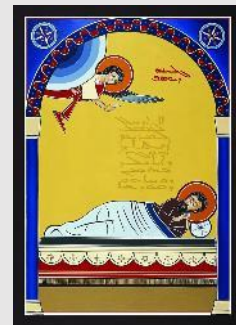




Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church

1013 Ellsworth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

215.389.2000 | 215.334.1884 | office@saintmaron.org



WEEKLY BULLETIN – 12/15/2024

Season of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord

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 & First Responders

Denise Eddis, Theresa Barry

Religious Education Program

CCD & MYO Director: Janah Szewczyk

CCD Advisor: Rosemarie Marrone

Teachers: Rania Sukkarieh, Maha Labbad, Samar Dawlabani, Reine Ghazaly, Janah Szewczyk, Sanaa Rizk, Samer Hourani, Christian Sadaka, Youmna Layoun.

MYO Advisors: Zeina Topalian, Anne Tayoun, Summer Dib, Diego Jorge

MYA

Coordinators: Summer Dib, DebbieAnna Semaan

Men's Club

President: John Azzi

Vice-President: Nickolas Dawlabani

Treasurer: Christian Sadaka

SUNDAY READINGS

1st Reading:

Ephesians 3:1-13

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 1:18-25

5th Sunday - Revelation to Joseph

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

This Sunday, December 15, 2024, is filled with joyous events.

As we prepare with joy for the Birth of Lord Jesus Christ, we gather in fellowship and comradery around Bishop Gregory Mansour to celebrate the commencement of the Christmas Novena. We are truly blessed to welcome Bishop Gregory for his pastoral visit as a parish family.

We ask you Lord, to bless our gathering and bless the hands that prepared the food and the fellowship we will share.

May this gathering fill our hearts with peace and joy and strengthen the bonds of friendship and love within our parish.

Follow us on Social Media



<https://linktr.ee/saintmaronphilly>

SANCTUARY CANDLE: This week, the sanctuary candle burns for cancer patients especially those whose earthly journey is drawing to a close. May God's gentle and caring hand accompany them and surround them with strength and hope in God's love. May this candle be a reminder for all believers of God's promise of eternal life and of His abiding presence among us especially when we suffer. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday at 10AM

Via Google Meet:



<https://meet.google.com/eit-bfvm-jit>



CHURCH ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

You can find the Church Envelopes
at the entrance of the hall.

If you don't have envelopes
and wish to receive them,
please contact the Office.

DIVINE LITURGIES

Saturday, December 14, @ 4:00PM, liturgy is offered for the living and deceased members of the Thomas family requested Linda Thomas.

Sunday, December 15, @ 11:00AM liturgy is offered for the repose of souls of Salim Mikhael and deceased members of the Mikhael and Rai families requested by Philip and Vivian Rai. May their souls rest in peace.

Saturday, December 21, @ 4:00PM, liturgy is offered for a Special Intention.

Sunday, December 22, @ 11:00AM liturgy is offered for a Special Intention.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 7-8, 2024

Collection	\$ 1,862.00
Immaculate Con.	\$ 270.00
Online	<u>\$ 150.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,282.00

Coffee Hour	\$ 54.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 30.00
Assessment	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 30.00
Fuel	\$ 30.00
Initial Offering	\$ 0.00

Christmas \$ 10.00

**CHRISTMAS
NOVENA**
Sunday, December 15, 2024
To
Monday, December 23,
2024

**CHRISTMAS EVE
LITURGY**
Tuesday, December 24,
2024
@ 4:00 PM

**CHRISTMAS DAY
LITURGY**
Wednesday, December 25,
2024
@ 11:00 AM

**FELICITATION
TO MARY**
Thursday, December 26,
2024
@ 4:00 PM



IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers

Ed and Theresa Gussin, Barbara Impriano, Paige Moderski, Rita Fortina, Jason Gushue, Lily Gushue, Joann Fontana, Jay O'Donnell, Allison Auld, Carmen Sansweet, Janet Labar, Krystal Valianti, Anne Mgrdichian, Carol Bevelhymmer, 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 Chokeur, Kathy Newman, Rita Arrigale, Maryann Bratton, Renee Sahar, Sister Nahida Al-Sawa, James Cordisio, Stacey Fuentes, Noel Andjuhar, and Angel Salerno.

CCD & MYO Corner

**CHRISTMAS
BY THE KIDS**

**NEIGHBORHOOD
CAROLING**

**Friday
December 20, 2024**

**Following the
CHRISTMAS NOVENA
at 6:30pm**

Everyone is welcome to join us!

**Let us spread the Cheers of
Christmas in our
neighborhood**

MYO GET TOGETHER CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

11-12 JANUARY

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GET
TOGETHER**

\$20 Fee

ACTIVITIES
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& BRING YOUR OWN SLEEPING BAGS!

**Thank You to everyone who
supported this year's Giving Tree.
May God reward you abundantly
for your love and mercy towards
those in need.**



MYA Corner – Christmas Decorations

**Some
pictures**



December 2024 At a Glance

SAT – Nov 30			Visitation to Elizabeth
SUN – Dec 1	Visitation to Elizabeth		
SAT – Dec 7			Birth of John the Baptist
SUN – Dec 8	Birth of John the Baptist The Immaculate Conception		
SAT – Dec 14	MYA Theology on Tap with Bishop Gregory		Revelation to Joseph
SUN – Dec 15	Christmas Novena Begins	Christmas Potluck and kids' concert Bishop's Pastoral Visit	
MON – Dec 16	Christmas Novena	Christmas Giving Tree Gifts pickup	
TUE – Dec 17	Christmas Novena		
WED – Dec 18	Christmas Novena		
THU – Dec 19	Christmas Novena		
FRI – Dec 20	Christmas Novena	CCD & MYO Christmas Novena and Caroling	
SAT – Dec 21	Christmas Novena		Genealogy Sunday
SUN – Dec 22	Christmas Novena	Tele Lumiere & Caritas Coffee Hour	
MON – Dec 23	Christmas Novena		
TUE – Dec 24	Christmas Eve		Christmas
WED – Dec 25	The Glorious Birth of Our Lord		
THU – Dec 26	Felicitation to Mary		
SAT – Dec 28			The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple
SUN – Dec 29	The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple		
Christmas Novena: December 15 – 23, 2024			
Feast: Sunday, December 8, 2024: The Immaculate Conception			
Wednesday, December 25: The Glorious Birth of Our Lord			
Sunday Coffee Hour: December 22, 2024: Tele Lumiere and Caritas			

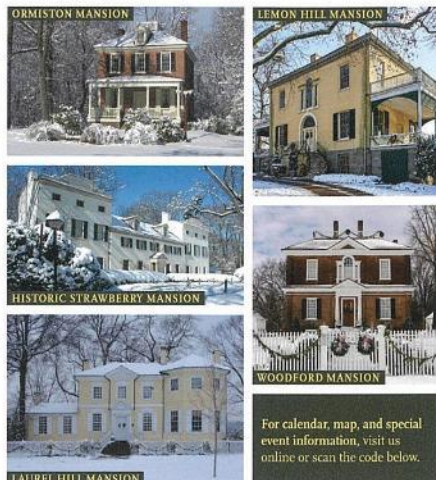
HOLIDAY TOURS 2024

This December,
tour five beautiful historic houses in Fairmount
Park dressed in their holiday finest



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the church website**

<https://saintmaron.org/>



Christmas Novena Schedule

Sunday, December 15, 2024 @ 11:00 AM
Divine Liturgy and Christmas Novena

Monday, December 16, 2024 @ 6:30 PM
Evening Prayer and Christmas Novena

Tuesday, December 17, 2024 @ 6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy and Christmas Novena

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 @ 6:30 PM
Evening Prayer and Christmas Novena

Tuesday, December 19, 2024 @ 6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy and Christmas Novena

Friday, December 20, 2024 @ 6:30 PM
Evening Prayer and Christmas Novena

Saturday, December 21, 2024 @ 4:00 PM
Divine Liturgy and Christmas Novena

Sunday, December 22, 2024 @ 11:00 AM
Divine Liturgy and Christmas Novena

Monday, December 23, 2024 @ 6:30 PM
Evening Prayer and Christmas Novena

Merry Christmas

Cir 24-113: The Maronite Odyssey

Dear Brother Priests, Deacons/Subdeacons, Consecrated Men & Women, Lay Faithful,

I welcome you to discover the remarkable journey of the Maronite Church—from its monastic roots along the Orontes River in the 5th century to becoming a profound cultural and spiritual bridge between the East and the West. Through centuries of resilience and faith, the Maronites have left an indelible mark on the world, fostering intellectual and cultural exchanges that shaped civilizations. Their alumni and scholars played pivotal roles in preserving Oriental traditions, introducing Arabic and Syriac heritage to Europe, and translating Western knowledge into Arabic, fueling the Arab Renaissance.

In order to celebrate, spread, and disseminate this rich legacy of cultural mediation, intellectual growth, and enduring influence, the University of the Holy Spirit (Kaslik) has provided an exhibition at the United Nations. They are also willing to bring this exhibition to your parish (the Hall), so your parishioners and friends can benefit.

Please see the link below:

<https://www.usek.edu.lb/exhibitions/maronite-heritage/panels>

Please be free to contact Mrs. Cosette Kamar: cosettekamar@usek.edu.lb; 1-216-3755419, or Father Tahal Hachem (USEK President).

+ Gregory

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.

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.



BISHOP GREGORY MANSOUR PASTORAL VISIT



*Join us in welcoming
his Excellency
for a blessed pastoral visit
to our parish on*

*Sunday,
December 15, 2024*

*Divine Liturgy
at 11:00 am*



**FOLLOWED BY THE ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS POTLUCK
IN THE CHURCH HALL**

مِنْ إِنْجِيلِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى

مَا 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 يُشَهَرَ بِهَا، قَرَّرَ أَنْ يُطَلِّقَهَا سِرًّا. وَمَا إِنَّ فِكْرَ فِي هَذَا حَتَّى تَرَاعَى لَهُ مَلَائِكَةُ الرَّبِّ فِي الْحُلْمِ قَائِلًا: "يَا يُوسُفُ بَنَ 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 عِمَّا نُوئِيلَ، أَيِ اللَّهِ مَعَنَا. وَلَمَّا قَامَ يُوسُفُ مِنَ النَّوْمِ، فَعَلَ كَمَا أَمَرَهُ مَلَائِكَةُ الرَّبِّ وَأَخَذَ امْرَأَتَهُ . وَلَمْ يَعْرِفْهَا، فَوَلَدَتْ ابْنًا، وَسَمَّاهُ يَسُوعَ.

حَقًّا وَالْأَمَانُ لِكُلِّكُمْ.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل أفسس

يَا إِخْوَتِي، أَنَا بُولُسُ، أَسِيرَ الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْأُمَّمُ... إِنَّ كُنْتُمْ قَدْ سَمِعْتُمْ بِتَدْبِيرِ نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي وَهَبَتْ لِي مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ، وَهُوَ أَنِّي بِوَحْيِ أُطْلَعْتُ عَلَى السِّرِّ، كَمَا كَتَبْتُ إِلَيْكُمْ بِإِنْجَازٍ مِنْ قَبْلِ، حِينَئِذٍ يُمَكِّنُكُمْ، إِذَا قَرَأْتُمْ ذَلِكَ، أَنْ تُدْرِكُوا 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، بِوَسِطَةِ الْإِنْجِيلِ، الَّذِي صِرْتُ خَادِمًا لَهُ، بِحَسَبِ هِبَةِ نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي وَهَبَتْ لِي بِفِعْلِ قُدْرَتِهِ؛ لِي أَنَا، أَصْعَرَ الْقَدِيسِينَ جَمِيعًا، وَهَبْتُ هَذِهِ النِّعْمَةَ، وَهِيَ أَنْ أُبَشِّرَ الْأُمَّمَ بِغِنَى الْمَسِيحِ الَّذِي لَا يُسْتَنْقَصُ، وَأَنْ أُوضِحَ لِلْجَمِيعِ مَا هُوَ تَدْبِيرُ السِّرِّ الْمَكْتُومِ مُنْذُ الدُّهُورِ فِي اللَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، لِكِي تُعْرِفَ الْآنَ مِنْ خِلَالِ الْكَنِيسَةِ، لَدَى الرِّئَاسَاتِ وَالسَّلَاطِينِ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ، حِكْمَةَ اللَّهِ الْمُتَنَوِّعَةَ، بِحَسَبِ قَصْدِهِ الْأَرْزَلِيِّ الَّذِي حَقَّقَهُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ رَبِّنَا، الَّذِي لَنَا فِيهِ، أَيُّ بِالْإِيمَانِ بِهِ، الْوُصُولُ بِجُرْأَةٍ وَثِقَةٍ إِلَى اللَّهِ. لِذَلِكَ أَسْأَلُكُمْ أَنْ لَا تَضَعَفَ عَزِيمَتَكُمْ بِسَبَبِ الضِّيقاتِ الَّتِي أُعَانِيهَا مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ: إِنَّهَا مَجْدٌ لَكُمْ!

والتسبيح لله دائماً.

 Saint Maron Church
1892 Philadelphia, PA كنيسة مار مارون

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Special guest Bishop Gregory Mansour

SATURDAY DEC 14TH AT 7PM
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Dinner and drinks provided by Saint Maron



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