



Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church



December 5-6, 2020

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

“For it is in giving that we receive”

(Saint Francis of Assisi)



It takes a lot of time to choose a gift for someone because we want to give them some they need and not what they already have. This is exactly what makes it a perfect gift.

Let us join hands this Christmas and participate in the “Giving Tree” campaign.

50 people are counting on us to make their Christmas brighter.

Don't miss the opportunity of giving this year. On the parish website (saintmaron.org) you can sign up for a gift by clicking on the button under the Giving Tree.

Please note that your gift can be anonymous.

This year, due to the new restrictions in Philadelphia, our MYO can't gather to wrap the gifts, therefore we ask you to drop the gifts **WRAPPED and LABELED** with the name of the person you chose by **Sunday, December 20, 2020**.

Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful Christmas. May peace, love and joy follow you always.

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 5, @ 6:00PM, (Feast of St. Saba the Hermit) liturgy is being offered for the souls of Tony and Yvonne Impo requested by Patty Impo. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, December 6, @ 11:00AM, (Feast of St. Nicholas) liturgy is offered for the souls of Girgious and Debee Semaan requested by Peter and Ramona Semaan and family. May their souls rest in peace. Also, liturgy is offered as a One-year anniversary for the souls of Salim Mikhael and Shatat El Banna requested by Ghada Mikhael and her children. May their souls rest in peace.

Monday, December 7, @ 9:00AM, (Feast of St. Ambrose)
Tuesday, December 8, 2020 @ 9:00AM, (The Immaculate Conception) HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 @ 6:00PM,

Friday, December 11, 2020 @ 6:00PM, LITURGY followed by EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Saturday, December 12, @ 6:00PM, (Feast of St. Spiridion and Our Lady of Guadalupe)

Sunday, December 13, @ 11:00AM, liturgy is offered for the deceased members of the DeBruno and Mosier families requested by Terri Koway. May their souls 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.

2021 CHURCH ENVELOPES

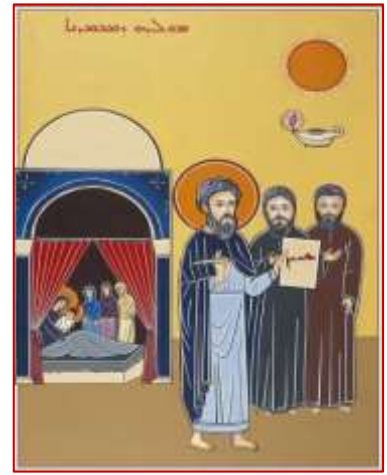
The 2021 weekly envelopes are now available in the church hall. If anyone does not have a set of envelopes and would like them please contact the office and we will have a set ready for you. In this way we can give you tax recognition at the end of the year.

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 November 28-29, 2020

Collection	\$ 1,394.00
Donations	\$ 315.00
2 nd Collection	\$ 100.00
Online Donations	\$ 310.00
Total:	\$ 2,119.00



IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers 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 intentions.



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:

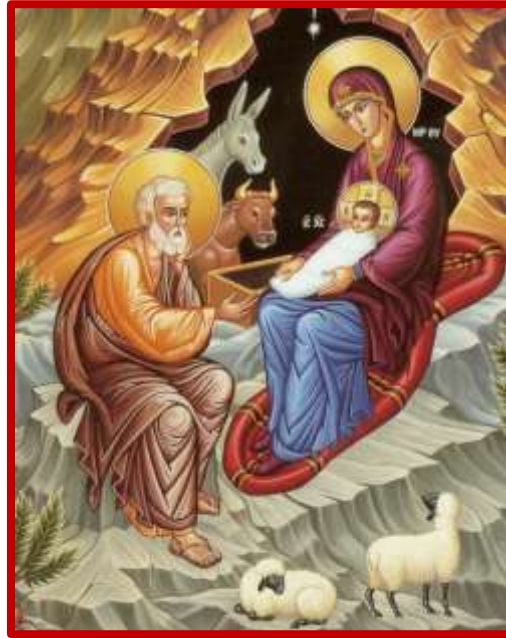
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Tel: +961 1 907048
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Contact us:

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

CHRISTMAS NOVENA 2020



In preparation for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we will have the Christmas Novena from **December 15 to December 23**. Every night we will have a special intention as shown in the schedule below:

DATE	TIME	INTENTION
Tuesday, December 15, 2020	6:30 PM	First Responders
Wednesday, December 16, 2020	6:30 PM	Health Care Workers
Thursday, December 17, 2020	6:30 PM	People Enduring Sickness
Friday, December 18, 2020	6:30 PM	World Peace
Saturday, December 19, 2020	6:00 PM	Consecrated Vocations: Priests, Nuns, Monks and Seminarians
Sunday, December 20, 2020	11:00 AM	Special Intentions
Monday, December 21, 2020	6:30 PM	Education: Teachers and Students
Tuesday, December 22, 2020	6:30 PM	Our Youth
Wednesday, December 23, 2020	6:30 PM	Our Parish

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
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Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



December 5-6, 2020

First Reading

Galatians 4:21-31, 5:1

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians. Your blessing father...

Brothers and Sisters:

Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, 'Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children, burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than the children of the one who is married.' Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. But just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. But what does the scripture say? 'Drive out the slave and her child; for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance with the child of the free woman.' So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman. For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Praise be to God always.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل غلاطية

يا إِخْوَتِي، قُولُوا لِي، أَنْتُمْ الَّذِينَ تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَكُونُوا فِي حُكْمِ الشَّرِيعَةِ، أَمَا تَسْمَعُونَ الشَّرِيعَةَ؟ فَإِنَّهُ مَكْتُوبٌ: كَانَ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ أَبْنَانِ، وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْجَارِيَةِ، وَوَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْحُرَّةِ. أَمَا الَّذِي مِنَ الْجَارِيَةِ فَقَدْ وُلِدَ بِحَسَبِ الْجَسَدِ، وَأَمَا الَّذِي مِنَ الْحُرَّةِ فَبِقُوَّةِ الْوَعْدِ. وَفِي ذَلِكَ رَمَزٌ: فَسَارَةُ وَهَاجِرُ تُمَثِّلَانِ عَهْدَيْنِ، عَهْدًا مِنْ جَبَلِ سَيْنَاءَ يَلِدُ لِلْعُبُودِيَّةِ، وَهُوَ هَاجِرٌ؛ لِأَنَّ هَاجِرَ هِيَ جَبَلُ سَيْنَاءَ الَّذِي فِي بِلَادِ الْعَرَبِ، وَتُؤَافِقُ أُورُشَلِيمَ الْحَالِيَّةَ، لِأَنَّهَا فِي الْعُبُودِيَّةِ هِيَ وَأَوْلَادُهَا. أَمَا أُورُشَلِيمُ الْعُلْيَا فَهِيَ حُرَّةٌ، وَهِيَ أُمَّنَا؛ لِأَنَّهُ مَكْتُوبٌ: «إِفْرَجِي، أَيَّتُهَا الْعَاقِرُ الَّتِي لَمْ تَلِدْ؛ إِنْ دَفَعِي بِالْتَرْتِيمِ وَ أَصْرُخِي، أَيَّتُهَا الَّتِي لَمْ تَتَمَخَّضْ؛ لِأَنَّ أَوْلَادَ الْمَهْجُورَةِ أَكْثَرُ مِنْ أَوْلَادِ الْمُتَزَوِّجَةِ». أَمَا أَنْتُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةَ، فَإِنَّكُمْ أَوْلَادُ الْوَعْدِ مِثْلُ إِسْحَقِ. وَلَكِنْ، كَمَا كَانَ حَبِينُذُ الْمَوْلُودِ بِحَسَبِ الْجَسَدِ يَضْطَهِدُ الْمَوْلُودَ بِحَسَبِ الرُّوحِ، فَكَذَلِكَ الْآنَ أَيْضًا. وَلَكِنْ مَاذَا يَقُولُ الْكِتَابُ؟ «أَطْرُدِ الْجَارِيَةَ وَأَبْنَاهَا، لِأَنَّ ابْنَ الْجَارِيَةِ لَا يَرِثُ مَعَ ابْنِ الْحُرَّةِ». إِذَا، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةَ، لَسْنَا أَوْلَادَ جَارِيَةٍ، بَلْ أَوْلَادُ الْحُرَّةِ. إِنَّ الْمَسِيحَ قَدْ حَرَّرَنَا لِئَنْبَقِيَ أَحْرَارًا. فَاتَّبِعُوا إِذَا وَلَا تَعُودُوا تَخَضَعُونَ لِنِيرِ الْعُبُودِيَّةِ.

والتسبيح لله دائماً.

Gospel Reading

Saint Luke 1:57-66

The Apostle Writes:

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

This is the truth. Peace be with you.

مِنْ إِنْجِيلِ الْقَدِيسِ لَوْقَا

تَمَّ زَمَانُ الْيَصَابَاتِ لِتَلِدَ، فَوَلَدَتْ أَبْنًا. وَسَمِعُ جِيرَانُهَا وَأَقَارِبُهَا أَنَّ الرَّبَّ قَدْ عَظَّمَ رَحْمَتَهُ لَهَا، فَفَرِحُوا مَعَهَا. وَفِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّامِنِ جَاءُوا لِيُخْتِنُوا الصَّبِيَّ، وَسَمَوْهُ بِاسْمِ أَبِيهِ زَكَرِيَّا. فَأَجَابَتْ أُمُّهُ وَقَالَتْ: «لَا! بَلْ يُسَمَّى يُوْحَنَّا!». فَقَالُوا لَهَا: «لَا أَحَدٌ فِي قَرَابَتِكَ يُدْعَى بِهَذَا الْأَسْمِ». وَأَشَارُوا إِلَى أَبِيهِ مَاذَا يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُسَمِّيَهُ. طَلَبَ لَوْحًا وَكَتَبَ: «إِسْمُهُ يُوْحَنَّا!». فَتَعَجَّبُوا جَمِيعُهُمْ. وَأَنْفَتَحَ فَمُّ زَكَرِيَّا، وَأَنْطَلَقَ لِسَانُهُ، وَجَعَلَ يَتَكَلَّمُ وَيُبَارِكُ اللَّهَ، فَاسْتَوْلَى الْخَوْفُ عَلَى جَمِيعِ جِيرَانِهِمْ، وَتَحَدَّثَتِ النَّاسُ بِكُلِّ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورِ فِي كُلِّ جَبَلِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ. وَكَانَ كُلُّ مَنْ سَمِعَ بِذَلِكَ يَحْفَظُهُ فِي قَلْبِهِ قَائِلًا: «مَا عَسَى هَذَا الطِّفْلُ أَنْ يَكُونَ؟». وَكَانَتْ يَدُ الرَّبِّ حَقًّا مَعَهُ.

حَقًّا وَالْأَمَانُ لَجَمِيعِكُمْ.