



**Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church**

**7142 Alaska Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20012**

**Saint Maron Feast Day Celebration**

**Sunday, March 3, 2024**

**11:00 AM      Divine Liturgy**

**12:30 PM      Luncheon**

**Guest of Honor**

**His Excellency Bishop Gregory Mansour**

**\$40 per person    \$20 per child (3-12 years old)**

**For Information or Tickets, Please Contact:**

**Gebran Fattouche (443) 600-9484**

**Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church**  
**7142 Alaska Avenue, NW**  
**Washington, DC 20012**  
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**Msgr. George M. Sebaali, Pastor**

**Pastor's personal Email: [Gmsebaali@aol.com](mailto:Gmsebaali@aol.com)**

**Pastor's cell number: (804) 240-9820**

***Sunday, February 11, 2024, Cana Sunday - Entrance into Lent***

**Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 11:00 o'clock**

Souad Abdel-Nour (mother of Georgette Abdel-Nour)

**Monday, February 12, 2024 (Ash Monday) at 7:30 p.m.**

Divine Liturgy and distribution of Ashes

**Friday, February 16, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.**

Antoine Mrad

**Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 11:00 o'clock**

Fahimee Matta (mother of Sabah Khoury & Joceline Pettay) 40 day anniversary

**Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.**

Divine Liturgy in honor of Saint Sharbel

**Friday, February 23, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.**

Divine Liturgy and Benediction with the Holy Cross

**Sunday, February 25, 2024 at 11:00 o'clock**

Joseph Fayad and Joseph and Salwa Maatouk

**Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 11:00 o'clock**

**Friday, March 8, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.**

Divine Liturgy and Benediction with the Holy Cross

**Reconciliation** (Confession) is available every Sunday between 10:15 and 10:45 a.m. before the Divine Liturgy.

***Let us Pray the Rosary***

Please join fellow parishioners as we pray the Holy Rosary every **Sunday at 10:15 a.m.** in preparation for the Divine Liturgy and in honor of our Blessed Mother, Mary.

***Ushers for Sunday, February 11, 2024***

Fawzi Abouchabke, Maroun Mezher, Tony ElKhouri and Mark Malkoun

***Ushers for Sunday, February 18, 2024***

Halim Younes, Victor Beasley, Rafah Elias and Jack Seraphim

***Altar Servers for Sunday, February 18, 2024***

George Beasley and Marek Oszwaldowski

***Thank you for your generosity***

**Summary of the Collection for Sunday, February 4, 2024**

Regular collection \$2310

Pledge \$ 900

Donation by mail \$1420

Thank you for your generosity and may God bless you all.

***Annual Saint Maron Luncheon***

The Annual Saint Maron Luncheon will take place on **Sunday, March 3, 2024**, following the Divine Liturgy. His Excellency **Bishop Gregory Mansour** will be the Guest of Honor. Tickets are \$40 per person (adults) and \$20 (children 3- 12 years old). For tickets or more information please get in touch with Gebran Fattouche at (443) 600-9484. Reservations are available in the social hall every Sunday following the Divine Liturgy.

**Scripture Readings**

**Sunday, February 11, 2024; Cana Sunday, Entrance into Lent**

Rom 14:14-23; Jn 2:1-11

**Monday, February 12, 2024 (Ash Monday)**

2 Cor 5:20-6:7; Mt 6:16-21

**Sunday, February 18, 2024 (Healing of the Leper)**

Rom 6:12-23; Mk 1:35-45

***Attention all MYO***

The annual regional retreat for the Maronite Youth Organization (MYO), ages 13 to 18 years old, will take place **March 15, 16, 17, 2024**, at Saint Anthony Maronite Church in Glen Allen [Richmond] Virginia. If you would like to attend, please let me or Dalal Moura know. Registration forms and permission slips will be provided.

***Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal***

The Bishop's Annual Appeal for 2024 will start on **Ash Monday, February 12, 2024**, and will last until **Easter Sunday**. Here is the link for the Eparchy's annual appeal:

<http://www.stmaron.org/lenten-appeal>.

Please send in your contribution, earmarked **Bishop's Appeal 2024**, before Easter Sunday. The Church is all the better because of our common efforts. Thank you for your generosity.

***Lenten Liturgical Schedule***



***Ash Monday***

The Liturgy for **Ash Monday** [February 12] will be at **7:30 p.m.** Ashes will be given at the Liturgy. Ash Monday is a day of complete fast and abstinence. Every Friday of Lent is a day of Abstinence.

***Lenten Observances and Devotion***

The following Lenten guidelines are observed in the Eparchy of Saint Maron.

- ★ All Maronites who are physically capable are to **abstain from meat** on Ash Monday (**February 12**) and all Fridays of Lent.
- ★ **Ash Monday and the Great Friday of the Crucifixion** are also days of **fasting**. Fasting in the Maronite Church involves eating and drinking nothing at all (except water and medicine) from midnight until noon. The rest of the day normal meals can be taken, but without meat. All Maronites who are physically capable are to fast on these two days.

***Lenten Services***



**Starting on Friday, February 16, 2024**, and every Friday of Lent thereafter, we will have a Divine Liturgy followed by the Benediction with the Holy Cross. Following the Liturgy a **simple lenten meal** will be served in the hall.



## Season of Great Lent

**ASH Monday** Just as the four seasons annually usher in the birth, life, ripening and death cycles of nature so also the Syriac-Maronite Church's remembrance of the significant moments of Christ's birth, baptism, ministry, death, resurrection and glorification usher in the time of salvation for the New Testament people. The Maronite Church adopted a yearly calendar, divided into various stages or seasons. Each season, numbering six in the Maronite calendar, are called the Temporal cycle, and focus on these saving events.

Lent, the 3<sup>rd</sup> season of the Maronite calendar serves as a preparation for Resurrection, and consists of fifty days. This period, longer than the traditional forty days, reflects the monastic penitential emphasis on conversion, spiritual awakening and personal renewal. Every Sunday is counted in the fifty day cycle of Great Lent unlike others Churches. These fifty days spiritually prepare the Church for the Glorious Resurrection and then the fifty days after it, give birth to the Church at Pentecost. Therefore, Lent for Maronites begins on Cana Sunday leaving the whole question of Ash Wednesday, a Latin para-liturgical event, late as a symbolic call of the Church to repentance. When the Maronite Church adopted this Latinization, namely Ashes some 500 hundred years ago, it decided to place it closest to the beginning of Lent – hence Ash Monday.

Great Lent is composed of two cycles: a liturgy of the Sundays of Lent numbering 7: Cana, the Leper, the Hemorrhaging Woman, the Prodigal Son, the Paralytic, Bartimaeus the Blind and Hosanna Sunday and a weekday cycle composed of 6 weeks divided into 3 stages initiating the pattern of Christ's public life: the Week of Lent, Miracles and Hosanna Week. This weekday cycle reflects our estrangement from God and our need for conversion. The Lenten readings and prayers exhort worshipers to take courage and to turn back by imitating Christ through prayer, fasting, and penance. Lent commemorates the penitential aspect of the Lord's forty day fasting. The Syriac Fathers have traditionally described this movement toward God as a nautical journey whose destination is the Harbor of Life. "Bless our fasting...Make it a journey which will lead us to the harbor of salvation." The Sunday Lenten liturgies call to mind the power of God and his mystery over creation, hence the miracle accounts designated for the Sundays before Easter.

