from him forever by our own free choice. This state of self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed is called "hell." Jesus often speaks of "Gehenna" of "the unquenchable fire" reserved for those who to the end of their lives refuse to believe and be converted, where both soul and body can be lost. The teaching of the Church affirms the existence of hell and its eternity. Immediately after death the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, "eternal fire." Let us pray, Father, accept this offering from your whole family. Grant us your peace in this life, save us from final damnation, and count us among those you have chosen.

### **VISIT FROM BISHOP GREGORY MANSOUR ASH MONDAY**

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.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES**

We will have Ash Wednesday Liturgy on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 @ 9:00 am, with the distribution of ashes.

### **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.

## **DIVINE LITURGIES**

**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 soul rest in peace.

**Tuesday, February 18, @ 9:00 AM**, (Feast of Pope St. Leo the Great)

**Wednesday, February 19, @ 6:00 PM**, (Feast of 500 Martyrs of Tyre)

**Thursday, February 20, @ 6:00 PM**, (Feast of St. James the Hermit)

**Friday, February 21, @ 9:00 AM**, (Feast of St. Eustathius)

**Saturday, February 22, @ 6:00 PM**, Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Roseann Anthony requested by Salema Dahdah, Barbara Dahdah-Anderson and Donna-Marie Scorese. May her soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, February 23, @ 11:00 AM**, (Feast of St. Polycarp of Smyrna) Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Albert Anderson requested by Barbara Dahdah-Anderson. May his soul rest in peace.

**Monday, February 24 @ 7:00 PM**, **ASH MONDAY**

### **HEALING MASS**

On **Sunday, March 22, 2020 @ 11:00AM**, 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!

## 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.

## DABKE SIGN UP SHEET

In preparation for our Lebanese Festival we will have a Dabke Sign Up Sheet in the Church Hall. Please Sign up your Children / Youth so Claudine and Fadia can prepare for the Dabke show of the festival.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Visit from Bishop Gregory Mansour, Ash Monday,** February 24, 2020 @ 7:00 PM.
- **Stations of the Cross,** Friday, February 28, 2020 @ 7:00 PM.
- **Festival General Meeting,** Monday, March 2, 2020 @ 7:00 PM.
- **Eucharistic Adoration,** Friday, March 6, 2020 @ 9:30 AM.
- **Fish Fry,** Friday, March 13, 2020 following Stations of the Cross @ 7:00 PM.
- **Healing Mass,** Sunday, March 22, 2020 @ 11:00AM.
- **Fish Fry,** Friday, March 27, 2020 following Stations of the Cross @ 7:00 PM.
- **Palm Sunday Brunch,** Sunday, April 5, 2020 following Divine Liturgy @ 11:00 AM.
- **Bake Sale,** Sunday, April 5, 2020.
- **Good Friday Lenten Dinner,** Friday, April 10, 2020 following the Great Friday of Crucifixion Service @ 7:00 PM.
- **Lebanese Festival,** from Friday, May 29, 2020 to Sunday May 31, 2020.

## FISH FRY

During the Lenten Season we will have two "Fish Fry" dinners on **March 13 and 27** following the stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM. Tickets will be \$12.00 per platter which will include fried fish, french fries, coleslaw, and sides. Please mark your calendars.

## 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. If you are interested in participating in this retreat, please notify your MYO advisor or the Church office.

## 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.

## WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR February 8-9, 2020

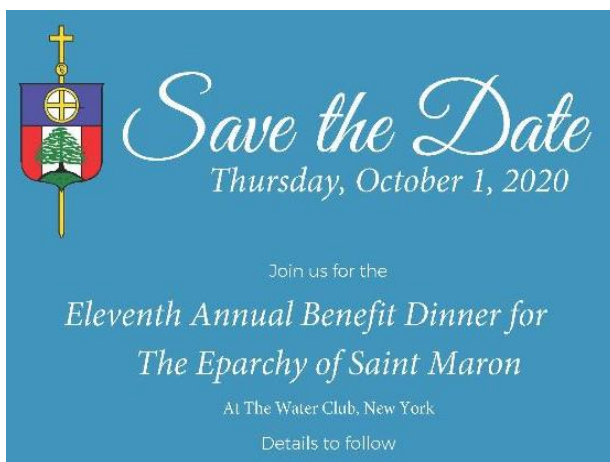
Collection	\$ 1,292.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 29.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1,321.00</b>

## 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](mailto: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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CONSIDERATION.**



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