

POINTS OF INTEREST

Feast of Saint Maron. On **Sunday 8, February 2015** we shall celebrate the feast day of our patron Saint Maron. The Divine Liturgy will be followed by our annual St. Maron's Potluck Luncheon. This event will be sponsored by both The Daughters of St. Ann and the St. Maron's Men Society. Everyone is invited to attend. We are asking everyone to bring a dish to share. Sign up sheets will be posted in the hall. This has always been a fun event that allows us to socialize and visit with our Church family and friends!!!!

Maronite Christian Formation. On **Friday 30 January, 2015** St Ann's Children will meet for the Maronite Christian Formation in the Church hall from 4,30 pm - 6,00 pm

Lent. Monday **February 16, 2015.** The Maronite Church will be celebrating Ash Monday. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Monday at 6.30 PM followed by the distribution of ashes.

St. Maron's Men Society. Dues for 2015 (\$65.00) checks could be made out to St Maron's Men Society through Mike Rezey.

2015 Memorials. Memorials "*altar bread, wine, sanctuary lamp and candles, incense/charcoal and sanctuary plants*" for the offerings regularly used in the sanctuary as part of the Divine Liturgy are available for a week, a month, or a year to memorialize or honor a loved one. You can arrange for a memorial by calling Fr. Elias.

2015 Liturgy Intentions. If you would like to offer a Divine Liturgy for a special intention write or call the parish office. In preparing your will, you might wish to arrange for the celebration of Divine Liturgies for yourself and your family.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"I will clothe her priests with salvation, and her faithful shall ring out their joy"
(Psalm 132:16)

St Ephrem The Syrian

Saint Ephrem the Syrian was born around year 306 in Nibisis located in modern-day Turkey.

Ephrem was baptized around the age of 18, and he may have been ordained a deacon at the same time. Since one of the chief activities of a deacon is the preaching of the Gospel, Ephrem began to write deeply theological hymns and biblical commentaries. In his lifetime, he may have written as many as three million lines, and 400 of his hymns still survive. His hymnography earned him the title "Harp of the Spirit."

Fleeing westward from the Persians, who were ravaging Turkey, Ephrem settled in Edessa, in southern Turkey, in 363. There, he continued to write hymns, especially defending the teaching of the Council of Nicea against the Arian heretics, who were influential in Edessa. He died tending plague victims in 373.

Saints' Quotes

'It matters very little if you approach the Sacraments with sensible fervor, provided that you replace this with deep and sincere humility. Without this humility there is nothing more despicable in God's eyes than ourselves, but with it we can go to him without fear, certain that he will deign to look on us with infinite mercy.'

St. Claude de la Colombière

What exactly does *AMEN* mean?

Amen is a word that came to English from Latin, which got it from Greek, which got it from Aramaic, which got it from Hebrew (technically, Aramaic may have had it anyway, before it became the standard language of the Jewish people a few centuries before the time of Christ).

It is difficult to translate this word directly, which is often a reason that words are borrowed from other languages (i.e., if there's no *direct* way to translate this foreign word, just borrow it).

The specific Hebrew word *amen* ('*amen* ') appears to be derived from a related verb '*aman* ', which means "he confirmed, supported, or upheld." This verb is also associated with the Hebrew word for *truth* ('*emet* '), which carries the idea of certainty or dependability (i.e., that which is true is that which is certain or dependable).

'*Amen* itself is an interjection used to agree with, affirm, approve, or emphasize something else that has been said. Thus when Jesus begins certain sayings by declaring "Amen, amen, I say to you . . ." various Bible translations often render the "amen, amen" different ways. Because of the word's association with the Hebrew terms for truth, the double amen is sometimes rendered "truly, truly" or "verily, verily." Because of its association with the Hebrew terms for confirmation or dependability, one might also translate it "certainly, certainly" or "most assuredly."

When one says "amen" in response to a prayer, it serves as an affirmation of agreement with the content of the prayer (cf. 1 Cor 14:16)—in which case it is sometimes translated "So be it" (cf. CCC 2856)—or as an expression of faith that God will hear and act on the prayer.

Bottom line: *Amen* is an interjection associated with the Hebrew words for truth and dependability, it conveys the idea of agreement or emphasis, and its meaning can be translated different ways depending on the context.

Source: www.Catholic.com [1/20/2014]

Pope Francis' General Audience

Speaking on Wednesday at the weekly General Audience, the Pope explicitly referred to brutalities perpetrated against Christians, children and Churches.

He invited those present to join him in praying for the victims of recent violence in Niger.

Let us invoke the Lord – he said – for the gift of reconciliation and peace, may "religious sentiment never give rise to violence, oppression and destruction".

"War must not be waged in the name of God" he said.

Pope Francis concluded his appeal expressing his hope that in the West African nation a climate of reciprocal respect and peaceful cohabitation be re-established as soon as possible for the good of all.

Last week, in Niger's capital Niamey and in the town of Zinder, at least 15 people were killed in two days of violent protests against the publication in France of a satirical magazine depicting Islam's prophet.

Over a dozen Christian Churches and other buildings were set ablaze.

Security forces have been using tear gas to disperse hundreds of opposition supporters taking part in banned demonstrations in the capital.

Source: *Vatican Radio* [01/21/2015]



The Pope Tweets

The family is the greatest treasure of any country. Let us all work to protect and strengthen this, the cornerstone of society.

@ Pontifex / Jan 16, 2015