

## *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 had “already increased the number of saints in heaven.”

According to history, Maron was never satisfied with the ordinary practices of asceticism, but was “always seeking for new ways to accumulate all the treasures of wisdom.”

Maron was the spiritual leader not only of the hermits who lived near him, but indeed of all 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.

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<sup>th</sup>. (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<sup>th</sup>. 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<sup>th</sup>.

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 of Maron with these words: “These anchorites were virtuous and heroic, totally dedicated to a life of contemplative prayer. They were strangers to any other consideration in the world. They were obedient to Church authority and tried to imitate their predecessor in their exercises of austerity. 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. □

## **Saint Anthony’s Maronite Catholic Church**

*Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn*

**4611 Sadler Road**

**Glen Allen, VA 23060**

**Phone (804) 270-7234; Fax (804) 273-9914;**

E-Mail: [StAnthony@StAnthonyMaroniteChurch.org](mailto:StAnthony@StAnthonyMaroniteChurch.org)

Website: [WWW.StAnthonyMaroniteChurch.org](http://WWW.StAnthonyMaroniteChurch.org)

**Msgr. George M. Sebaali, Pastor**

**(E-mail: [Gmsebaali@aol.com](mailto:Gmsebaali@aol.com))**

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*Sunday February 11, 2007: Sunday of the Faithful Departed*

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Saint Maron,  
Founder of the  
Maronite  
Church

**Sunday, February 11, 2007 at 8:30 A.M.**

All faithful departed

**Sunday, February 11, 2007 at 11:00 o'clock**

Nina and Joseph Kouri and their son Leo

**Daily Liturgy in the Chapel at 9:00 A.M.****Monday:** Abe and Julia Massad**Tuesday:** George Slyman, Jr.**Wednesday:** No morning Liturgy**Thursday:** Nagiebe Lalik**Friday:** George Bourrett**Saturday:** Cathrine Redeye**Sunday, February 18, 2007 at 8:30 A.M.**

Catherine Redeye

**Sunday, February 18, 2007 at 11:00 o'clock**

Mary Nadder, one year anniversary

**Sunday, February 25, 2007 at 8:30 A.M.**

For the Parish

**Sunday, February 25, 2007 at 11:00 o'clock**

Connie Yesbeck

**Scripture Readings****Sunday February 18, 2007,****Sunday of Entrance Into Lent (Cana Sunday)**

Rom. 14: 14-23 John 2:1-11

**Readers****Sunday, February 18, 2007 at 8:30 A.M.**

John Aaron

**Sunday, February 18, 2006 at 11:00 o'clock**

Doug Anders

**Ushers****Sunday February 18, 2007 at 8:30 A.M.**

Paul Thomas, Mike Shulleeta, SonnyShibley &amp; L. McDaniel

**Sunday, February 18, 2007 at 11:00 o'clock**

Daniel Fadool, George Yesbeck, Jr., Danny Shibley, Jr., Brandon Shulleeta and Raymond Khoury

**Altar Boys****Sunday February 18, 2007 at 8:30 A.M.**

Jack Zohab, Jerret Hendrix and Nick Edwards

**Sunday, February 18, 2007 at 11:00 o'clock**

Adam and Luke Yesbeck and Jacob Shibley

**Choir Practice**

Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 7:00 P.M., there will be a choir practice for both Liturgies.

**Meetings**

The Finance Council will meet on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 7:00 P.M., in the Rectory

**Sunday, February 11, 2007** the Ladies Auxiliary will hold its monthly meeting following the 11:00 o'clock Liturgy. Meeting will take place in the Social Hall.**Sunday, February 11, 2007, the Junior Youth** will hold their monthly meeting following the 11:00 o'clock Liturgy. The meeting will take place in the Club Room.**Saint Maron's Dinner****Saint Maron's Feast Day** Annual Dinner will take place on **Sunday, February 25, 2007** following the 11:00 o'clock Liturgy. Tickets are \$20 per person (\$8 for children 10 years and under) and are available following each Liturgy.**Sign Up For Food Festival Dancers**Anyone interested in dancing at the upcoming Lebanese Food Festival, a sign up sheet is located at the literature table in the back of the Church. Dance practice will start on **Thursday March 1, 2007** at 6:30 P.M. Call Pam Gray at 569-1952 (home) or 782-3399 (work) with any questions.**Attention All Cooks****Cooking for the Festival** starts Tuesday, February 13, 2007 and will be every Tuesday following the 9:00 A.M. Liturgy and Thursday evenings from 4:00 P.M. until ?. Please give the ladies a hand. There is room for everyone and everyone is needed. For more information contact either Theresa Shibley, Janet Fodill or Rosie Shaia. **The festival itself will take place May 18, 19, 20, 2007.** Thank you for your cooperation, hard work and sacrifices.**Coffee Hour**Coffee hour for Sunday, **February 18, 2007** will be prepared by **Riley and Wayne Shaia**. Coffee hour is in the house next to the pavilion.**Lenten Season**Lent, the penitential season of the Church year, begins on **Ash Monday, February 19, 2007** and lasts until Easter.

The Lenten Season is a time of sacrifices throughout the Universal Church.

**Distribution of Ashes**Ashes will be distributed only on **Ash Monday, February 19, 2007** during the 9:00 A.M. and the 6:30 P.M. Liturgy.**Lenten Regulations**All Maronites who are physically capable are to **abstain from meat** on Ash Monday (February 19) and all Fridays of Lent. Abstinence from meat means that no meat or meat product may be consumed on that day.**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.**Devotion of Lenten Fridays**Starting on **Friday, February 23, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.**, and every Friday of Lent thereafter, we will have **Stations of the Cross** followed by the **Benediction with the Cross**.