



Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church



December 26-27, 2020

SUNDAY AFTER THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us” (Luke 2:15)

That was the first thing the shepherds said to one another after the angels had left them. So they went with haste to Bethlehem but, what did they see? They saw a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger, exactly what the angel has told them. But there is something much greater in this scene. It all lies in the word “manger” the first royal cradle.

The first bed of the King of kings was nothing other than a feeding trough for slobbering animals. In other words, the Baby King was not fed; rather, laid in the place where the animals eat, He is offered as food for the world. The only Son of God was born to be the world’s sacrifice.

Jesus was born in the most vulnerable and least protected space that we could imagine. He came as an innocent, needy, dependent baby born to parents who were poor, simple and humble. Not to claim glory and fame rather to give His life for us. And by that, God is showing us how much we mean to Him. That is how much He loves us; He gave Himself in exchange for our lives.

With all that is happening around us in this dark cruel world, it is easy to lose sight of just how much we’re loved. So, this Christmas let’s take some time to think about God’s steadfast, faithful and unshakable love for us. And let us give thanks to God in every circumstance.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the joy of Christmas and the Love of God penetrate our hearts and souls, so we may change our lives to become peacemakers, love others as we love ourselves and love God above all things.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Yours in Christ,

Father Andrawos (Fadi) El Tabchi

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, December 26, @ 6:00PM, liturgy is offered as a 1-year memorial for the soul of RoseAnn Anthony requested by her family. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, December 27, @ 11:00AM, liturgy is offered for of Peter Koway requested by Terri Koway. May his soul rest in peace.

Monday, December 28, @ 9:00AM, DAILY LITURGY

Tuesday, December 29, 2020 @ 9:00AM, DAILY LITURGY

Wednesday, December 30, 2020 @ 6:00PM, DAILY LITURGY

Thursday, December 31, 2020 @ 6:00PM, NEW YEAR'S EVE LITURGY. Liturgy is offered for the Eparchy of St. Maron Brooklyn.

Saturday, January 2, @ 6:00PM,

Sunday, January 3, @ 11:00AM,

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.



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

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.

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR December 19-20, 2020

Collection	\$ 1,559.00
Online Donations	\$ 1,530.00
Total:	\$ 3,089.00

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 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 intention



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:

Account Name: 717279 - Messrs Philokalia Organization
Bank Name: Bank of Beirut
Branch: Batroun - Old Main Road - Near St Etienne Cathedral.
Tel: +961 1 907048
P.O.Box: 11-7354 Beirut – Lebanon
Swift Code: BABELBBE
Account number: 0140171727900
Currency: LBP
Iban: LB31 007500000000140171727900
Account number: 1140171727900
Currency: USD
Iban: LB39 007500000001140171727900



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
Harry J. Hoch, Office Manager



Ronald Rex Piselli
"The Funeral Chapel"

215-271-0950

email: ronrex@comcast.net

CASKET SHOWROOM - OFFICES
1213 S. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147



"A face you can recognize with a reputation for excellence"

2237-41 5 3rd St,
Philadelphia, PA 19148
www.murphyruffemach.com
215-334-1578



Brian W. Donnelly
Supervisor

**Winner of the "Civillian of the Year" by the
Veterans Advisory Commission.
Voted best of Philadelphia 2015.**

A percentage (5% of funeral home and merchandise costs) of your loved ones funeral will be donated in their memory returned back to St Maron's Church

MONTI RAGO FUNERAL HOME, INC.
2531-35 S. BROAD STREET · PHILADELPHIA, PA 19148
P: (215) 462-0992 F: (215) 462-4699
www.monti-ragofuneralhome.com
Mark J. Rago - Funeral Director
Samuel J. Monti- Supervisor - Founder
Nicholas A. DiValentino - Office Manager
*Dignified. Personal Service. Pre-planning Specialists.
Traditional Service and Cremation Service Available.*
Newly renovated facility.

John R. Deady
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

FRANK R. LAMANTIA, Supervisor
www.deadyfuneralhome.com
2501 S. Camac St. • 215.468.1200

TRANSLATION
Need documents translated from
Arabic/French/Italian into English?
Call William Hanna
267-808-0287
IMMIGRATION
We provide you with the best service
and the least expensive!

Elias I. Photography
Capture your priceless moments
Philadelphia, PA
610-790-3770
Facebook & Instagram
Elias I. Photography

SEWELL
DENTAL DESIGNS
COSMETIC · RESTORATIVE
IMPLANT · ORTHODONTICS
DR. FRED HADDAD, D.M.D.
(856) 589-7789 | sewelledentaldesigns.com
477 Greentree Road, Suite C, Sewell, NJ 08080

Quinn's Flowers
Flowers For All Occasions

Serving The Philadelphia
Area For Over 75 Years
215-468-2881
QuinnFlowers@Yahoo.com
2008 S. 3rd St.
Phila., PA 19148

Together We Can Donate More to St. Maron's Church
For every real estate transaction that we complete with you, you will receive a rebate from our commission, so that you can donate it to St. Maron's Church, Philadelphia PA, if you wish.

AFFINITY
REAL ESTATE TEAM
Tony - 215-285-6435

Tony & Leen Salloum
LICENSED IN PA & NJ
Leen - 484-432-0424

TheAffinityTeam.com
COMPASS
610-822-3356



Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



December 26-27, 2020

First Reading

2 Corinthians 11:1-9

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

Brothers and Sisters:

I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I promised you in marriage to one husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by its cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you submit to it readily enough. I think that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. I may be untrained in speech, but not in knowledge; certainly in every way and in all things we have made this evident to you. Did I commit a sin by humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I proclaimed God's good news to you free of charge? I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for my needs were supplied by the friends who came from Macedonia. So I refrained and will continue to refrain from burdening you in any way.

Praise be to God always.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل كورنتس

يا إخوتي، لئنيكم تحتملوني قليلاً لأنطق بالجهالة! نعم، احتملوني! فإني أغار عليكم غيرة الله، لأني خطبتكم لرجل واحد هو المسيح، لأقدمكم إليه عذراء طاهرة. لكنني أخاف لعلكم، كما أغوت الحية بمكرها حواء، كذلك تفسد أفكاركم وتتحوّل عن بساطتها وإخلاصها للمسيح! فلو جاءكم أحد يبشّر بيسوع آخر غير الذي بشّرناكم به، أو نلتّم روحاً آخر غير الذي نلتّموه، أو إنجيلاً آخر غير الذي قبلتّموه، لكنتم تحتملونه راضين! وأظن أني لم أنقص في شيء عن أكابر الرسل. فإن كنت سادجاً في كلامي، فلست كذلك في معرفتي، ولقد بينا لكم ذلك في كل شيء أمم الجميع. أتراني ارتكبت خطيئة، لأني واضعت نفسي لترتفعوا أنتم، عندما بشّرتم بإنجيل الله مجاناً؟ لقد سلبت كنائس أخرى، أخذاً منها النفقة لخدمتكم. ولما كنت عندكم، وأنا معوز، لم أنقل على أحد منكم، لأن عوزي قد سدّه الإخوة الذين جاؤوا من مقدونية. وقد حرصت في كل شيء ألا أنقل عليكم، وسأحرص أيضاً.

والتسبيح لله دائماً.

Gospel Reading

Saint Matthew 23:29-39, 24:1-2

The Apostle Writes:

‘Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous, and you say, "If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets." Thus you testify against yourselves that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your ancestors. You snakes, you brood of vipers! How can you escape being sentenced to hell? Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation. ‘Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." ’ As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. Then he asked them, ‘You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.’

This is the truth. Peace be with you.

مِنَ انْجِيلِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى

قالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ: "الْوَيْلُ لَكُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْكَتَبَةُ وَالْفَرِيسِيُّونَ الْمُرَاؤُونَ! لِأَنَّكُمْ تَبْنُونَ قُبُورَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ، وَتُزَيِّنُونَ مَدَافِنَ الْأَبْرَارِ، وَتَقُولُونَ: لَوْ كُنَّا فِي أَيَّامِ آبَائِنَا لَمَا شَارَكْنَاهُمْ فِي دَمِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ. فَأَنْتُمْ تَشْهَدُونَ عَلَى أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَنَّكُمْ أَبْنَاءُ قَتَلَةِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ. فَامْلَأُوا أَنْتُمْ أَيْضًا كَيْلَ آبَائِكُمْ! أَيُّهَا الْحَيَاتُ نَسَلِ الْأَفَاعِي! كَيْفَ تَهْرَبُونَ مِنْ دَيْنُونَةِ جَهَنَّمَ؟ لِذَلِكَ هَا أَنَا أُرْسِلُ إِلَيْكُمْ أَنْبِيَاءَ وَحُكَمَاءَ وَكَتَبَةَ، فَتَقْتُلُونَ بَعْضَهُمْ وَتَصَلِبُونَ، وَتَجْلِدُونَ بَعْضَهُمْ فِي مَجَامِعِكُمْ، وَتَطَارِدُونَهُمْ مِنْ مَدِينَةٍ إِلَى مَدِينَةٍ، حَتَّى يَقَعَ عَلَيْكُمْ كُلُّ دَمِ زَكِيٍّ سَفَكَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ، مِنْ دَمِ هَابِيلَ الْبَارِّ إِلَى دَمِ زَكَرِيَّا بْنِ بَرَكَيَا، الَّذِي قَتَلْتُمُوهُ بَيْنَ الْمَقْدِسِ وَالْمَذْبَحِ. الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: سَيَقَعُ كُلُّ ذَلِكَ عَلَى هَذَا الْجِيلِ! أُورَشَلِيمُ، أُورَشَلِيمُ، يَا قَاتِلَةَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ، وَرَاجِمَةَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ إِلَيْهَا! كَمْ مَرَّةً أَرَدْتُ أَنْ أَجْمَعَ أَوْلَادِكَ كَمَا تَجْمَعُ الدَّجَاجَةُ فِرَاحَهَا تَحْتَ جَنَاحَيْهَا، وَلَمْ تُرِيدُوا! هُوَذَا بَيْتُكُمْ يُتْرَكُ لَكُمْ خَرَابًا! فَإِنِّي لَأَقُولُ لَكُمْ: لَنْ تَرُونِي مِنَ الْآنَ إِلَى أَنْ تَقُولُوا: مُبَارَكٌ الْآتِي بِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ!". وَخَرَجَ يَسُوعُ مِنَ الْهَيْكَلِ وَمَضَى. فَدَنَا مِنْهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ يُلْفِتُونَ نَظْرَهُ إِلَى أُنْبِيَةِ الْهَيْكَلِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "أَلَا تَنْظُرُونَ هَذَا كُلَّهُ؟ الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: لَنْ يُتْرَكَ هُنَا حَجَرٌ عَلَى حَجَرٍ إِلَّا وَيُنْقَضُ."

حَقًّا وَالْأَمَانَ لْجَمِيعِكُمْ.