

**Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church, INC**  
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**Msgr. George M Sebaali, Pastor**  
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**Pastor's Cell number: (804) 240 -9820**

**February 8, 2026, Sunday of the Faithful Departed**

- Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 11:00 o'clock**  
 For the Parish
- Monday, February 9, 2026 (Feast of Saint Maron) at 7:30 p.m.**  
 For the Parish
- Sunday, February 15, 2026 at 11:00 o'clock**  
 Noukhat Abousaleh (sister of Mounir Abousaleh), 40 Day anniversary [requested by Mounir Abousaleh]
- Monday, February 16, 2026, (Ash Monday) at 7:30 p.m.**  
 Ash Monday Divine Liturgy
- Friday, February 20, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.**  
 Divine Liturgy and Benediction with the Holy Cross
- Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 11:00 o'clock**  
 Mikhael Youssef Kazzi (requested by Gilbert Kazzi)
- Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 11:00 o'clock**
- Antoine Emile Touma (requested by Deacon Michel Touma)
  - Youssef Wanna (40 Day anniversary) requested by David Wanna
- Friday, March 6, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.**  
 Divine Liturgy and Benediction with the Holy Cross
- Sunday, March 8, 2026 at 11:00 o'clock**
- Mounira Abi Khalil Chedid (requested by Antoine Chedid)
  - Norma Younes (40 Day anniversary) requested by her colleagues

**Ushers for Sunday, February 8, 2026**

Fawzi Abouchabke, Maroun Mezher, Tony El-Khoury & Mark Malkoun

**Ushers for Sunday, February 15, 2026**

Halim Younes, Victor Beasley and Antoine Issa

**Ushers for Sunday, February 22, 2026**

Roger AbouJaoude, Kevin Pitzer, and George Choueiry

**Altar Servers for Sunday, February 8, 2026**

Marek Oszwakowski, Michael Fawaz, Evan Kazzi & Chris Moussa

**Altar Servers for Sunday, February 15, 2026**

Mateo AbouJaoude, Jason Nasr, Marek Oszwakowski & Michael Fawaz,

**Thank you for your generosity**

**Summary of the Collection for Sunday, February 1, 2026**

Regular Collection	\$1956
Pledge	\$ 400
Donation by Mail	\$ 300
Memorial Contribution	\$ 200
Individual Contribution	\$1000

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

**Doctrinal Note: The Value of Marriage**

Hosted by the Eparchial Couples Ministry and Saint Sharbel Center, Bishop Gregory Mansour will conduct a zoom presentation on the Value of Marriage on **February, 10, 2026 at 8:00 p.m.** Meeting ID 853 7619 7295, Passcode: 250823. All couples and young adults are welcome.

**Scripture Readings**

- Sunday, February 8, 2026 (The Faithful Departed & St. Maron)**  
 1 The 5:1-11; Lk 16:19-31  
 2 Tim 3:10-17; Jn 12:23-30 (Saint Maron)
- February 15, 2026 (Cana Sunday or Entrance into Lent)**  
 Rom 14:14-23; Jn 2:1-11
- Sunday, February 22, 2026 (Healing of the Leper)**  
 Rom 6:12-23; Mk 1:35-45

**Holy Day of Obligation**

**Monday, February 9, 2026**, Feast of Saint Maron, is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Divine Liturgy will take place at 7:30 p.m. A Holy Day of means a catholic person who has reached the age of reason (7 years old) is obligated under the penalty of mortal sin to attend Liturgy on that day



For us Maronites, the Season of the Great Lent will begin on **February 16, 2026** with Ash Monday. 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 **Ash Monday and Good Friday**.

**Ash Monday Liturgy**

The Liturgy for **Ash Monday [February 16]** 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 Services**



**Every Friday of Lent**, we will have a Divine Liturgy followed by the Benediction with the Holy Cross at **7:30 p.m.** Following the Liturgy a **simple lenten (meatless) meal** will be served in the social hall. Every Friday of Lent is a **day of abstinence**. Abstinence means that no meat or meat products may be consumed during the 24 hour period.

**Bishop's Annual Appeal**

The **Bishop's Annual Appeal** for 2026 will start on Ash Monday, **February 16, 2026**, and will last until Easter Sunday. The Annual Bishop's Appeal is an opportunity for all of us in the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn to act with unity in expressing our love for God and to help give the light of our Maronite faith to future generations. Please send in your contribution, earmarked **Bishop's Appeal 2026, before Easter Sunday**. Thank you for your generosity.

### ***Saint Maron***

All that is known about Maron, the spiritual father and protector of the Maronites comes from Theodoret, the bishop of Cyr. In approximately 444, Theodoret undertook the project of writing a religious history about his region. Theodoret never knew Maron personally, but only through the disciples of this holy man. He described Maron as “the one who has planted for God the garden which flourishes now in the region of Cyr.” Little is known of the birth or youth of Maron because Theodoret was unconcerned about that aspect of his life. He felt that Maron was a man born not for this world, but for heaven. In his description of the beginning of Maron’s life, Theodoret asserts that Maron has “already increased the number of saints in heaven.”

Maron was the spiritual leader not only of the hermits who lived near him, but indeed of all of the Christian faithful in the area. He used to counsel them, heal their bodily and spiritual ills. All of these apostolic endeavors manifested the wisdom and holiness of the hermit Maron.

Some hold the opinion that Maron and John Chrysostom studied together at Antioch before 398 and that the famous letter sent by John Chrysostom was indeed sent to this hermit Maron and not to some other anchorite with the same name. If the monk referred to in this letter is from the region of Cyr, it is indeed our spiritual father, Maron.

The date of Maron’s death is placed somewhere between 407 and 423. Because of his great popularity among the people, riots broke out at the time of his death because everyone wanted to save his remains in their village.

The Maronite Church formerly celebrated the feast of this great saint on January 5. (This is the day in which the Church of *Kfarhai*, Lebanon, was consecrated in his honor.) However, in the seventeenth century, the feast was transferred to February 9. Lebanon has proclaimed Maron as its patron saint and Pope Benedict XIV granted a plenary indulgence to everyone who visited a Maronite church on February 9.

The gospel tells us that a tree is known by its fruits and we know from Theodoret that the garden of Maron flourished after his death. One is able to number approximately twenty saints among Maron’s disciples, three of whom are women. At times, their acts of penance and mortification were excessive, but they were always obedient to ecclesiastical authority.”

After the Council of Chalcedon, Bishop Theodoret worked to construct the famous Monastery of Saint Maron. In addition to being a stronghold for the defense of the teachings of the Council of Chalcedon, this monastery was for a long time the center of the cultural and theological heritage of Antioch.

*(Maronite Prayer of the Faithful, volume 1)*

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

