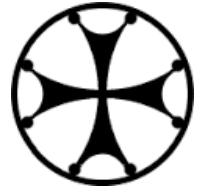




Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



January 2-3, 2021

THE FINDING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

HAPPY NEW YEAR

This year has been very different for all of us and I look forward to the time we can all be together. Until then, I send you the best wishes for a blessed and happy new year.

And remember, just because we can't visit in person, please know that I am always thinking about you and keeping you in my prayers.

Wishing you beautiful moments, treasured memories and all the happiness a heart can know.

Happy New Year and stay safe.

Yours in Christ,

Father Andrawos (Fadi) El Tabchi



The Epiphany - 6 January

Epiphany is one of the earliest feasts of the Eastern Church and it marks the end of Christmas. It is called Theophany which means “appearance” or “manifestation of Deity” because the feast commemorates the manifestation of Jesus’ divinity at His Baptism in the Jordan River. According to the Maronite Tradition, all houses are marked with a dough and all doors and windows are left open so that they can be blessed by Jesus the Everlasting visitor. At the moment Christ passes, all creation bows down to Him except the cursed fig tree and the proud mulberry tree. On this glorious feast, the Maronites greet each other with the term “Deyim Deyim” which “everlasting everlasting” as an announcement that Christ is living among us and He has blessed our homes with His visit at midnight.

During the Liturgy, water is blessed and all parishioners are invited to take Holy water with them to perform “the house blessing ceremony”. There is no specific prayer to pray while using holy water, but on Epiphany Day the following prayer is recommended:

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

Deyim Deyim and may God bless us all

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

Office: 215-389-2000 | **Hall Reservations:** 215-334-1884 | **For Emergencies:** 978-241-2977

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, January 2, @ 6:00PM, Liturgy is being offered for the repose of soul of Nan Farhat. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, January 3, @ 11:00AM, Liturgy is being offered for the repose of soul of Nan Farhat. May her soul rest in peace.

Monday, January 4, @ 9:00AM, DAILY LITURGY

Tuesday, January 5, 2020 @ 6:00PM, FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY, Liturgy is offered for the safety and well-being of our Parishioners.

Wednesday, January 6, 2020 @ 6:00PM, FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY, Liturgy is offered for the safety and well-being of our Parishioners.

Friday, January 8, 2020 @ 6:00PM, DAILY LITURGY FOLLOWED BY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Saturday, January 9, @ 6:00PM,

Sunday, January 10, @ 11:00AM, liturgy is offered for the repose of soul of Amine Skaf requested by Dany and Rania Cherfane and family. May her soul rest in peace.

EUCHARISTIC 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.



THE MARONITE ROAST

A new episode of The Maronite Roast podcast is now available! Our seminarians Chris and Christian try to “brew a little faith into your daily cup” and they’d love for you to check it out! Episode 3 (“Picture Un-Perfect”) can be heard on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or at the below link! Listen, like it, share it!

#TheMaroniteRoast

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1424920/6580609>

2021 MARONITE CALENDARS

The 2021 Maronite Calendars are available. You can pick them up from the back of the Church or from the Office.

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.

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. This way, we can give you tax recognition at the end of the year.

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 DiLuce, 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 Chokey, Kathy Newman, Rita Arrigale, Maryann Bratton, Renee Sahar, Sister Nahida Al-Sawa, Rose DeJesse, James Cordisio, Stacey Fuentes, Debbie Freedomberg, 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 intention.

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR

December 26-27, 2020

Christmas Collection	\$ 2,577.00
Sunday Collection	\$ 460.00
Online Donations	\$ 1,460.00
Total:	\$ 4,497.00



CHRISTMAS ... THE SEASON OF LOVE

It is by giving that we receive.

This year, we were able to help a lot of families to celebrate Christmas and that is because of your kind and generous donations. The **“GIVING TREE”** was a success. On behalf of all the families, we extend our thanks and love to all who participated in this year’s Christmas campaign. May God bless you and may the warmth and joy of Christmas bring you happiness and prosper always.

Merry Christmas



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GREGORY

Just as the bush on the mount of Horeb bore God in the flame, so did Mary bear Christ in her virginity.

St. Ephrem, Second Homily on the Nativity

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we approach Christmas during this unique year, we can't help but reflect on the challenges and sorrows that we have faced, not only here in the United States but especially in Lebanon. But by God's grace, we've received an outpouring of generosity for our beloved Lebanon. So many people in the Eparchy, and many outside, made financial gifts to help the most vulnerable and needy in Lebanon. I thank God, and thank you, that we have transferred over \$1.8 million to help in 2020.

Our hearts go out to our brothers and sisters in Lebanon who continue to endure their greatest difficulties since the civil war. We have been able to offer an opportunity for all people of good will to make a gift to several Catholic humanitarian institutions in Lebanon. See how one can help by visiting:

<https://www.stmaron.org/how-you-can-help>

Your generosity has been a ray of light amidst the darkness. Thank you for showing your love for the people of Lebanon. I pray that you and your loved ones will have a healthy, holy and merry Christmas, and a blessed New Year.

+ Bishop Gregory Mansour





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:

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Currency: USD
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Contact us:

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

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.



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



Ronald Rex Piselli, Supervisor, President
Richard G. Piselli, Vice President
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Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



January 2-3, 2021

First Reading

Hebrews 7:11-19

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Your blessing father...

Brothers and Sisters:

If, then, perfection came through the levitical priesthood, on the basis of which the people received the law, what need would there still have been for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not reckoned according to the order of Aaron? When there is a change of priesthood, there is necessarily a change of law as well. Now he of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, of which no member ever officiated at the altar. It is clear that our Lord arose from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. It is even more obvious if another priest is raised up after the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become so, not by a law expressed in a commandment concerning physical descent but by the power of a life that cannot be destroyed. For it is testified: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." On the one hand, a former commandment is annulled because of its weakness and uselessness, for the law brought nothing to perfection; on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

Praise be to God always.

فصل من الرسالة إلى العبرانيين

يا إِخْوَتِي، لَوْ كَانَ الْكَمَالُ قَدْ تَحَقَّقَ بِالْكَهَنُوتِ اللَّأْوِيِّ، وَهُوَ أَسَاسُ الشَّرِيعَةِ الَّتِي أُعْطِيَتْ لِلشَّعْبِ، فَأَيُّ حَاجَةٍ بَعْدُ إِلَى أَنْ يَقُومَ كَاهِنٌ آخَرٌ عَلَى «رُتْبَةِ مَلِكِيصَادِقِ»، وَلَا يُقَالُ «عَلَى رُتْبَةِ هَارُونَ»؟ فَمَتَى تَغَيَّرَ الْكَهَنُوتُ، لَا بُدَّ مِنْ تَغْيِيرِ الشَّرِيعَةِ أَيْضًا. فَالَّذِي يُقَالُ هَذَا فِي شَأْنِهِ، أَيِ الْمَسِيحِ، جَاءَ مِنْ سِبْطِ آخَرَ، لَمْ يَلِزِمِ أَحَدٌ مِنْهُ خِدْمَةَ الْمَذْبَحِ، وَمِنْ الْوَاضِحِ أَنَّ رَبَّنَا أَشْرَقَ مِنْ يَهُودًا، مِنْ سِبْطِ لَمْ يَصِفْهُ مُوسَى بِشَيْءٍ مِنَ الْكَهَنُوتِ. وَيَزِيدُ الْأَمْرَ وَضُوحًا أَنَّ الْكَاهِنَ الْآخَرَ الَّذِي يَقُومُ عَلَى مِثَالِ مَلِكِيصَادِقِ، لَمْ يَقُمْ وَفَقَ شَرِيعَةً وَصِيَّةً بَشَرِيَّةً، بَلْ وَفَقَ قُوَّةَ حَيَاةٍ لَا تَزُولُ. وَيُشْهَدُ لَهُ: «أَنْتَ كَاهِنٌ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ، عَلَى رُتْبَةِ مَلِكِيصَادِقِ!». وَهَكَذَا يَتِمُّ إِبْطَالُ وَصِيَّةِ الْكَهَنُوتِ السَّابِقَةِ، بِسَبَبِ ضَعْفِهَا وَعَدَمِ نَفْعِهَا، لِأَنَّ الشَّرِيعَةَ لَمْ تَبْلُغْ شَيْئًا إِلَى الْكَمَالِ، وَيَتِمُّ أَيْضًا إِدْخَالُ رَجَاءٍ أَفْضَلَ، بِهِ نَقْتَرِبُ مِنَ اللَّهِ. **والتسبيح لله دائمًا.**

Gospel Reading

Saint Luke 2:41-52

The Apostle Writes:

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

This is the truth. Peace be with you.

مِنْ إِنْجِيلِ الْقَدِيسِ لَوْقَا

كَانَ أَبُو يَسُوعَ يَذْهَبَانِ كُلَّ سَنَةٍ فِي عِيدِ الْفِصْحِ إِلَى أُورَشَلِيمَ. وَلَمَّا بَلَغَ يَسُوعُ اثْنَتَيْ عَشْرَةَ سَنَةً، صَعِدُوا مَعًا كَمَا هِيَ الْعَادَةُ فِي الْعِيدِ. وَبَعْدَ انْقِضَاءِ أَيَّامِ الْعِيدِ، عَادَ الْأَبَوَانِ، وَبَقِيَ الصَّبِيُّ يَسُوعُ فِي أُورَشَلِيمَ، وَهُمَا لَا يَدْرِيَانِ. وَإِذْ كَانَا يَطْنَانِ أَنَّهُ فِي الْقَافِلَةِ، سَارَا مَسِيرَةَ يَوْمٍ، ثُمَّ أَخَذَا يَطْلُبَانِهِ بَيْنَ الْأَقَارِبِ وَالْمَعَارِفِ. وَلَمْ يَجِدَاهُ، فَعَادَا إِلَى أُورَشَلِيمَ يَبْحَثَانِ عَنْهُ. وَبَعْدَ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ، وَجَدَاهُ فِي الْهَيْكَلِ جَالِسًا بَيْنَ الْعُلَمَاءِ، يَسْمَعُهُمْ وَيَسْأَلُهُمْ. وَكَانَ جَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَهُ مُنْذَهَلِينَ بِذَكَائِهِ وَأَجْوِبَتِهِ. وَلَمَّا رَأَى أَبُوَاهُ بُهْتًا، وَقَالَتْ لَهُ أُمُّهُ: "يَا ابْنِي، لِمَاذَا فَعَلْتَ بِنَا هَكَذَا؟ فَهَذَا أَنَا وَأَبُوكَ كُنَّا نَبْحَثُ عَنْكَ مُتَوَجِّعِينَ!". فَقَالَ لَهُمَا: "لِمَاذَا تَطْلُبَانِنِي؟ أَلَا تَعْلَمَانِ أَنَّهُ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ أَكُونَ فِي مَا هُوَ لِأَبِي؟". أَمَّا هُمَا فَلَمْ يَفْهَمَا الْكَلَامَ الَّذِي كَلَّمَهُمَا بِهِ. ثُمَّ نَزَلَ مَعَهُمَا، وَعَادَ إِلَى النَّاصِرَةِ، وَكَانَ خَاضِعًا لَهُمَا. وَكَانَتْ أُمُّهُ تَحْفَظُ كُلَّ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورِ فِي قَلْبِهَا. وَكَانَ يَسُوعُ يَنْمُو فِي الْحِكْمَةِ وَالْقَامَةِ وَالنِّعْمَةِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَالنَّاسِ.
حَقًّا وَالْأَمَانِ لَجَمِيعِكُمْ.