



Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church



December 12-13, 2020

REVELATION TO JOSEPH

"For it is in giving that we receive"

(Saint Francis of Assisi)



It takes a lot of time to choose a gift for someone because we want to give them something they need and not what they already have. This is exactly what makes it a perfect gift.

Let us join hands this Christmas and participate in the "Giving Tree" campaign.

50 people are counting on us to make their Christmas brighter.

Don't miss the opportunity of giving this year. On the parish website (www.saintmaron.org) you can sign up for a gift by clicking on the button under the Giving Tree.

Please note that your gift can be anonymous.

This year, due to the new restrictions in Philadelphia, our MYO can't gather to wrap the gifts, therefore we ask you to drop the gifts **WRAPPED and LABELED** with the name of the person you chose by **Sunday, December 20, 2020.**

Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful Christmas. May peace, love and joy follow you always.

Divine Liturgies will be in the Church.

Seating is limited to **15 people.**

Please "SignUp" before attending.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040548A9A822A3FD0-stmaron>

Fr. Andrawos (Fadi) ElTabchi, Administrator | Fr. David Fisher, Consultant

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

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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.

DIVINE LITURGIES

Saturday, December 12, @ 6:00PM,

Sunday, December 13, @ 11:00AM, liturgy is offered for the deceased members of the DeBuono and Mosier families requested by Terri Koway. May their souls rest in peace.

Monday, December 14, @ 6:30PM, FEAST OF ST. NEMTALLAH

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 @ 6:30PM, DIVINE LITURGY & CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 @ 6:30PM, DIVINE LITURGY & CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Thursday, December 17, 2020 @ 6:30PM, DIVINE LITURGY & CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Friday, December 18, 2020 @ 6:30PM, DIVINE LITURGY & CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Saturday, December 19, @ 6:00PM, DIVINE LITURGY & CHRISTMAS NOVENA,

Sunday, December 20, @ 11:00AM, DIVINE LITURGY & CHRISTMAS NOVENA, liturgy is offered for the souls of Edward and Rose Koway requested Terri Koway. May their souls rest in peace.

SECOND COLLECTION

As per the directive of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn we will have a second collection this weekend, **December 12-13.** This collection is used for Missions in the USA. Our Eparchy has received large grants from the USCCB from this collection for several years. Thank you for your generosity!

THE HOLY FATHER'S PROCLAMATION

On the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis declares that 2021 will be the year of Saint Joseph. A small reflection on this extraordinary figure from the proclamation:

“For, as Jesus says, “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Mt 12:34). My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how

“our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone... How

many people daily exercise patience and offer hope, taking care to spread not panic, but shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all”.^[6] *Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.”*

To read the full apostolic letter go to the link below: [Apostolic Letter Patris Corde of the Holy Father Francis on the 150th Anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church \(8 December 2020\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](https://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francis/letters/other/apostolic_letters/2020/12/18/20201218_let_150th_saint_joseph_en.html)

THE MARONITE ROAST

A new episode of The Maronite Roast podcast is now available! Our Maronite Seminarians Chris and Christian are still “brewing a little faith into your daily cup” and they’d love for you to check it out! Episode 2 (“Johnny Boy”) can be heard on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or at the below link! Listen, like it, share it! #TheMaroniteRoast

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1424920/6361078>



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

We will have Eucharistic Adoration every **Friday** following the 6:00PM Divine Liturgy. Let us take the time to kneel before Jesus present in the Eucharist, in order to fully appreciate all that our savior endured in His love for us.

2021 CHURCH ENVELOPES

The 2021 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.

THANK YOU

Thank you for everyone who donated to the Church this past week. Our Church's finances rely on the generosity of our community, including Sunday collections and donations. If you are able to donate, please do so via the following link: <https://saintmaron.org/donate> or you can always mail your weekly envelopes/donations to the Church office. Thank you for your continuous support during these challenging times.

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR December 5-6, 2020

Collection	\$ 505.00
Donations	\$ 400.00
Memorial	\$ 225.00
Online Donations	\$ 420.00
Total:	\$ 1,550.00

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers Elissar Ayoub, Lou Iovino, Ralph Passio, Theresa Green, Kevin Green, Joanne Simon-Turing, Diane McLaughlin, Bonnie Gorman, Kevin Khoury, Marie McCrea, Suzanne Haney, Luke Farrell Jr., Linda DiBernardo, Joan Speck, David Joseph Cook, Eddie Tayoun, Minarva Labbad, Dante Panichi, Dennis Strelchuk, Carol Krestos, Gladys Dalcourt, Denise Furey, Chucky Simon, Michael Winter, Mirta Ruiz, Rita Impo, Jade Kellam, Marion Thomas Branca, Francesca Impo, Lucy DiLuca, Cat Niven Glaze, Laurent Chidiac, Tom Hart, John Hart, Fadi Jaber, Joseph Realdine, Emily Stone, Lisa

Alestra, John Nader, Joey Gdowick, Francis Joseph Kerns, Samer Chokeur, 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.





PHILOKALIA ORGANIZATION

Philokalia Organization is a charity non-governmental organization (NGO), founded in 2019 by S. Marana Noha Saad (factual note no.696 on the Constitution of an Association called Philokalia).

Its main purposes:

- Support persons with special needs and create opportunities for education, work and integration in society.
- Provide all kinds of social, musical, artistic and human education.
- Local handicrafts, handiworks, and culinary arts production and formation, especially with persons with specific needs.



“Warm a heart” - Christmas 2020

Due to the critical and hard times in which the Lebanese people are living, and due to the increase of fundamental needs on social and economic basis, Philokalia Organization, after launching its first campaign “Give babies the hugs they need” supporting the people affected by the Beirut blast, launches its Christmas Campaign “Warm a heart” in order to bring joy this Christmas to the ones who are hardly affected by the situation.

Our mission is still ongoing...



Bring back the real meaning of Christmas; draw a smile on others' faces without letting the hard and tough circumstances take away their peace and joy by:

- Prepare Christmas dinner for the ones who cannot afford buying food or minimal needs to have a normal Christmas because of the economic situation
- Buy gifts for children who cannot afford buying gifts and especially those with special needs.
- Help a child, a person with special needs or a family in need by donating through Philokalia.
- Gifts for children of all ages: clothes, toys, blankets, etc.
- Food for the Christmas dinner box: meat, chicken, other products, chocolate, wine, etc.



Bank Credentials:

Account Name: 717279 - Messrs Philokalia Organization
Bank Name: Bank of Beirut
Branch: Batroun - Old Main Road - Near St Etienne Cathedral.
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Swift Code: BABELBBE
Account number: 0140171727900
Currency: LBP
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Account number: 1140171727900
Currency: USD
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Contact us:

Tel: +961 81 929 278 | Email: Philokalia.office@gmail.com | Website: www.philokalia-lb.com



CHRISTMAS NOVENA 2020

In preparation for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we will have the Christmas Novena from **December 15 to December 23**. Every night we will have a special intention as shown in the schedule below:

DATE	TIME	INTENTION
Tuesday, December 15, 2020	6:30 PM	First Responders
Wednesday, December 16, 2020	6:30 PM	Health Care Workers
Thursday, December 17, 2020	6:30 PM	People Enduring Sickness
Friday, December 18, 2020	6:30 PM	World Peace
Saturday, December 19, 2020	6:00 PM	Consecrated Vocations: Priests, Nuns, Monks and Seminarians
Sunday, December 20, 2020	11:00 AM	Special Intentions
Monday, December 21, 2020	6:30 PM	Education: Teachers and Students
Tuesday, December 22, 2020	6:30 PM	Our Youth
Wednesday, December 23, 2020	6:30 PM	Our Parish

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES 2020

DATE	TIME	
Thursday, December 24, 2020	6:30 PM	Christmas Vigil Liturgy
Friday, December 25, 2020	11:00 AM	Christmas Day Liturgy

DIVINE LITURGY NEW RESTRICTIONS

In response to rising COVID-19 cases in Philadelphia, the city and Department of Public Health have announced on Monday November 16, 2020 new restrictions on businesses, events and gatherings, and other activities to help reduce the number of cases and flatten the epidemic curve. **The new “Safer at Home” restrictions are effective as of this Friday, November 20, 2020 through January 1, 2021.**

These restrictions have affected the religious institutions in Philadelphia. All churches are permitted to have people indoors, but density must be capped at **5 ppl per 1,000 sq. ft. or 5 percent of maximum occupancy.** If we don't comply with these requirements, we will lose the privilege of being able to celebrate the Divine Liturgy with your presence. This is how these restrictions affected our Church:

- At Saint Maron Catholic Maronite Church, we can only accommodate **15 parishioners in church during each Liturgy or other prayer services such as the Christmas Novena this year.** The daily masses will remain an option to participate in person.
- For the safety of our children, **the Religious Education Program**, including all activities and classes, **will be postponed until** all the imposed restrictions are lifted God willing by **January 2021.**
- Please continue to follow the **Sunday Liturgy** as it will be **Live Streamed** on our parish **Facebook** page as well as **YouTube** page. When watching Liturgy from home, we invite you to create sacred space, eliminate distractions, and listen attentively and prayerfully.
- During this period of time, the church hall will be closed and **the coffee hour will be cancelled** until further notice.
- The faithful continue to be dispensed by Bishop Gregory from the obligation to attend Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation until further notice.
- We must do our share to reduce the risk of the virus. Therefore, everyone who is feeling ill, or considered part of a vulnerable health population is encouraged to stay home. As a community it is imperative that we all work together to keep each other healthy, safe.
- We will continue to **follow the Health and Safety guidelines** issued by the state and local health departments.
- **EVERYONE** (except those 2 years of age and younger) attending is to **WEAR A FACE MASK** throughout the celebration of Divine Liturgy
- Parishioners wishing to attend Divine Liturgy are asked to **SIGN UP** through the parish website: www.saintmaron.org or through the link the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040548A9A822A3FD0-stmaron>. For those who don't have access to the internet you can call the church office and we will assist you to sign up.
- **SIX FEET** distance between individuals is the norm for social distancing.
- Holy water fonts will remain empty.
- Doors will be kept open before and after Liturgy.
- Gatherings of parishioners are not to take place before or after Divine Liturgy for any reason. As people arrive to the church hall, they are to go immediately to their place.
- Only the single bathroom at the entrance of the hall will be open; this is a unisex bathroom. All others will be closed.
- All areas of the church will be sanitized routinely, according to the guidelines for sanitation provided by the CDC for houses of worship.
- Hand sanitizers will be available at the entrance of the church. We encourage everybody to bring their own hand sanitizer and wipes, as they are very difficult to find in the stores.
- Priests and deacons are not expected to wear masks or gloves.
- To avoid a real risk of infection with COVID-19 for the priest and the parishioners, **Holy Communion** will be distributed in the **HAND** at this time.
- While receiving Holy Communion we ask you to keep a space of **6 feet** distance between each other by standing on the marks indicated on the floor.
- Choir members will maintain physical distance and follow all safety measures throughout Divine Liturgy.
- Liturgical Books won't be available, we will post the service on a TV in the Church and everybody will be able to pray with us.
- The Church Bulletin will not be printed, we will continue to email it and post it on Facebook.
- The procession with the Gifts during the Offertory is omitted.
- The sign of the peace will be without contact throughout the church.
- The collection baskets will be placed at the entrance of the Church where parishioners can place their offerings. You may also make your donation online through our website.



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Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



December 12-13, 2020

First Reading

Ephesians 3:1-13

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

Brothers and Sisters:

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

Praise be to God always.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل أفسس

يا إِخْوَتِي، أَنَا بُولُسُ، أَسِيرَ الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْأُمَّمُ... إِنْ كُنْتُمْ قَدْ سَمِعْتُمْ بِتَدْبِيرِ نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي وَهَبْتُ لِي مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ، وَهُوَ أَنِّي بَوَّحِي أُطْلِعْتُ عَلَى السِّرِّ، كَمَا كَتَبْتُ إِلَيْكُمْ بِإِيجَازٍ مِنْ قَبْلِ، حِينَئِذٍ يُمَكِّنُكُمْ، إِذَا قَرَأْتُمْ ذَلِكَ، أَنْ تَدْرِكُوا فَهْمِي لِسِرِّ الْمَسِيحِ، هَذَا السِّرِّ الَّذِي لَمْ يُعْرَفْ عِنْدَ بَنِي الْبَشَرِ فِي الْأَجْيَالِ الْغَابِرَةِ، كَمَا أُعْلِنُ الْآنَ بِالرُّوحِ لِرُسُلِهِ الْقَدِيسِينَ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، وَهُوَ أَنَّ الْأُمَّمَ هُمْ، فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ، شُرَكَاءُ لَنَا فِي الْمِيرَاثِ وَالْجَسَدِ وَالْوَعْدِ، بِوَاسِطَةِ الْإِنْجِيلِ، الَّذِي صِرْتُ خَادِمًا لَهُ، بِحَسَبِ هِبَةِ نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي وَهَبْتُ لِي بِفِعْلِ قُدْرَتِهِ؛ لِي أَنَا، أَصْغَرَ الْقَدِيسِينَ جَمِيعًا، وَهَبْتُ هَذِهِ النِّعْمَةَ، وَهِيَ أَنْ أَبَيِّنَ الْأُمَّمَ بِغَنَى الْمَسِيحِ الَّذِي لَا يُسْتَقْصَى، وَأَنْ أُوضِحَ لِلْجَمِيعِ مَا هُوَ تَدْبِيرُ السِّرِّ الْمَكْتُومِ مُنْذُ الدُّهُورِ فِي اللَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، لِكَيْ تُعْرَفَ الْآنَ مِنْ خِلَالِ الْكَنِيسَةِ، لَدَى الرِّئَاسَاتِ وَالسَّلَاطِينِ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ، حِكْمَةُ اللَّهِ الْمُتَنَوِّعَةِ، بِحَسَبِ قُضْدِهِ الْأَزَلِيِّ الَّذِي حَقَّقَهُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ رَبِّنَا، الَّذِي لَنَا فِيهِ، أَيُّ بِالْإِيمَانِ بِهِ، الْوُصُولُ بِجُرْأَةٍ وَثِقَةٍ إِلَى اللَّهِ. لِذَلِكَ أَسْأَلُكُمْ أَنْ لَا تَضْعُفَ عَزِيمَتُكُمْ بِسَبَبِ الضِّيقاتِ الَّتِي أُعَانِيهَا مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ: إِنَّهَا مَجْدٌ لَكُمْ!

والتسبيح لله دائماً.

Gospel Reading

Saint Matthew 1:18-25

The Apostle Writes:

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the truth. Peace be with you.

مِنَ انْجِيلِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى

أَمَّا مِيلَادُ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ فَكَانَ هَكَذَا: لَمَّا كَانَتْ أُمُّهُ مَرْيَمُ مَخْطُوبَةً لِيُوسُفَ، وَقَبْلَ أَنْ يَسْكُنَا مَعًا، وَجِدَتْ حَامِلًا مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ. وَلَمَّا كَانَ يُوسُفُ رَجُلًا بَارًّا، وَلَا يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُشْهَرَ بِهَا، قَرَّرَ أَنْ يُطَلِّقَهَا سِرًّا. وَمَا إِنْ فَكَّرَ فِي هَذَا حَتَّى تَرَاعَى لَهُ مَلَاكُ الرَّبِّ فِي الْحُلْمِ قَائِلًا: "يَا يُوسُفُ بْنُ دَاوُدَ، لَا تَخَفْ أَنْ تَأْخُذَ مَرْيَمَ امْرَأَتَكَ، فَالْمَوْلُودُ فِيهَا إِنَّمَا هُوَ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ. وَسَوْفَ تَلِدُ ابْنًا، فَسَمِّهِ يَسُوعَ، لِأَنَّهُ هُوَ الَّذِي يُخَلِّصُ شَعْبَهُ مِنْ خَطَايَاهُمْ". وَحَدَّثَ هَذَا كُلَّهُ لِيَتِمَّ مَا قَالَهُ الرَّبُّ بِالنَّبِيِّ: هَا إِنَّ الْعَذْرَاءَ تَحْمِلُ وَتَلِدُ ابْنًا، وَيُدْعَى اسْمُهُ عِمَّاوُئِيلَ، أَيِ اللَّهِ مَعَنَا. وَلَمَّا قَامَ يُوسُفُ مِنَ النَّوْمِ، فَعَلَ كَمَا أَمَرَهُ مَلَاكُ الرَّبِّ وَأَخَذَ امْرَأَتَهُ. وَلَمْ يَعْرِفْهَا، فَوَلَدَتْ ابْنًا، وَسَمَّاهُ يَسُوعَ.

حَقًّا وَالْأَمَانُ لِكُلِّكُمْ.