



# Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church

1013 Ellsworth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

215.389.2000 | 215.334.1884 | office@saintmaron.org

## WEEKLY BULLETIN – 09/08/2024

### *Season of the Holy Cross*



## Celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated on September 14, holds deep significance in the Maronite Church. This feast commemorates both the discovery of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, and the subsequent recovery of the Cross from Persian captivity by Emperor Heraclius in the 7th century.

In the Maronite tradition, the Cross is not merely a symbol of suffering but a sign of victory, redemption and life. The Cross is revered as the instrument through which Christ conquered death and sin, offering salvation to all humanity. The Maronite liturgy emphasizes this triumph, focusing on the Cross as the source of divine grace and the ultimate expression of God's love.

A unique and profound element of the Maronite celebration is the rite of blessing the four corners of the world. During this ritual, the priest lifts the Cross and turns to bless each of the cardinal directions, symbolizing the universal scope of Christ's salvation and the spreading of His grace to all nations. This act is followed by the blessing of water, which is then sprinkled on the congregation, signifying purification, renewal and the protection offered through Christ's sacrifice.

The sprinkling of blessed water reminds the faithful of their baptism, renewing their commitment to live in the grace of Christ. The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, with its rich liturgical traditions, invites us to renew our faith, embrace our own crosses and find strength and hope in the Cross, the profound symbol of God's enduring love and victory over evil.

May the power of the Holy Cross guide us and protect us as we journey in faith, embracing our own crosses, with the strength and grace that flow from Christ's eternal victory. Amen.

OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED
TUESDAY – FRIDAY 10:30AM - 4:00PM
Pastor
Fr. Andrawos (Fadi) El Tabchi
Advisor / Consultant
Fr. David Fisher
Administrative Assistant
Claudine ElHajal
Parish Council
Costa J. Mansour, Michael Marrone, Anne Tayoun, Manal ElHajal, Rosemarie Marrone, Barbara Dahdah, Tony Frangie, Khalil Raie, Nahi Rai, Roger Jebara
Finance Committee
Philip Rai, Deebeanne Tavani, Terri Koway, Fred Haddad, Paul Kouyoumdji, Denise Eddis, Jimmy Jebara, Jano Frangie
Festival Chairmen
Billy Tayoun, Tony Frangie
Saint Jude
Denise Eddis, Theresa Barry
Religious Education Program
<b>CCD &amp; MYO Director:</b> Janah Szewczyk
<b>CCD Advisor:</b> Rosemarie Marrone
<b>Teachers:</b> Rania Sukkarieh, Maha Labbad, Samar Dawlabani, Reine Ghazaly, Janah Szewczyk, Sanaa Rizk, Samer Hourani, Christian Sadaka, Youmna Layoun.
<b>MYO Advisors:</b> Zeina Topalina, Anne Tayoun, Summir Dib, Diego Jorge
MYA
<b>Coordinators:</b> Summer Dib, Debeanne Semaan
Men's Club

**The election for the roles of president, vice president and treasurer is currently ongoing.**

### SUNDAY READINGS

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** 1 Cor 1:18-25

**Gospel Reading:** John 12:20-32

### SANCTUARY CANDLE

**in prayerful remembrance of all those impacted by bike accidents and road crashes, asking God's healing for the injured, protection for all who travel and the peaceful repose of the souls who have tragically lost their lives.**

## BIBLE STUDY

### Every Thursday at 7PM

In Person:  
Church Hall

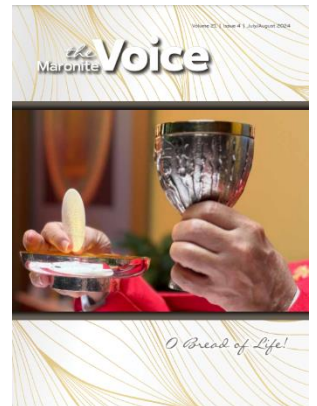
Via Zoom:  
Link provided by  
email



the **Voice**  
Maronite

The new issue of the  
Maronite Voice (Volume 21,  
Issue 4, July/Aug 2024)  
is now available online at:  
<https://www.maronitevoice.org/blog/2024/08/10/2024-iv>

## pages 27 & 30



### DIVINE LITURGIES

**Saturday, September 7, @ 4:00PM**, In Memory of Father Joseph Abi Saad. May His Soul Rest in Peace.

**Sunday, September 8, @ 11:00AM** liturgy is offered for the repose of soul of John and Matthew Gaudreau requested by Pierre Rai and family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Saturday, September 14, @ 4:00PM**, liturgy is offered for a special intention.

**Sunday, September 15, @ 11:00AM** liturgy is offered for a special intention.

### WEEKLY COLLECTION

**Aug. 31 - Sept. 1, 2024**

Collection	\$	789.00
Online	\$	200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>989.00</b>
Coffee Hour	\$	40.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$	0.00
Assessment	\$	0.00
Insurance	\$	0.00
Fuel	\$	90.00
Donation	\$	1,000.00

2<sup>ND</sup> Collection

**CUA & Seminary**  
September 7-8, 2024

## Block Party Fall 2024

Dear Parishioners and Friends,  
I am pleased to inform you that we have applied for the Block Party Permit for the end of summer. Let us continue to pray and prepare, trusting in God's guidance, as we anticipate a blessed and joyful gathering that strengthens our community bonds.

Fr. Andrewos



## From the Bishop's Desk

JUBILEE YEAR  
"Pilgrims Of Hope"  
Dec 24, 2024 - Dec 28, 2025

### [Bishop's Letter](#)

[Decree on the  
Plenary Indulgence  
during Jubilee year](#)

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers

Jay O'Donnell, Allison Auld, Carmen Sansweet, Mary Louise Scotti, Janet Labar, Krystal Valianti, Anne Mgrdichian, Carol Bevelhmyer, Mary V. (Nelson) Scotti, Mike Devinney, Debbie Freedenberg, Allan Emilio Domingez, Rev. Subdeacon Dr. Mallard T. George, Landon Reid, Tamara Lewis, Michael Thomas, Mary McKinney, Jessica McKinney, Angela McKinney, Skyla Simon, Peter Labaki, Nancy Murphy, Marentha Young-Heart, Allison Tretina, Stephanie Devinney, Angela Scorza Anderson, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Linda Yeckes, Frankie Olivieri, Marie Eddis, Mia Andrilla, Ashley Iaconelli, Elissar Ayoub, Joanne Simon-Turing, Suzanne Haney, Linda DiBernardo, Joan Speck, 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, Noel Andjuhar, and Angel Salerno.

## MYO Corner

### 2024 Eparchial MYO Retreat

Regions: New England, Mid-Atlantic East, Mid-Atlantic West

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**



#### Time

Retreat Check-In: Friday, October 25 at 4pm  
Retreat Check-Out: Sunday, October 27 at 3pm

#### Location

America's Keswick Christian Retreat Ctr,  
601 County Rd 530, Whiting, NJ 08759

To register click on the following link:

<https://www.myoeparchystmaron.org/event-details/2024-eparchial-myoe-retreat/form>

**Registration closes on:**

**September 30, 2024 @ 11:59 PM**

MYO  
Upcoming  
Events

MID-ATLANTIC

25-27  
OCT  
2024 | EPARCHIAL  
NORTH RETREAT  
America's Keswick  
Whiting, NJ

5  
APR  
2025 | LENTEN  
DAY RETREAT  
(TBD)

23-28  
JUN  
2025 | NATIONAL  
MYO CONFERENCE  
(TBD)

11-13  
OCT  
2025 | EPARCHIAL  
NORTH RETREAT  
Marist Brothers Center  
Esopus, NY

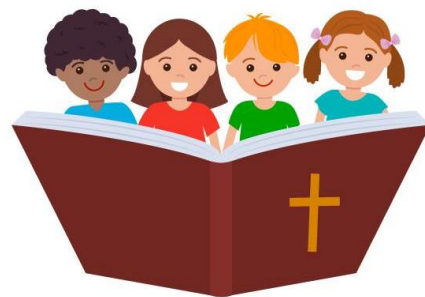
## CCD Corner

**Register your Children**

Registration form sent by email

**Parents Meeting on  
Sunday, September 8, 2024**

**Classes Start on  
Sunday, September 15, 2024**



First Responders  
Appreciation Day



Monday, September 30, 2024

11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

11:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

12:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Appreciation Buffet

Join us as we honor and  
celebrate the bravery  
and dedication of our  
first responders!

For information contact P/O Juan Ace Delgado

Juan.delgado@phila.gov | 215.686.3033

Saint Maron Church Hall | 1013 Ellsworth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147



## September 2024 At a glance

SAT – Aug 31		<b>16th Sunday of Pentecost</b>
SUN - Sept 1		
MON – Sep 2	Labor Day	
SAT – Sep 7		<b>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b>
SUN – Sep 8	Religious Education Parents' Meeting	
MON – Sep 9		<b>Block Party Preps</b>
TUE – Sep 10		
WED – Sep 11		
THU – Sep 12	5:00 PM – Kafta preps	
FRI – Sep 13	4:00 PM – Grape leaves	
SAT – Sep 14		<b>1st Sunday after Holy Cross</b>
SUN – Sep 15	Religious Education Classes Start	
MON – Sep 16	2:00 PM Maamoul and Cookies	<b>Block Party Preps</b>
TUE – Sep 17		
WED – Sep 18	6:00 PM Shawarma	
THU – Sep 19	6:00 PM Beef and Chicken	
FRI – Sep 20	3:00 PM preps (babaghanouj, garlic, tahini,...)	
SAT – Sep 21	<b>Block Party</b>   Check Rain Day	<b>2nd Sunday after Holy Cross</b>
SUN – Sep 22		
SAT – Sep 28	MYO Game Night (Console / Board Games)	<b>3rd Sunday after Holy Cross</b>
SUN – Sep 29	Saint Michael's feast day: <b>Volunteers Appreciation Lunch</b>	
MON – Sep 30	<b>1st Responders Appreciation Day</b>	
<b>Feast: Sunday, September 8, 2024: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> <b>Sunday, September 8, 2024: Celebration of the Exaltation of The Holy Cross</b> <b>2<sup>ND</sup> Collection: September 8, 2024 – Catholic University of America and Maronite Seminary</b>		

## October 2024 At a glance

SAT – Oct 5	<b>Block Party</b>   Rain Day		<b>4th Sunday after Holy Cross</b>
SUN – Oct 6	Holy Rosary Sunday		
SAT – Oct 12	MYO Social Night		<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Holy Cross</b>
SUN – Oct 13	<b>Tele Lumiere &amp; Caritas Coffee Hour</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of October: Order of Saint Sharbel Sunday</b>		
MON – Oct 14	Columbus Day		
SAT – Oct 19	MYA Movie Night		<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Holy Cross</b>
SUN – Oct 20	Saint Jude Novena	<b>Town Hall Meeting</b>	
MON – Oct 21	Saint Jude Novena		
TUE – Oct 22	Saint Jude Novena		
WED – Oct 23	Saint Jude Novena		
THU – Oct 24	Saint Jude Novena		
FRI – Oct 25	Saint Jude Novena	<b>MYO EPARCHIAL RETREAT</b>	<b>Sunday of Christ the King</b>
SAT – Oct 26	Saint Jude Novena		
SUN – Oct 27	Saint Jude Novena		
MON – Oct 28	Saint Jude Novena	PASTA NIGHT	
<b>Saint Jude Novena: October 20 -28, 2024   October 28: Saint Jude Pasta Night   Saturday Liturgies at 4:00 PM</b> <b>MYO EPARCHIAL RETREAT: Friday, October 25 – Sunday, October 27, 2024</b> <b>2<sup>ND</sup> Collection: October 20, 2024 – World Mission Sunday</b>			

# Philadelphia Police Department Operation Wheel Lock Initiative (OWL)

For More Info:  
Contact the  
Community Relations Unit  
215-686-3380

[Community.engagement@phila.gov](mailto:Community.engagement@phila.gov)

REQUIREMENTS:

- PHILADELPHIA RESIDENTS
- HYUNDAI & KIA VEHICLES ONLY
- MUST BE A REGISTERED OWNER OF THE VEHICLE
- VEHICLES MUST BE MODEL YEAR 2012-2022




PLEASE BRING YOUR DRIVERS LICENSE & REGISTRATION TO YOUR LOCAL POLICE DISTRICT TO GET YOUR WHEEL LOCK OR CONTACT (BELOW FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION):

THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT  
215-686-3380  
COMMUNITY.ENGAGEMENT@PHILA.GOV

## Join Our Sister Parishes - Summer Festivals



ST. SHARBEL CHURCH  
3679 Providence Rd. Newtown Square, PA

# 2024 LEBANESE FESTIVAL

Friday, Sept 6th, 4 PM-11 PM  
Saturday, Sept 7th, 12 PM-11 PM  
Sunday, Sept 8th, 1 PM-9 PM

JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF:

- authentic Lebanese food
- shawarma
- live music ft. Chadi Naddaf
- hookah & drinks
- kids games & more!

[stsharbelpa.org](http://stsharbelpa.org)



### Our Lady Of Purgatory Church



## Lebanese Festival

Food . Bar . Live Music . Saj . Raffles . Dancing .

Friday, September 13, 2024  
5:00PM - 11:00PM

Saturday, September 14, 2024  
12:00PM - 11:00PM

### Live Entertainment



*George  
Maalouf & Band*



*George & Mitchel  
Dib*



*Mitchel  
Kaltzunas*

With Bashir El- Khoury Band

Money Raffles Prizes  
\$1000 - \$500 - \$200  
Drawing  
Saturday, September 14, 2024  
10:30PM



4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA 02745

**St. Nicholas Of Tolentine  
Italian festival**

1700 South 9th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19148

**Sunday, October 6, 2024**



## First Reading

### 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

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

Brothers and Sisters:

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

**Praise be to God always.**

## Gospel Reading

### Saint John 12:20-32

**The Apostle Writes:**

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.'

**This is the truth. Peace be with you.**

*You are invited to our Annual Appreciation Lunch,  
A HEARTFELT THANK YOU  
for all your hard work and dedication throughout the year.  
Your tireless efforts and selfless contributions  
make our community stronger and more vibrant.*



**VOLUNTEERS**  
*Appreciation Lunch*

**Sunday, September 29, 2024**



The Maronite Seminary presents  
A WEEKEND OF  
*Discernment*

Wondering if the Lord is calling you to the  
priesthood in the Maronite Church?  
Men aged 18-40 are invited for a weekend  
of fellowship, prayer, discussion and  
discernment.

Come and See on  
**NOVEMBER 1-3, 2024**

at Our Lady of Lebanon  
Maronite Seminary  
7164 Alaska Avenue, NW,  
Washington, DC 20012

Overnight accommodations provided.  
Please **RSVP(202)723-8831** or  
[maroniteseminary@comcast.net](mailto:maroniteseminary@comcast.net)





من إنجيل القديس يوحنا (١٢: ٢٠-٣٢)

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الأولى إلى أهل كورنثوس

(١٨:١-٢٥)

يا إخوتي، إن كلمة الصليب عند الهالكين حماقة، أما عندنا نحن المخلصين فهي قوة الله؛ لأنه مكتوب: «سأبدي حكمة الحكماء، وأزذل فهم الفهماء!». فأين الحكيم؟ وأين عالم الشريعة؟ وأين الباحث في أمور هذا الدهر؟ أما جعل الله حكمة هذا العالم حماقة؟ فيما أن العالم بحكمته ما عرف الله بحسب حكمة الله، رضي الله أن يخلص بحماقة البشارة الذين يؤمنون؛ لأن اليهود يطلبون الآيات، واليونانيين يلتمسون الحكمة. أما نحن فننادي بمسيح مصلوب، هو عثار لليهود وحماقة للأمم. وأما للمدعوين أنفسهم، من اليهود واليونانيين، فهو مسيح، قوة الله وحكمته الله؛ فما يبدو أنه حماقة من الله هو حكم من الناس، وما يبدو أنه ضعف من الله هو أقوى من الناس. والتسبيح لله دائماً.

كَانَ بَيْنَ الصَّاعِدِينَ لِيَسْجُدُوا فِي الْعِيدِ، بَعْضُ الْيُونَانِيِّينَ. فَذَنَا هَوْلَاءِ مِنْ فِيلِبُّسَ الَّذِي مِنْ بَيْتِ صَيْدَا الْجَلِيلِ، وَسَأَلُوهُ قَائِلِينَ: «يَا سَيِّدَ، نُرِيدُ أَنْ نَرَى يَسُوعَ». فَجَاءَ فِيلِبُّسُ وَقَالَ لِأَنْدَرَاوُسَ، وَجَاءَ أَنْدَرَاوُسُ وَفِيلِبُّسُ وَقَالَا لِيَسُوعَ. فَأَجَابَهُمَا يَسُوعُ قَائِلاً: «لَقَدْ خَانَتِ السَّاعَةُ لِكَيِ يُمَجِّدَ ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ. الْحَقُّ الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: إِنَّ حَبَّةَ الْحِنْطَةِ، إِنْ لَمْ تَقَعْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَتَمُتْ، تَبْقَى وَاحِدَةً. وَإِنْ مَاتَتْ تَأْتِي بِثَمَرٍ كَثِيرٍ. مَنْ يُحِبُّ نَفْسَهُ يَفْقِدُهَا، وَمَنْ يُبْغِضُهَا فِي هَذَا الْعَالَمِ يَحْفَظُهَا لِحَيَاةٍ أَبَدِيَّةٍ. مَنْ يَخْدُمُنِي فَلْيَتَّبِعْنِي. وَحَيْثُ أَكُونُ أَنَا، فَهَنَّاكَ يَكُونُ أَيْضًا خَادِمِي. مَنْ يَخْدُمُنِي يُكْرِمُهُ الْآب. نَفْسِي الْآنَ مُضْطَّرِبَةٌ، فَمَاذَا أَقُولُ؟ يَا أَبَتِ، نَجِّنِي مِنْ هَذِهِ السَّاعَةِ؟ وَلَكِنْ مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا بَلَغْتُ إِلَى هَذِهِ السَّاعَةِ! يَا أَبَتِ، مَجِّدِ اسْمَكَ». فَجَاءَ صَوْتُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ يَقُولُ: «قَدْ مَجَّدْتُ، وَسَأَمَجِّدُ». وَسَمِعَ الْجَمْعُ الْحَاضِرُ فَقَالُوا: «إِنَّهُ رَعْدٌ». وَقَالَ آخَرُونَ: «إِنَّ مَلَكَاً خَاطَبَهُ». أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ: «مَا كَانَ هَذَا الصَّوْتُ مِنْ أَجْلِي، بَلْ مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ. هِيَ الْآنَ دَيْتُونَةُ هَذَا الْعَالَمِ. الْآنَ يُطْرَدُ سُلْطَانُ هَذَا الْعَالَمِ خَارِجًا. وَأَنَا إِذَا رُفِعْتُ عَنِ الْأَرْضِ، جَذَبْتُ إِلَيَّ الْجَمِيعَ». حَقًّا وَالْأَمَانُ لَجَمِيعِكُمْ

MARONITE FAITH FORMATION  
ONLINE SERIES – FALL 2024

## MARONITE HISTORY

3 VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

SEPTEMBER 26 -- MARONITE PATRIARCHS  
(FR. DOMINIQUE HANNA)

OCTOBER 3-- MARONITE HISTORY  
(CHORBISHOP SEELY BEGGIANI)

OCTOBER 10 -- MARONITE MARTYRS  
(FR. CLAUDE FRANKLIN)

Via Zoom on Thursdays  
8:00-9:30PM EST



HOSTED BY THE MARONITE SERVANTS  
OF CHRIST THE LIGHT  
THROUGH THE SAINT SHARBEL CENTER



TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION VENMO @MARONITESERVANTS

## TOWN HALL MEETING

Sunday, October 20, 2024

Following Divine Liturgy

Church Hall

Join us for a town hall meeting to discuss the church's finances.  
Your input and participation are essential for our community's  
growth and transparency.



# 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.

[www.LebaneseRealEstateTeam.com](http://www.LebaneseRealEstateTeam.com)

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*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](mailto:ronrex@comcast.net)

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