



## Saint Ann Catholic Church • Maronite Rite

A Catholic Parish of the Antiochian Syriac Maronite Church

**Jurisdiction:** *Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn* (<http://stmaron.org/>)

**Eparchial Bishop:** Most Reverend Gregory John MANSOUR, S.T.L.

109 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Tel: (718) 237-9913; Fax: (718) 243-0444

**Pastor:** Reverend George BOUCHAAYA, M.L.M. (*Congregation of Maronite Lebanese Missionaries*)

**Church, Office & Rectory** 1919 Third Avenue, Watervliet, NY 12189

**Phone:** (518) 272-6073; For Emergency ONLY, call Father George at (518) 466-0868

**E-Mail:** [stann1905@gmail.com](mailto:stann1905@gmail.com) | **Website:** [www.stann1905.com](http://www.stann1905.com)

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/St-Ann-Catholic-Church/317821088244238>

### Mass Schedule

**Sundays:** 10:00 AM | **Tuesdays – Saturdays:** 7:30 AM

**Holy Days of Obligation:**

Vigil Liturgy: 6:30 PM | Actual Feast Day: 7:30 AM

### Office Hours

**Tuesday through Friday:** 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

*Mondays: office is closed. | Saturdays: by appointment.*

## LITURGICAL SERVICES

### Sacraments of Baptism & Confirmation

Please call the parish office for arrangements 3 weeks prior to the celebration of the Sacrament. Parents & Godparents should meet with the Pastor to schedule a date & arrange for proper parental preparation.

### Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation

Confession can be heard before and after Liturgies or by appointment

### Sacrament of Matrimony (Marriage)

For Weddings, 6 months advance notice is required in order that proper preparation may be made for the celebration of the Sacrament.

### Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

If a family member is seriously ill at home or in a hospital, or they are unable to come to Church and would like to receive communion at home, please call the parish office to arrange for Communion, Confession or the Anointing of the Sick with Holy oil.

*The list is updated every Thursday; if you would like to add a name, please call the parish office no later than Wednesday.*

### Funerals

Please contact the Pastor as soon as possible after the death of a loved one.

### Mass Intention Dedications

If you would like to have a mass dedicated, Mass cards are available for various intentions including memorials. Your voluntary gifts of any amount are gratefully accepted. Mass reservations should be made in advance.

You can request an announced or an unannounced Mass Intentions to be said for a living or deceased family member, friend or loved one by calling the parish office or sending an e-mail to schedule intentions.

## Upcoming events – Mark your calendars

Sun	Jun 1	Town Hall Meeting
Sat	Jun 7	St. Ann's First Lebanese Food Festival
Sat	Jul 19	Yankee Stadium Bus Trip
Sat	Sep 6	Annual Charity Tournament (sponsored by SMMS)
Sun	Sep 7	Parish Picnic & Election of New Officers for Parish Organizations
Sun	Nov 2	(10:00am) The Subdiaconate Ordination for Richard Thornton Sr. at St. Ann's
Sat	Nov 8	(7pm) 14th Annual Lebanese Hafla

## Parish Vocations

**Priesthood:** Chorbishop Joe Kaddo, (Pastor of St. Anthony Fall River)

**Religious Life:** Brother Paul HOOVER of the Most Holy Trinity Monastery

**Candidate to subdiaconate:** Richard THORNTON

## CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

### Parish Pastoral Council

As an advisory Board, this council meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month.  
– President: Rosemary PATNODE.

### Daughters of St. Ann

This woman's organization meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM. – President: Patti THORNTON.

### St. Maron Men's Society

This men's organization meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month after Mass. – President: Al PATNODE.

### Junior MYO

The Junior MYO is a group of young people 10 years old and up. The Youth organization meets on the last Sunday of every month after 10 am Mass in the church. – Coordinator: Carol SHUFELT.

### Religious Education

Religious Education is available for all children in 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Classes are scheduled for 1 Friday and 1 Saturday a month. – Coordinator: Sr Florence Joseph FLAHERTY, D.C.

### St. Ann Liturgical Choir

Choir practice takes place the first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. No special training is required. – Director: Richard THORNTON.

### Family & Sanctity of Life Committee

The Purpose of this committee is to promote within our parish prayer, education, and action in the defense of all life. Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month after 10 AM Mass. – Chairperson: Richard THORNTON.

### Liturgical & Spiritual Committee

## Upcoming MEETINGS

Mo	Jun 2	St. Ann Liturgical Choir Meeting
We	Jun 4	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Su	Jun 8	Family & Sanctity of Life Committee Meeting

*Christ is Risen. He is truly risen*

*المسيح قام، حقًا قام*



## Altar Gifts for May 2014

In loving memory of Peter, Rose and Anna Rose REZEY and the deceased members of the REZEY and SEE Families.

*Requested by Michael and Karen Rezey.*

*The Sanctuary Lamp burns continuously, reminding us of Christ, the eternal and everlasting light.*

*It is proper and fitting to offer our Sanctuary lamp in memory, to honor a loved one or for a special intention.*

The 2014 Calendar is now available to register your intentions. These are scheduled on a first-come- first-served-basis to ensure an equal opportunity for everyone. Contact the office to arrange your memorial.

## Season of the Glorious Resurrection 6<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of the Resurrection Sun, May 25

Rom 10:1-13

Lk 24:36-48

### *The Divine Liturgy is celebrated in memory of:*

- ✠ Marie SUEN, requested by Clay & Carol Shufelt and family, Gwen Korkemaz
- ✠ Sayed FRANGIE, requested by the Rezey family
- ✠ Simon Spier AIBEF, requested by Vivian Karam and Jeanette Karam-August

### *and for the blessing and special intentions of:*

- ✠ Good health of Cancer patients, our sick & homebound

<b>Ushers</b>	Please Volunteer
<b>Greeter</b>	Richard Peters
<b>Ar. Lector</b>	Michel Boutros
<b>En. Lector</b>	Bob Stolar
<b>Intercessions</b>	Beverly Traa

## Weekly Schedule

### *Mon, May 26;*

Phil 3:1-12

Jn 11:1-16

No Liturgy

### *Tue, May 27;*

Phil 3:13-21

Jn 11:17-31

No Liturgy

### *Wed, May 28;*

Phil 4:1-7

Jn 11:32-44

No Liturgy

### *Thu, May 29; The Ascension of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)*

#### *St. Theodosia of Tyre, M*

Acts 1:1-14

Mk 16:15-20

No Liturgy

### *Fri, May 30;*

Phil 4:8-14

Jn 3:12-15

No Liturgy

### *Sat, May 31;*

Phil 4:15-23

Jn 14:1-6

No Liturgy

## Season of the Glorious Resurrection 7<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of the Resurrection Sun, Jun 1 St. Justin, M

Eph 1:15-23

Jn 13:31-35

### *The Divine Liturgy is celebrated in memory of:*

- ✠ Sayed FRANGIE – 40 Day Memorial Mass, requested by the Abdallah family
- ✠ Simon Spier AIBEF, requested by Thomas Riley Sr. & Ronald Bagley
- ✠ JABOUR, SCALA & ERNEST families, requested by their families
- ✠ Fr. Paul KORKEMAZ, requested by Nabih Korkemaz & family

### *and for the blessing and special intentions of:*

- ✠ Good health of Cancer patients, our sick & homebound

<b>Ushers</b>	Please Volunteer
<b>Greeter</b>	Carolyn Lalli
<b>Ar. Lector</b>	Mirvatte Hannoush
<b>En. Lector</b>	Karen Rezey
<b>Intercessions</b>	Richard Peters

## Pope's May Prayer Intentions

**Media:** That the media may be instruments in the service of truth and peace.

**Mary's Guidance:** That Mary, Star of Evangelization, may guide the Church in proclaiming Christ to all nations.

## Pray for our Sick and Homebound

Heal Your servants, who are sick, O Lord, and send them help and comfort from Your holy place.

Wadad FRANGIE, Chantelle BOUDIWAN, Jay MOONEY, Chas TANGREDI, Paul STAVIS, Foutine FRANGIE, Joyce & Christy FIRSTIUN, Juliann HALLAL, Donata CALDARONI, Alisa BURKE, Jamileh K-MOUAWAD, Caroline-Marjorie FIELDS, Della MAWAD, Katherine RIBUSTELLI, Marilyn MARVIN, Margaret McDonough, Pauline NAHAL, Sarah BRENENSTUHL, Gail MOFFRE, Ellen DEEB, Robert SCHARC, Marian DEEP

## Requested prayers from the Book of prayers

- ✠ For a young adolescent with mental health issues.
- ✠ For the lonely and depressed.
- ✠ For special intentions of Jabour family.

## May BIRTHDAYS

*As they celebrate their birthdays this month, we hold up to God the lives of:*

<b>3</b> Tony Abdallah,	<b>6</b> Eva Abdallah
Beverly Traa	
<b>8</b> Thomas Marron, Sr.	<b>10</b> David Nicholas
<b>11</b> Marian Deep	<b>14</b> Rosie Karame
<b>19</b> Thomas Marron	<b>20</b> Nicholas Marron
<b>24</b> Mike Basle	<b>25</b> Joe Jabour,
	Nathaniel Marron
<b>27</b> Anthony Hannoush	<b>28</b> Rhea Frangieh

We ask that many blessings be theirs in the coming year.



## Schedule of Hospitality Sponsors

*Sign-up sheets are in the binder on the table in front of St. Ann in the main entrance of the church.*

*Please consider sponsoring Sunday refreshments. Thank you.*

May 25 Gwen Korkemaz, Clay & Carol Shufelt

Jun 1 Abdallah & Frankie families

Jun 8 Available

Jun 15 Michael & Karen Rezey

Jun 22 Available

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Collections for May

May 4 National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon

May 4 Mother's Day

May 11 Building Fund

May 18 Fuel & Heat

May 25 Assessment / Bishop Appeal

May 29 Ascension

## Your Gift to God for May 18

*We do apologize for not posting the collection of Sunday, May 18*

## Schedule for Collection Counters

May 18 Rosemary Patnode & Georgette Hannoush

May 25 Thomas Riley Sr. & Rolla Mooney

Jun 1 Richard Thornton, Sr. & Ronald Bagley

Jun 8 Rosemary Patnode & Georgette Hannoush

Jun 15 Thomas Riley Sr. & Rolla Mooney

## Pope Francis via Twitter - @Pontifex

*The one who listens attentively to the word of God, and truly prays, always asks the Lord: What is your will for me?*

## Stadium Bus Trip

Warm weather has finally arrived and the St. Maron Men's Society is preparing for America's favorite pastime - baseball.



They have put together a fabulous day trip to see the NY Yankees (85 wins) take on the Cincinnati Reds (90 wins) on Saturday, July 19. Team rivalry dates back to 1938 and again in 1961, when the Yankees rolled to world championships over Cincinnati in short order. Don't miss this opportunity to

enjoy a fun filled day. Tickets are only \$80 and include r/t coach transportation on Yankee Trails, stadium admission, soda, bottled water and sandwiches. Contact Mike Rezey (518-463-6889) or Joe Jabour (518-271-6638) for more detailed information and to purchase your tickets.

## PARISH FOOD FESTIVAL

Mark Your Calendar - The Festival will be held **Saturday, June 7 from 11 am to 5:00 pm** in the Hudson River Park in Watervliet. Bring your family and friends to enjoy some truly delicious, authentic Lebanese food and friendship. Rain or shine, eat in or take out..it doesn't get any simpler! The committee is working very hard to make this a successful event.

There will be one food prep meeting to prepare for the Festival.

**On Wednesday and Thursday, June 4 and 5 at 11:00 am.** If you can come any or both of those days, it would be very helpful. The more hands, the easier the work. Contact Betty Karrat at 434-1535, Patty Thornton at 783-9809 or Mike Rezey at 339-9468 if you have any questions.

## Father George's Absence

Fr. George will be away from May 11-30, 2014 for a family emergency in Lebanon. During his absence, we welcome Msgr. David George from Springfield MA, who will celebrate Divine Liturgy on Sundays. There will be no daily mass during this period.

In the event of an emergency, please contact Msgr. George [413-636-2628] or sub-deacon in training, Rick Thornton [518-364-6645].

Please keep Fr. George in your prayers as he travels. He will be praying for all of you.

## Tom Riley, Sr. Recognized by Price Chopper

Tom Riley, Sr., St. Ann's Parishioner and family are recognized by Price Chopper by publishing an account about their dedication on their own website.

Maybe it's genetic, but there's something about being a member of the Riley family that makes them gravitate towards Price Chopper careers.

Tom Riley, Sr., (pictured 5th from the left) retired as an



Assistant Store Manager after 42 years of service. He worked his entire career at Price Chopper primarily in store operations, retiring in 1996.

He has six children, five of which have worked for Price Chopper: Thom (4th from the left), Mike (5th from the right), Mary (4th from the right), Paul (3rd from the right), and Kristin (not pictured). Thom currently works in the IT Department, Mike is a Grocery Manager, Paul works in Human Resources, and Kristin and Mary worked in Operations. Tom's brother-in-law Ray worked for a time in the warehouse during the 70s.

Thom's children, Erin (1st from the left), Makenzie (2nd from the left), and Ian (3rd from the left) work or have worked for Price Chopper in Price Chopper's Glenville store #38. Ian has held positions in the Front-End, Pharmacy, Customer





Service and currently works in our Central Fill location; Erin and Makenzie as baggers / cashiers.

Mike's children, Kaitlyn (not pictured) and Eric (1st from the right), have worked in the stores, and Mike, Jr. (2nd from the right) in our stores and as an Operations Department Intern.

Price Chopper has published on its website a special page about the Riley family. For more information, please click on the following link:

<http://corporateresponsibility.pricechopper.com/golubFamilyTeammates.html>.

## HE IS TRULY RISEN...AND IS STILL ALIVE!

*by Richard W. THORNTON, Sr.*

In John 21:15-19 we find a gut-wrenching encounter I happened to read this story... One day a teacher was asking the kids in her fourth grade class to name the person whom they considered the greatest human being alive in the world today. One little boy spoke up and said, "I think it's President Obama" And yet another child said, "I think it's my mom". Over and over again, kids cited one celebrity after another. But then it was little Donnie's turn who replied, "Well I think it's Jesus Christ." The teacher retorted, "I certainly like your answer but there's one slight thing that's wrong. I said the greatest living person, and of course Jesus lived and died almost two thousand years ago. Do you have another name in mind?" And in his simple wide-eyed innocence Donnie replied, "Oh no, that's not right at all. Jesus Christ is alive! Remember Easter?"

We have to admit little Donnie is right. Jesus is not a long-gone historical figure but lives with us today. The scene in Luke 24:36-48 affirms this and emphasizes the reality of the resurrected Christ. After His horrific suffering and death, His disciples gathered in fear for themselves in the upper room. Suddenly Jesus shows up, uninvited. He materializes out of thin air. He bids them peace and then offers His hands and feet as proof that He was the one that had just been nailed to the cross. He even ate fish with them. Jesus goes to great lengths to assure His disciples that He is no mere ghost or illusion. This was not a mass hallucination; it was far too shocking to be wishful thinking – Jesus makes all of this abundantly clear by His gestures and actions. As the reality of His complete, physical, personal presence sinks in, the disciples are overcome with joy and amazement. And then scripture nails it. Scripture describes the emotional state of the disciples in realistic terms. It says, "They did not believe it because of joy and amazement." That's a human expression isn't it? It was just too good to be true.

Today if we go the Holy Land, we'll see His tomb is still empty. His body is not there. He is in heaven right now, body and soul. To this day, as He reigns in heaven, He still bears those wounds; He will bear them throughout all eternity. And He is preparing a place in heaven for us. He has promised to resurrect our bodies, too, and give us a share in His glory for all eternity. And just as the first disciples were commissioned to bring the good news of salvation to all the nations, so, we, too, are called to be witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ to all who live on the face of the earth. Do we witness to the joy of the gospel and the resurrected living Christ to those around us? Is our response the same as Donnie's?

## Armenian American Bake Sale

**Saturday, May 31, 3-8PM**

Armenian-American Community Center

Shish Kebab Dinner & Bake Sale!

1627 Third Ave. Watervliet

For info or to place an order, contact

Neno: 518-326-8523 or Kevork: 518-371-4258

**EAT-IN or TAKE OUT! \$13**

Chicken & Beef Kebabs with Rice Pilaf, Salad & Bread

Delicious Armenian desserts (sold a la carte)

Homenetmen of Albany is taking orders for

**Armenian pizza – Mild or Hot**

Get your Lahmajune orders in by May 15!

Pick up on Saturday, May 31 \$18 per dozen,

## Welcome to our Visitors!

Thank you for joining us today. We hope you will grace us with your presence again. Though not well known in the west, the Catholic Church is comprised of 22 Churches, 21 Eastern and 1 Western Church. The Eastern Catholic Churches refer to those that developed in the eastern half of the Roman Empire, including the communities that derived from them, and are in communion with Rome.

The Maronite faithful persevere in the faith of their ancestors, spiritually united with each other in the Church throughout the world. By a consistent Christian witness, animated by the beautiful theological and spiritual heritage which they have received, the Maronite Church contributes in a unique way to the ongoing renewal and upbuilding of the entire Catholic Church.

For additional information, see the Catholic Encyclopedia or other online resource.

## May is Mary's Month

### Our Lady of Fatima

On May 13th, 1917 three children were playing games in a field in Portugal while tending their sheep. Suddenly they saw a flash of light. Thinking it to be lightning, the children gathered the sheep and started for home. They took refuge under a tree about a hundred yards away. They saw a flash of light again. They began running when they saw, standing over a small holmoak tree, a Lady dressed in white more brilliant than the sun.



This was the first of 6 appearances of the Blessed Mother at Fatima. She visited the children, bringing them messages for the world. In all of Her appearances at Fatima, Our Mother repeatedly emphasized the necessity of praying the Rosary daily, of wearing the Brown Scapular of Mount Carmel and of performing acts of reparation and sacrifice.

Our Lady's Message to the world is contained in what has come to be called the 'Secret'. The Three Secrets of Fátima consist of a series of apocalyptic visions and prophecies.

The first secret was a vision of Hell. Our Lady showed us a



great sea of fire which seemed to be under the earth. Plunged in this fire were demons and souls in human form, like transparent burning embers, all blackened or burnished bronze. It contained an urgent plea from Our Lady for acts of prayer and sacrifice to save souls.

The second secret was a statement that World War I would end, along with a prediction of another war during the reign of Pope Pius XI, should men continue offending God and should Russia not convert. The second half requests that Russia be consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as a condition for world peace.

The third secret was a prediction of 20th century persecution of Christians, that culminated in the failed assassination attempt on Saint John Paul II on May 13, 1981, the 64th anniversary of the first apparition of the Lady at Fátima.

### The miracle of the sun

Our Lady told the 3 children, "In October, I will tell who I am and what I want, and I will perform a miracle for all to see and believe." It was raining that day and more than 70,000 people came to witness Our Lady's appearance and give her their petitions. They were watching the children on their knees thinking that possibly they would be fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of Our Lady. It did stop raining and it looked as though the sun might break through the clouds. Suddenly the sun began to spin out of its orbit, causing a rainbow of color as it gyrated. Finally, when this stopped, the sun was seen plunging toward the earth causing the people beneath it to scream in terror. All of this lasted for about 10 minutes. When the sun eventually resumed its normal behavior, many of these rain soaked people found their clothing completely dry. A number of those that had come with medical problems found their ailments either completely healed or significantly alleviated. More than 10,000 people in the neighboring villages also saw the sun's miraculous display.

### The message of Fatima

Fatima is a call from the Mother of God for a renewed fidelity to penance and prayer, which basically is the message of the Gospel. It also brings the desire of Our Lord that His Mother be better known, loved and venerated through devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

### Rosary Miracle at Hiroshima

On August 6, 1945 the first nuclear bomb ever used was detonated over Hiroshima, Japan, killing 140,000 people. Everything within a mile of the blast was annihilated with nothing left standing, no survivors.

Yet, just eight blocks from ground zero (to be exact 1 kilometer or 6/10 of a mile) there was a two story house left standing intact with no damage to it, not even the windows were broken. When inquiry was made as to what was different about the building it was discovered that there was a community of eight Jesuit priests living there who said the Rosary each day.



Fr. Hubert Schiffer who headed the community was virtually untouched by the nuclear blast with no radiation found in his body, and he publicly testified to this miracle at the Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia in 1976. According to Dr. Stephen Rinehart, a nuclear physicist with the U.S. Department of Defense who had studied this phenomenon intently, they should have been dead in a flash. In his commentary on the Hiroshima blast he states:

*"Their residence should still have been utterly destroyed (temp; 2000 F and air blast pressures; 100 psi). At 10 psi, a human will experience severe lung and heart damage, burst eardrums and at 20 psi your limbs can be blown off. Your head will be blown off by 40 psi and no residential or unreinforced commercial construction would be left standing. There are no physical laws to explain why the Jesuits were untouched in the Hiroshima air blast. There is no other actual or test data where a structure such as this was not totally destroyed at this standoff distance by an atomic weapon. All who were at this range from the epicenter should have received enough radiation to be dead within at most a matter of minutes, if nothing else happened to them. From a scientific viewpoint, what happened to those Jesuits at Hiroshima still defies all human logic from the laws of physics as understood today (or at any time in the future). It must be concluded that some other (external) force was present whose power and/or capability to transform energy and matter as it relates to humans is beyond current comprehension."*

The Rosary miracle was intended as a lesson for the world, especially the people of the last times who would be subject to increasing calamities and the effects of war, nuclear accidents, etc.

"We believe that we survived because we were living the Message of Fatima. We lived and prayed the Rosary daily in that home." - the Jesuit priests

### Maronites of the Holy Land

In the wake of Patriarch Rai's upcoming visit, Our Parish Bulletin investigates the Maronite presence in the Holy Land.

Last week, Lebanese Maronite Patriarch Beshara al-Rai announced that he will accompany Pope Francis in his trip to Israel at the end of this month. His decision has stirred considerable controversy in Lebanon, as the country is technically still at war with its southern neighbor. The Lebanese Penal Code forbids any Lebanese citizen to travel to an "enemy country," to have relationships with its citizens or contact with its officials.

Unlike his predecessor, Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, who refused a similar visit with Pope John Paul II, Rai decided to accept the Vatican's invitation and travel to Jerusalem. "I intend to visit the Holy Land not in recognition of the Israeli occupation but to declare that this is our land," Rai told An-Nahar. "I am going there to emphasize that this land does not belong to the Jews. I intend to tell the Palestinians that we stand by them and support them."

Amid the controversy over Rai's upcoming visit, we researched the presence of the Maronite community in the Holy Land and attempted to find out where groups are concentrated. Several websites focusing on the history of the



Maronite Church estimate that there are up to 7,000 community members in Israel proper, most of them in villages in the Galilee.

The administrator of the archdiocese of Haifa and the Holy Land is Monsignor Moussa al-Hage, the former abbot of the convents of Saints Sarkis et Bacchus of Ehden and Zghorta. He was ordained Bishop of Haifa and the Holy Land on July 28, 2012, and resides at the Maronite Patriarchal Exarcate (Vicariate) in Jerusalem.

**Jerusalem** Approximately 45 Maronites (Last available census dated since 1990)

The Maronite Patriarchal Exarcate in Jerusalem dates from 1895 and is the residence of the Archbishop for Haifa and the Holy Land. It presently hosts 10 priests and a deacon and mass is celebrated in Arabic. The town also hosts a guest house, Foyer Mar Maroun, and Peregrinatio Jubiläum Jerusalem (PJJ), a pilgrim organization set up in 1999 and sponsored by the Maronite Church that is in charge of organizing tours.

#### **Isfyia**

Maronites settled in Isfyia a few decades ago, according to the Archdiocese website. The village, inhabited by a majority of Druze, hosts the Church of Saint Charbel, which is also a tourist attraction.

#### **Jaffa** (60 Maronites)

Maronites seem to have first appeared in Jaffa in 1099, accompanying the arrival of the Crusaders from an area in today's Lebanon. Their numbers increased during the Ottoman Empire around 1559, when they also emigrated from Mt. Lebanon. During the late 18th century, with the arrival of many Lebanese families from Bkassine, Sidon, Gebail, Bikfaya, and other towns, the community grew further still.

The first Maronite church was built in 1855, followed by a larger church at the beginning of the 20th century that is still standing. The Maronite Lebanese Order also owns an estate at Jaffa administered by a monk delegated for this purpose. The Maronite community in the city prospered, and by the beginning of the 20th century consisted of some 600 people, increasing to 800 by 1948. Many had important positions in local administration. After the war in 1948, most of them emigrated either to Lebanon or abroad.

#### **Jish** (1500 Maronites)

Also known by its Hebrew name, Gush Halav, Jish is located on the northeastern side of Mount Meron, a few kilometers away from the Lebanese border. The village is the center for the Aramaic language revival, thanks to the local Maronite community. The Israeli Ministry of Education recently started funding the Aramaic language program up to the 8th grade in the local school, and the language is still spoken by the elders of the community. The Aramaic Maronite Center, an NGO located in Jish, also hosts classes for adults and accommodates tourists. The local Maronite Church, one of the oldest in the Holy Land, is a major tourist draw in the area, included in several tours of the Holy Land.

#### **Haifa & Surrounding villages** (2500 Maronites)

The size of the Maronite community in Haifa grew after 1948, when the Maronite village of Biram (or Kfar Birim) in North Galilee, located three kilometers away from the Lebanese border, was completely destroyed by the Israeli army. Most of the population took refuge in Haifa and since the village was never rebuilt, they ultimately stayed in the city. Haifa hosts the Maronite Church and convent Saint

Luis.

Other Maronites in the area also live in the villages of Ikrit and Nahariya, where former members of the South Lebanon Army and their families, estimated to currently number 2,000 to 2,500 people, were relocated after the Israel Defense Forces withdrew from Lebanon in 2000, according to the Jerusalem Post.

**Kfar Birim / Kfar Bar'am & Al-Mansoura** (Unknown number of Maronites)

Right before the town was leveled in 1948, the Maronite village of Kfar Birim, located three kilometers from Lebanon, had 1,050 inhabitants. On November 29, 1948, the Israeli army launched an operation in the town and met the population gathered in the church. Two days later the army ordered residents to move five kilometers toward the Lebanese border, promising to let them in again within two weeks, when the military exercises on the border were over. They were never to return to their homes.

On September 16, 1953, the village was completely destroyed. The refugees scattered to Jish, Haifa, and Akka, where 30 from Kfar Birim currently live.

The story of Kfar Birim was later recorded by the Maronite parish priest, Father Youssef Soussan. My Testimony: Bar'amite Chronical 1948-1968 was published in 1986. The same fate struck the Maronite village of al-Mansoura, whose inhabitants are currently scattered in Fassouta, Eilaboun, and other villages and are following the Melkite rite.

#### **Nazareth** (1050 Maronites)

Most of the Christians now living in Nazareth came from what is now known as Lebanon (Maronites and Roman Catholics) and Syria (Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholics). Nazareth is one of the few places where the Maronite population grew over the last century and a half: in 1853 they were only 220, as opposed to the current population of over 1,000.

Due to the growing community presence, a new Maronite church was recently built next to the Church of Jesus the Adolescent in West Nazareth. According to a Nazareth tourism site, the church hosts statues and paintings by the Italian artists Tese and Lamagna, describing a mother's fears: war, drugs, and death.

The leader of the Maronite community in Nazareth is Father Yussef Issa. Uprooted from Birram in 1948, Issa studied in Nazareth as a teenager and then moved to Italy to get his degree in theology and philosophy. In 1977 he was ordained as a priest, and since 1979, he's been living in Nazareth and leading the Maronite religious community.

#### **Acre** (Approximately 108 Maronites)

According to data provided by the archdiocese, the bishop of Tyre, Choukrallah Khoury, made a pastoral visit lasting 12 days in June 1906 and stayed at the residence of the eminent Ibrahim Nasrallah Khoury. At the time, the bishop realized that many Maronites had already immigrated to America. The number of Maronites in the area later rose to 185, but today only 108 remain after the re-settling of 80 people a few years ago in a village near Maker.

The Maronite Church Our Lady of the Rosary is currently located in the southwestern part of Acre, adjacent to the Greek Orthodox Saint Andrews Church and the Notre Dame de Nazareth Monastery.





**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen**

<p>✠ In Memory Of <b>Joseph &amp; Helen YAMIN JABOUR</b> Requested by Joe &amp; Kathy JABOUR</p>	<p>✠ In Loving Memory Of our parents <b>Claramae and Joseph KARAM</b> Requested by the KARAM Family</p>	<p>✠ In Loving Memory of <b>Rose, Father Paul, Mike, Joe, Peter KORKEMAZ</b> ✠</p>	<p>✠ In Memory Of <i>the deceased members of</i> <b>RICE &amp; HEALY Families</b> ✠</p>
<p>✠ In Loving Memory Of <b>Walter J. &amp; Mary GOLDEN</b> &amp; the deceased members of the <b>GOLDEN &amp; VOLKOMER Families</b></p>	<p>✠ In Loving Memory of <b>Michael-David Hannoush</b> ✠ by his grandparents, Elias &amp; Georgette</p>	<p>In Memory Of deceased members of the <b>TAMER &amp; THORNTON Families</b> ✠</p>	<p>For the living and deceased members of the <b>JOSEPH-NACKLEY &amp; PATNODE Families</b> ✠</p>
<p>✠ In Memory Of <b>Solomon A. &amp; Patricia H. JABOUR</b> by their children &amp; grandchildren</p>	<p>✠ In Loving Memory of ✠ <b>Donald &amp; Edith (Joseph) Patnode &amp; son, Vincent-Paul</b></p>	<p>In Memory Of <i>The Deceased Members of</i> the <b>TALARICO &amp; DEEP Families</b> ✠</p>	<p>✠ In Loving Memory Of the deceased ✠ members of the <b>REZEY &amp; NACKLEY, SEE &amp; CLOUGH Families</b></p>
<p>✠ In Memory Of <b>David &amp; Jenny REZEY &amp; Nehme FRANGIE</b></p>	<p>✠ In Loving Memory of ✠ <b>Abraham &amp; Mary Joseph- Nackley and their deceased daughters</b></p>	<p>In Memory Of our grandparents <b>Francis &amp; Marsha KADD0, and Suleiman &amp; Jamileh FRANGIE</b> ✠ Requested by the KADD0 Family</p>	<p>✠ In Loving Memory Of ✠ <b>Dot RILEY</b> and the deceased members of the <b>RILEY, MANLEY &amp; PETERSON Families</b> Requested by Tom RILEY, Sr.</p>
<p>In Memory Of ✠ <b>Boulos, Georgette &amp; Assaad ABDALLAH Nagieh &amp; Simon FRANGIE</b> Requested by the ABDALLAH Family</p>	<p>✠ In Loving Memory of ✠ <b>Dominic FARINA, Sr.</b> Requested by Edith Farina &amp; Family</p>	<p><b>Stena Dry Cleaning</b> <i>Shirt Laundry</i> 451 Albany Shaker Rd, Loudonville, NY 12211 Tel: (518) 459-5944  <b>Hours</b> Monday – Friday 7:00am - 7:00pm; Saturday 9:00am - 3:00pm</p> <p><b>Erica's Tailoring</b> <i>Full Service &amp; Alterations</i> 451 Albany Shaker Rd, Loudonville, NY 12211 Tel: (518) 459-5944  <b>Hours</b> Monday – Friday 7:00am - 7:00pm; Saturday 9:00am - 3:00pm</p>	
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