



Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



Cana Sunday:
Entrance into the Season of Great Lent

February 26-27, 2022

Lenten Reflection by Our Seminarians

Happy Cana Sunday dear parishioners! I can't believe we have already made it to Lent – time is just flying by. If you're like me then you probably have even thought about what you are going to give up for Lent this year. Every year, I say I'm going to give up chocolate or television or (dare I even say) coffee, however, each year Lent concludes, and I think to myself... so what did I accomplish or how did I change? Well, perhaps this year, the Season of Great Lent can be different for both you and me. Perhaps, this year, instead of striving to just endure our fasts, sacrifices, and extra prayers for 40 days, we thrive in our journey with God and ourselves where we encounter the true living God, Jesus Christ, who wishes to have a deep relationship with each and every one of us – no matter where we are in life. Catherine Doherty, a Russian-Canadian Catholic social worker and founder of the Madonna House Apostolate, once said: "Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves... What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation." You see, brothers and sisters, Lent is a time of conversion, a time to journey with our Lord and with ourselves. This sacred season of Great Lent gives each of us in the Church an opportunity to look deep within themselves and discover where we need to grow. Many of us (including myself) sometimes treat Lent as a test of endurance thinking to ourselves: "how long can I go with giving up coffee." Then, when we break our fast, we become discouraged and try to restart again or simply give up. But there is SO much more to Lent than just endurance. Lent is a daily journey rooted in our relationship with God and with others which does include our fasting, prayers, almsgiving, and sacrifices. During this season of Great Lent, we have the opportunity to spiritually join ourselves to all our Christian Catholic brothers and sisters across the world who are also journeying in Lent. Through our daily prayers, Scripture readings, and sacrifices, we begin to grow closer to Christ personally and as a whole Church. Lent is also a time

when families can grow closer together. It's the small things that will make a difference such as gathering to pray before a meal or going to Sunday Divine Liturgy as a family. As a family, you could go on a pilgrimage to a Catholic Shrine and look for service opportunities in your local parish and/or community. Lent is a time of spiritual reflection. Many individuals go on a weekend retreat or a one-day retreat to get away from the noisy world and calm their thoughts and minds in solitude with God. Lastly, Lent is also a time for fasting. However, I invite you not to just fast for the sake of fasting. Fast from things that draw you away from God and your vocation in life. For example, if you watch too much TV and it strips you away from your work and/or family, then give up TV (Netflix, TikTok, etc). Ultimately, we know ourselves best, and so this Lent is an opportunity to really discover what takes us away from God & from our mission in life. In conclusion, brothers and sisters, rejoice and be glad because the season of Great Lent is upon us which means, today, is the day to begin our journey with God and with ourselves. Do not be afraid to look deep within yourself and discover where you need to grow this Lent. It's not about endurance, it's about a journey. Walk with Christ each day and you will conclude Lent on Resurrection Sunday as a new person. Draw closer to your family and friends during Lent through prayer and service. Fast from things that genuinely take you away from God and take some time to retreat from the busy and noisy world around us. Finally, remember that this season of Great Lent is about our relationship with God, the God who deeply desires to draw closer to each and every one of us. However, we must open wide the doors of our hearts to let Christ in. Never forget that Great Lent is truly a gift that "makes justice abound and holiness thrive" (Maronite Qurbono, 186).

Sincerely in Christ,

Deacon Chris Nahra

St. Maron Church in Cleveland, OH

*Eparchy of Our Lady
of Lebanon of Los Angeles*



DIVINE LITURGIES

Saturday, February 26, @ 6:00PM,

Sunday, February 27, @ 11:00AM, liturgy is offered for the soul of Jamile Haddad and Joseph Sholy requested by Philip and Vivian Rai. May her soul rest in peace.

Monday, February 28, @ 6:00PM, ASH MONDAY

Wednesday, March 2, @ 6:00PM, FEAST OF ST. JOHN MARON

Friday, March 4, @ 6:00PM, STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Saturday, March 5, @ 6:00PM, Sunday, March 6, @ 11:00AM, liturgy is offered for the soul of Brian DeSanto requested by the family and Suzanne Haney. May his soul rest in peace.

TAX CONTRIBUTION LETTER

If you would like to receive your tax contribution letter for 2021, please contact the office and we will prepare the papers needed. These can only be done for those who used the envelope system or made a donation by check. Thank you for your continued support to St. Maron Church.

ELDERLY COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion at home, please contact the Church Office at 215-389-2000.

2022 CHURCH ENVELOPES

The 2022 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 letter 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 February 19-20, 2022

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,347.00
Donation	\$ 280.00
Online	\$ 200.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 27.00
Total:	\$ 1,854.00

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers Lisa McBride, Robert Nigro, Thomas Jones, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Henry George, Linda Yeckes, Frankie Olivieri, Richy Grande, Marie Eddis, Mia Andrilla, Jimmy Romeo, Natalie Ciancaglini, Ashley Iaconelli, Stephen Bressi, Elissar Ayoub, Joanne Simon-Turing, Kevin Khoury, Suzanne Haney, Linda DiBernardo, Joan Speck, David Joseph Cook, Eddie Tayoun, Panichi, Dennis Strelchuk, Gladys Dalcourt, Denise Furey, Mirta Ruiz, Rita Impo, Jade Kellam, Marion Thomas Branca, Francesca Impo, Lucy DiLuce, Laurent Chidiac, Tom Hart, John Hart, Fadi Jaber, Joseph Realdine, Lisa Alestra, John Nader, Joey Gdowick, Francis Joseph Kerns, Samer Chokeir, Kathy Newman, Rita Arrigale, Maryann Bratton, Renee Sahar, Sister Nahida Al-Sawa, James Cordisio, Stacey Fuentes, Debbie Freedenberg, Noel Andjuhar, and Angel Salerno. 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.

Readings

First Reading

Romans 14:14-23

Gospel Reading

John 2:1-11

Our Mission Statement

To seek to know the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ, to celebrate together as a united family of faith, and to share our gifts and talents in loving service to others.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is burning for the soul of **Jamile Haddad**

Fr. Andrewos (Fadi) ElTabchi, Pastor | Fr. David Fisher, Consultant

Janah Szewczyk, 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



ASH MONSAY

Monday, February 28, 2022

9:00AM: Morning Prayer and distribution of Ashes

6:00PM: Divine Liturgy and distribution of Ashes



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday @ 6:00PM

From March 4 to April 8

RICE BOWL

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. These past two years have been challenging for everyone—and certainly even more challenging for people who already struggled. One in 9 people around the world are hungry. COVID-19 has only increased the threat of food insecurity globally. We encourage you to participate in the crsricebowl.org program. It is family oriented and easy to begin.

You can find the Rice Bowl Boxes in the back of the Church and also in the Hall.



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FAST



GIVE



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STATUTES OF THE EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN 2019

Times of Fast and Penitence

STATUTE 99. In our Maronite Church all Fridays of the year are considered to be days of penance, and days of abstinence from meat and dairy products, (with the exception of Fridays that fall on a Holy Day, or Fridays between the Nativity of the Lord and the Glorious Epiphany, and between the Resurrection and Pentecost). Although highly encouraged, this rule of abstinence is not obligatory in this Eparchy. However, it is obligatory to abstain from meat on Ash Monday and on all Fridays of Lent, as long as one is physically able to do so.

STATUTE 100. Ash Monday and Great Friday are not only days of abstinence, but also days of fast, whereby, no food or drink (except water or medication) is to be taken from midnight until noon, as long as one is physically able to do so.

STATUTE 101. Great Lent and Passion Week, beginning on Ash Monday and ending at 12:00 (noon) on Saturday of the Light, is a season of penitence. In our Maronite Church each day of this season is considered to be a day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products, (with the exception of Sundays and Holy Days). Although highly encouraged, this fast is not obligatory in this Eparchy. However, it is obligatory to abstain from meat on Ash Monday and all Fridays of Lent, and to fast on Ash Monday and Great Friday, as long as one is physically able to do so.

STATUTE 102. In our Maronite Church the "Christmas Fast" is observed on all days, except Sundays, from December 16 until noon on December 24. Each day of this period is considered to be a day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products, (with the exception of Sundays). Although highly encouraged, this fast is not obligatory in this Eparchy.

STATUTE 103. In our Maronite Church the "Fast of Our Lady" is observed on all days, except Sundays, from August 7 until noon on August 14. Each day of this period is considered to be a day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products, (with the exception of Sundays). Although highly encouraged, this fast is not obligatory in this Eparchy.

STATUTE 104. In our Maronite Church the "Fast of the Apostles" is observed on all days, except Sundays, from June 17 until noon of June 28. Each day of this period is considered to be a day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products, (with the exception of Sundays and Holy Days). Although highly encouraged, this fast is not obligatory in this Eparchy.

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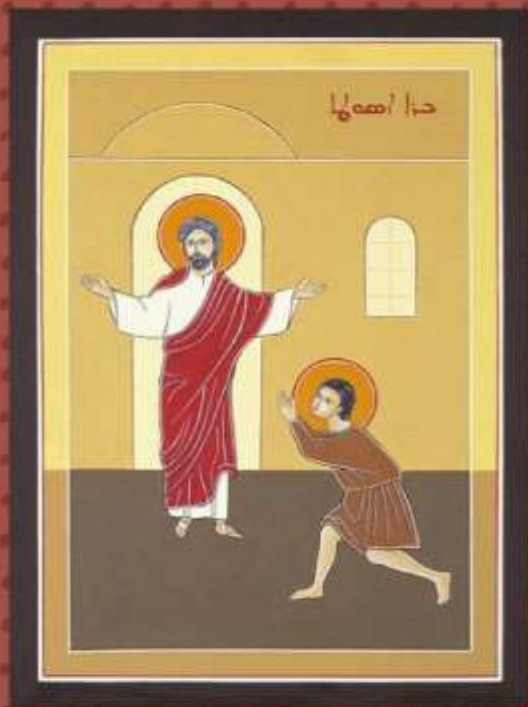
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YOU TO**

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church.

GREAT LENT ADULT FAITH FORMATION

ADULT FAITH FORMATION 2022



GREAT LENT: HEALING AND TRANSFORMATION IN CHRIST

Join the Maronite Sisters and Clergy from our Eparchy of Saint Maron as we reflect and go deeper on applying the message of these powerful Gospels into our lives.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

**FEB. 24: THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF CANA SUNDAY**

MSGR. SEELY BEGGIANI

**MAR. 3: THE HEALING OF
THE LEPER**

FR. RUDY WAKIM

**MAR. 10: THE HEALING OF
THE HEMORRHAGING WOMAN**

DEACON JOE CHEBLI

MAR. 17: THE PRODIGAL SON

FR. VINCE FARHAT

Via Zoom on Thursdays 8:00-9:00PM

[Register Here](#)

HOSTED BY THE MARONITE SERVANTS OF CHRIST THE LIGHT

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THE EPARCHY OF ST. MARON PRESENTS

MYA EPARCHIAL CONFERENCE

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ARISE & WALK
MARK 2:1-12

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Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



February 26-27, 2022

First Reading

Romans 14:14-23

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

Brothers and Sisters:

I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval. Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual edification. Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for you to make others fall by what you eat; it is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble. The faith that you have, have as your own conviction before God. Blessed are those who have no reason to condemn themselves because of what they approve. But those who have doubts are condemned if they eat, because they do not act from faith; for whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

Praise be to God always.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل رومة

يا إخواني، إِنِّي عَالِمٌ وَوَاثِقٌ، فِي الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ، أَنَّ لَا شَيْءَ نَجِسٌ فِي ذَاتِهِ، إِلَّا لِمَنْ يَحْسَبُهُ نَجِسًا، فَلَهُ يَكُونُ نَجِسًا. فَإِنْ كُنْتَ مِنْ أَجْلِ الطَّعَامِ تُحْزِنُ أَخَاكَ، فَلَا تَكُونُ سَالِكًا فِي الْمَحَبَّةِ. فَلَا تُهْلِكُ بِطَعَامِكَ ذَاكَ الَّذِي مَاتَ الْمَسِيحُ مِنْ أَجْلِهِ! إِذَا فَلَا تَسْمَحُوا بِأَنْ يَصِيرَ الْخَيْرُ فِيكُمْ سَبَبًا لِلتَّجْدِيفِ. فَلَيْسَ مَلَكُوتُ اللَّهِ أَكْلًا وَشُرْبًا، بَلْ بَرٌّ وَسَلَامٌ وَفَرَحٌ فِي الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ. فَمَنْ يَخْدُمُ الْمَسِيحَ هَكَذَا فَهُوَ مَرْضِيٌّ لَدَى اللَّهِ، وَمَقْبُولٌ لَدَى النَّاسِ. فَلْنَسْعَ إِذَا إِلَى مَا هُوَ لِلسَّلَامِ، وَمَا هُوَ لِلْبُنْيَانِ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا. فَلَا تَنْقُضْ عَمَلَ اللَّهِ مِنْ أَجْلِ الطَّعَامِ؛ لِأَنَّ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ طَاهِرٌ، وَلَكِنَّهُ يَنْقَلِبُ شَرًّا عَلَى الْإِنْسَانِ الَّذِي يَأْكُلُ وَيَكُونُ سَبَبَ عَثْرَةٍ لِأَخِيهِ. فَخَيْرٌ لَكَ أَنْ لَا تَأْكُلَ لَحْمًا، وَلَا تَشْرَبَ خَمْرًا، وَلَا تَتَنَاوَلَ شَيْئًا يَكُونُ سَبَبَ عَثْرَةٍ لِأَخِيكَ. وَاحْتَفِظْ بِرَأْيِكَ لِنَفْسِكَ أَمَامَ اللَّهِ. وَطُوبَى لِمَنْ لَا يَدِينُ نَفْسَهُ فِي مَا يُقَرِّرُهُ! أَمَّا الْمُرْتَابُ فِي قَرَارِهِ، فَإِنْ أَكَلَ يُدَانَ، لِأَنَّ عَمَلَهُ غَيْرُ صَادِرٍ عَنْ يَقِينٍ وَإِيمَانٍ. وَكُلُّ عَمَلٍ لَا يَصْدُرُ عَنْ يَقِينٍ وَإِيمَانٍ فَهُوَ خَطِيئَةٌ.

والتسبيح لله دائماً.

Gospel Reading

Saint John 2:1-11

The Apostle Writes:

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the truth. Peace be with you.

مِنْ إِنْجِيلِ الْقَدِيسِ يُوْحَنَّا

فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ، كَانَ عُرْسٌ فِي قَانَا الْجَلِيلِ، وَكَانَتْ أُمُّ يَسُوعَ هُنَاكَ. وَدُعِيَ أَيْضًا يَسُوعُ وَتَلَامِيذُهُ إِلَى الْعُرْسِ. وَنَفَدَ الْخَمْرُ، فَقَالَتْ لِيَسُوعَ أُمُّهُ: «لَيْسَ لَدَيْهِمْ خَمْرٌ». فَقَالَ لَهَا يَسُوعُ: «مَا لِي وَلَكَ، يَا امْرَأَةٌ؟ لَمْ تَأْتِ سَاعَتِي بَعْدُ!». فَقَالَتْ أُمُّهُ لِلْخَدَمِ: «مَهْمَا يَقُلْ لَكُمْ فَافْعَلُوهُ!». وَكَانَ هُنَاكَ سِتَّةُ أَجْرَانِ مِنْ حَجَرٍ، مُعَدَّةٌ لِتَطْهِيرِ الْيَهُودِ، يَسَعُ كُلُّ مِنْهَا مِنْ ثَمَانِينَ إِلَى مِئَةِ وَعِشْرِينَ لِيْتَرَا، فَقَالَ يَسُوعُ لِلْخَدَمِ: «إِمْلَأُوا الْأَجْرَانَ مَاءً». فَمَلَأُوهُمَا إِلَى فَوْقِ. قَالَ لَهُمْ: «اسْتَقُوا الْآنَ، وَقَدِّمُوا لِرَبِّيسِ الْوَلِيمَةِ». فَقَدَّمُوا. وَذَاقَ الرَّبِّيسُ الْمَاءَ، الَّذِي صَارَ خَمْرًا - وَكَانَ لَا يَعْلَمُ مِنْ أَيْنَ هُوَ، وَالْخَدَمُ الَّذِينَ اسْتَقَوْ يَعْلَمُونَ - فَدَعَا إِلَيْهِ الْعَرِيسَ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «كُلُّ إِنْسَانٍ يَقْدِمُ الْخَمْرَ الْجَيِّدَ أَوَّلًا، حَتَّى إِذَا سَكِرَ الْمَدْعُوُونَ، قَدَّمَ الْأَقْلَ جُودَةً، أَمَّا أَنْتَ فَقَدْ أَبْقَيْتَ الْخَمْرَ الْجَيِّدَ إِلَى الْآنَ!». تِلْكَ كَانَتْ أُولَى آيَاتِ يَسُوعَ، صَنَعَهَا فِي قَانَا الْجَلِيلِ، فَأَظْهَرَ مَجْدَهُ، وَآمَنَ بِهِ تَلَامِيذُهُ. حَقًّا وَالْأَمَانُ لَجَمِيعِكُمْ.