

SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 10am-3pm

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Sunday of the Prodigal Son 23 March 2025



SUNDAY READINGS

EPISTLE - 2 Corinthians 13:5-13

Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless, of course, you fail the test. I hope you will discover that we have not failed. But we pray to God that you may not do evil, not that we may appear to have passed the test but that you may do what is right, even though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we rejoice when we are weak but you are strong. What we pray for is your improvement.

I am writing this while I am away, so that when I come I may not have to be severe in virtue of the authority that the Lord has given me to build up and not to tear down.

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the holy ones greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

GOSPEL - Luke 15:11-32

A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, "Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me." So the father divided the property between them.

After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country, where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens, who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. He longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any.

Coming to his senses, he thought, "How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here I am, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.'"

So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son." But his father ordered his servants, "Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found." Then the celebration began.

Now the older son had been out in the field, and on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, "Your brother has returned, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound."

He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, "Look, all these years I served you, and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns, who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf."

He said to him, "My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."

PARISH LIFE

Safro (Morning Prayer)
Monday—Friday - 7:30am

Eucharistic Adoration
Friday —9:30am - 10:30am

Reconciliation (Confession)
Saturday 9:30am - 10:15am
and by appointment

Mystery of Crowning
Contact the pastor 6 months
in advance

Baptism and Chrismation
Make arrangements as soon
after birth as possible

Parish Calendar. Please see stanthonymaronitechurch.org for the parish calendar.

Liturgical Hours. Monday through Saturday 9:00am daily Divine Liturgy in the chapel.

Sunday 8:30am and 11am Divine Liturgies. Summer Hours: Sat 5:30 pm, Sun 10 am

First Saturday of the Month. Marian devotions at 9:30am.

St. Sharbel Devotions. Third Sunday of the month at 11:00am Divine Liturgy

POINTS OF INTEREST

Festival Cooking This Week: Cooking for the 40th Annual Food Festival is on Tuesday this week at 9:30 am to 3 pm. Thursday cooking begins at 4 pm to 8 pm.

Festival Dancing. Dance Practice continues each Thursday at 6 pm. Sign up to dance or to help: <https://forms.gle/emC4A99R9rY2WSXe8>

Stations and Benediction of the Cross. Join us each Friday of Lent at 6:30 pm. Confessions are available as well.

SINGO BINGO. Join us for some musical fun where you can win prizes. The Maronite Women's Fellowship is hosting a bingo night for the whole parish. See flier for more details.

Summer Bible Camp. Over the past few years, the younger children have greatly benefited from and enjoyed the Summer Bible Camp, with attendance increasing each year. Amanda Shulleeta Walton has generously organized the program, but due to her family responsibilities, she now needs significantly more help. If parents want the Summer Bible Camp to continue, everyone must do their part. Please reach out to Amanda, Cathy George, or Father John if you are able to assist.

Feast of St. Joseph - On March 19, 2025, Teddy and Dwight Flammia will open their home at 10707 Gayton Rd, Henrico, VA 23238, to host a special Feast of St. Joseph Open House. In the spirit of St. Joseph's generosity and care, they will have a "contribution jar", with all proceeds going to the Saint Joseph Society. Let's come together to support them in this beautiful act of faith and charity. What a wonderful way to honor St. Joseph! Hope to see you there!

MYA Southern Retreat. Are you a young adult between the ages of 18 and 39? Are you looking to grow deeping in your faith and connect with other like-minded young adults from your culture and faith? Join our MYA family March 29th at St. Maron in Jacksonville, FL for an unforgettable experience. The theme will focus on "The Way of the Cross: Finding Strength in Surrender". The retreat will include meals, breakouts, adoration, confession, fellowship and more. To learn more or to register for the retreat visit myaeparchystmaron.org. Registration is now open!

MYA Hiking Trail. Hike with the MYA to the Rose River Falls on 14 April. See flier

2025 Pilgrimage. Please join the pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines in Portugal, Spain, and France from 14-23 September 2025. This promises to be a spiritually enriching journey as we visit some of the most beautiful and sacred sites dedicated to Our Blessed Mother.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Sunday, 23 March at 9:30. MCF Preschool - Eighth Grades, Catechumen Class, First Communion Parent Class

Tuesday, 25 March at 9:30 am. Festival Cooking

Thursday, 27 March at 4 pm. Festival Cooking, Dance Practice at 6 pm.

Friday, 28 March at 6:30 pm. Stations and Benediction of the Cross, Dinner/Event

Sunday, 30 March at 9:30. MCF All Students, Catholic Interest Class

Lenten Observances 2025

The Most Reverend Bishops Gregory J. Mansour and A. Elias Zaidan have issued the following Lenten guidelines for the Maronites of the United States.

+ **All Maronites** who are physically capable are to abstain from meat on Ash Monday (3 March 2025) and all Fridays of Lent.

+ **Ash Monday and the Great Friday** of the Crucifixion (18 April 2025) 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 should fast on these two days.

Distribution of Ashes

All parish priests are to bless and distribute ashes on Ash Monday during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy as indicated in our liturgical books. This ceremony may not be celebrated on the vigil of Ash Monday (Cana Sunday). For the convenience of some faithful of the Latin Church who may come to Mass at a Maronite Church on their Ash Wednesday, ashes that were blessed on Monday may be given to them after the Mass. However, ashes are not to be blessed again on this day.

Lenten Services

All parish priests are to celebrate the Benediction with the Cross every Friday of Lent except for the Great Friday of the Crucifixion. This service may be preceded by Evening Prayer (Ramsho, Stations of the Cross, or even the Divine Liturgy. Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament should not take place on the Fridays of Lent.

Traditional Fasting Discipline

Clergy, religious and laity who wish to observe the more traditional Maronite practice of fasting and abstinence are encouraged to do so.

That practice is summarized in the following, taken from the Synod of Mt. Lebanon (1736):

Every weekday of Lent (Monday through Friday) is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products (eggs, butter, milk, etc.). Fasting 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 or dairy products. Dairy products are excluded because they are animal byproducts. Saturdays and Sundays are exempt from fasting and abstaining, as are the following feast days: The 40 Martyrs - 9 March, St. Joseph - 19 March, and the Annunciation - 25 March.

LITURGY SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Sunday, 23 March Fourth Week of Lent, Parable of the Prodigal Son, St. Rafka

8:30 am

In memory of Barbara Joseph (40 Day Remembrance), requested by Sandra Joseph Brown
In memory of Goldie Faris, requested by Mary and Anthony Shaia

11:00 am

In memory of Susan Wright, requested by Faith Hendricks
In memory of Joseph and Rose Fodill, requested by their family

Monday, 24 March St. Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia

In memory of Fred Fodill, Jr., requested by his family

Tuesday, 25 March The Annunciation to the Virgin Mary

No Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, 26 March St. Gabriel the Archangel

No Divine Liturgy

Thursday, 27 March St. Matrona of Thessalonica

No Divine Liturgy

Friday, 28 March St. Philetus and St. Lydia and Their Children

No Divine Liturgy

Saturday, 29 March St. Cyril of Baalbek

In memory of Barbara Joseph, requested by Rebecca Anthony

Sunday, 30 March Fifth Week of Lent, Healing of the Paralytic, St. John Climacus

8:30 am

In memory of Barbara Joseph, requested by Regina Shaar Loehr
In memory of Goldie Faris, requested by Regina Shaar Loehr

11:00 am

In memory of Norma and John Nadder, requested by Teresa and John Nadder
In memory of Elham ElJor and her father, Moussa ElJor, requested by Tony and Nunu ElJor

USHERS SCHEDULE

Dates	8:30 Divine Liturgy	11:00 Divine Liturgy
23 Mar	Danny Shibley, Sr., Anthony Shibley, Dennis Shibley, Joseph Shibley, Jr., Stephen Shibley, Jr.	Peter George, Duane Peppel, Daniel Dailey, Freddy Fakher
30 Mar	Tom Dailey, Ed Yesbeck, Jr., John Zeheb, Harry Mclvor	Alex Fabiato, Justin Shulleeta, Anthony Shulleeta, Clarke Sawyer

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Dates	8:30 Divine Liturgy	11:00 Divine Liturgy
23 Mar	Nicholas and Tobias Edwards, Kingston Lewter, Brycen Howard	Patrick Savage, Grayson Funk, Christian Funk
30 Mar	Thomas Shaia, Owen Hendrix, Nolan Roberts	Sami Sakr, Luke Salloum, Eli Stephan, Ghady Karam

TRANSFER OF GIFTS

Dates	8:30 Divine Liturgy	11:00 Divine Liturgy
23 Mar	Sadie Gill, Magdalena Choueifati, Emily Carr	Jenna Chaoul, Romi Rustom, Kylie Stephan
30 Mar	Millie Howard, Amina Howard, Sadie Gill	Maria Sakr, Madison Shibley, Samantha Yago

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Dates	8:30 Divine Liturgy	11:00 Divine Liturgy
23 Mar	Margaret Gray	Claudia Bouhaidar
30 Mar	Denise Maurer	Sam LaNeave

STEWARDSHIP

16 March
Collections: \$1518
Contributions: \$325
Memorial Contribution (Barbara Joseph) - St
Anthony Scholarship fund: \$75
St. Joseph Society: \$500

COLLECTION COUNTERS

March: John Zeheb & Patricia Nadder
April: David Walton & Paul Shibley
May: Joe George & Anthony Shibley

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

SINGO BINGO

FRIDAY, MARCH 21ST

Following Stations of the Cross

*Maronite Women's Fellowship will be hosting
Dinner and Bingo for the Parish.*

Singo Bingo is a musical spin on the classic bingo game. Instead of listening for a number, players are listening to their favorite music. Each player receives a free Singo card printed with the titles of popular songs.

BINGO SHEET \$2 DONATION

**50/50
RAFFLE**



2000S MIX TAPE				
NO ONE	HARDER TO BREATHE	PARTY IN THE U.S.A.	SUGAR, WE'RE GOIN' DOWN	DON'T STOP BELIEVIN'
DIRTTY	LIKE A VIRGIN	LOVE STORY	DIAL DRUNK	RIDE WIT ME
RUN IT	HIPS DON'T LIE	U CAN'T TOUCH THIS	BEFORE HE CHEATS	HOT IN HERRE
JENNY FROM THE BLOCK	BEAUTIFUL GIRLS	CAUGHT UP	ALL THE SMALL THINGS	TIK TOK
1, 2 STEP	SEE YOU AGAIN	RED SOLO CUP	CONBOY TAKE ME AWAY	I DON'T WANT TO MISS A THING

2000S MIX TAPE				
NO ONE	BUY U A DRANK	HOLLABACK GIRL	I LOVE THIS BAR	I DON'T WANT TO MISS A THING
SEXYBACK	HIPS DON'T LIE	ALL SUMMER LONG	DIAL DRUNK	DROP IT LIKE IT'S HOT
CRAZY IN LOVE	LOSE CONTROL	U CAN'T TOUCH THIS	CONBOY TAKE ME AWAY	DON'T STOP BELIEVIN'
JENNY FROM THE BLOCK	SEE YOU AGAIN	LONDON BRIDGE	CRUISE	SUPER BASS
BOOTYLICIOUS	CLOSER	I WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY	ALL THE SMALL THINGS	RIDE WIT ME

\$5 PER PERSON

MENU:

*Pizza
Salad
Dessert*

**ALL PARISH MEMBERS ARE WELCOMED AND
ENCOURAGED TO JOIN IN THE FUN.**



Just Keep
WALKING

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH

**JOIN THE MARONITE YOUNG ADULTS
FOR OUR NEXT HIKING TRAIL TO THE
ROSE RIVER FALLS**

**SIGN UP
HERE!**

bit.ly/springhike25

FOR INFO, CONTACT:
GABRIELLE CHAHINE
540-915-8793

NICOLAS KHATTAR
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MARONITE CHRISTIAN FORMATION SCHEDULE

MCF Schedule for Winter/Spring 2025			
Sunday	Jan. 5	All Students	9:30 a.m
Sunday	Jan. 12	PreS – 8th	9:30 am
Sunday	Jan. 19	PreS – 6th 7th-12th grades—LifeTeen	9:30 am 9:30 - 11 am
Sunday	Jan. 26	St. Anthony Feast Day Celebration All Students	9:30 am
Sunday	Feb. 2	All Students	9:30 am
Sunday	Feb. 9	PreS – 8th	9:30 am
Sunday	Feb. 16	PreS – 6th 7th-12th grades—LifeTeen	9:30 am 9:30 - 11 am
Sunday	Feb. 23	PreS – 8th Parent First Communion Class	9:30 am
Sunday	Mar. 2	All Students	9:30 am
Sunday	Mar. 9	PreS – 8th	9:30 am
Sunday	Mar. 16	All Students MYO Parish Retreat	9:30 am
Sunday	Mar. 23	PreS – 8th	9:30 am
Sunday	Mar. 30	PreS – 6th 7th-12th grades—LifeTeen	9:30 am 9:30 - 11 am
Sunday	Apr. 6	All Students	9:30 am
Sunday	Apr. 13, Apr. 20	Palm Sunday Easter	No classes
Tuesday	Apr. 22	First Communion Practice	6:30 pm
Sunday	Apr. 27	First Communion Families arrive by 10:20	11:00 am



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