



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

Administrator: *Chorbishop John D. FARIS*

Parochial Vicar: *Fr. Elias KHALIL*

Subdeacon Richard W. THORNTON, Sr.

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

Phone: (518) 272-6073; For Emergency ONLY, call Father Elias at (315) 580-2570 or Father John at (646) 342-1775

E-Mail: stann1905@gmail.com | **Website:** www.stann1905.com

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

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Thursdays: 9:00 am | **Fridays:** 6:30 pm

Saturdays: 4:30 pm | **Sundays:** 10:00 am

Holy Days of Obligation: Actual Feast Day: 9:00 am and 6:30 pm

Office Hours

Thursday and Friday: 9:00 am – noon / 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

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 **Saturdays 3.45-4.15 pm.**

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.

Parish Vocations

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

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

Subdiaconate: Subdeacon Richard W. THORNTON, Sr.

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

Parish Pastoral Council

As an advisory Board, this council meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month.

– *President:* Rosemary PATNODE.

Daughters of St. Ann

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

St. Maron Men's Society

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

Junior MYO Organization

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 1st through 6th 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:* Br. Joshua ABATE

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 2nd Sunday of each month after 10 AM Mass. – *Chairperson:* Thomas RILEY Sr.

Liturgical & Spiritual Committee

Welcome to our Visitors!

We extend a warm welcome to our visitors and guests. Thank you for joining us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy today. We hope that you have felt God's love in a new and refreshing way. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask one of the ushers who will guide you to the proper resource.

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 (including our **Maronite Catholic Church**) 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.

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars

Fri	Jan 2	5 pm - Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm – Divine Liturgy
Sat	Jan 3	4:30 pm Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Epiphany water
Sun	Jan 4	10 am Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Epiphany water

Upcoming MEETINGS

We	Jan 07	(6:30 pm) Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
We	Jan 21	(6:30 pm) St. Maron Men's Society
Thu	Jan 22	(6:30 pm) Daughters of St. Ann Meeting



Season of the Glorious Epiphany

Altar Gifts for Jan 2015

In memory of my dear grandparents, Frank & Monica MAYHEW

Requested by Ann Marie Grady

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 2015 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.

The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple

Heb 7:11-19

Lk 2:41-52

Saturday, Jan. 3

St. Stephen, the First Martyr, M

The Divine Liturgy is celebrated in memory of:

✠ As of yet, no intentions

For the blessing and special intentions of:

✠ Good health of Cancer patients, our sick & homebound

Holy Rosary Kathy Jabour
Ushers Joe Jabour & Albert Nahal
Greeter Please Volunteer
En. Lector Please Volunteer
Intercessions Please Volunteer

Sunday, Jan. 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, C

The Divine Liturgy is celebrated in memory of:

✠ Ellen K. LANG and Badoui WAKIM, requested by Vivian Karam.

✠ Walter J. GOLDEN and Vincent J. KINGSTON, requested by Gerard Golden

For the blessing and special intentions of:

✠ Good health of Cancer patients, our sick & homebound

Holy Rosary Subdeacon Richard Thornton & Ann-Marie Grady
Ushers Please Volunteer
Greeter Gerard Golden
Ar. Lector Mirvatte Hannoush
En. Lector Beverly Traa
Intercessions Denise Nahal

Order of the Liturgy in the Missal

Lighting of the Candles	Page 5
Entrance Hymn	Page 87
Creed	Page 748
Anaphora of the twelve apostles	Page 754
Elevation	Page 767
Communion	Song Sheet Selection
Recessional	Song Sheet Selection

1st Sunday after Epiphany

2 Cor 10:1-11

Jn 1:29-34

Saturday, Jan. 10

The Divine Liturgy is celebrated in memory of:

✠ As of yet no intentions

For the blessing and special intentions of:

✠ Good health of Cancer patients, our sick & homebound

Holy Rosary Kathy Jabour
Ushers Joe Jabour & Albert Nahal
Greeter Please Volunteer
En. Lector Please Volunteer
Intercessions Please Volunteer

Sunday, Jan. 11

The Divine Liturgy is celebrated in memory of:

✠ Mario ZUCARO; Requested by Edith Farina

✠ Badwi WAKIM (40 Day Memorial) and Sarkis Wadih FRANGIEH (20th Anniversary), Requested by Rita & Wadih Frangieh and family

For the blessing and special intentions of:

✠ Good health of Cancer patients, our sick & homebound

Holy Rosary Subdeacon Richard Thornton & Ann-Marie Grady
Ushers Please Volunteer
Greeter Richard Peters
Ar. Lector Rita Frangieh
En. Lector Bob Stolar
Intercessions Karen Rezey

Sunday Scripture Readings

The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple
Epistle - Hebrews 7:11-19

Melchizedek, a Type of Christ

If perfection had been attainable through the levitical priesthood— for the people received the law under this priesthood — what further need would there have been to speak of another priest arising according to the order of Melchizedek, rather than one according to the order of Aaron?

For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.

Now the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar.

For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

It is even more obvious when another priest arises, resembling Melchizedek, one who has become a priest, not through a legal requirement concerning



physical descent, but through the power of an indestructible life.

For it is attested of him, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

There is, on the one hand, the abrogation of an earlier commandment because it was weak and ineffectual (for the law made no.

Gospel - Luke 2:41-52

Finding in the Temple

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival.

When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety."

He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.

His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Masses & Scripture Weekly Schedule

Mon, Jan 5 No Divine Liturgy

Vigil of the Glorious Epiphany

St. Paul, the First Hermit, C; St. John Neumann, C

Rom 5:1-11

Lk 3:1-6

Tue, Jan 6

Feast of The Glorious Epiphany (Holy Day of Obligation)

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am | 6:30 pm

Tit 2:11 - 3:7

Lk 3:15-22

Wed, Jan 7

No Divine Liturgy

Praises to John the Baptist, M

Col 1:24-29

Lk 7:18-30

Thu, Jan 8

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Col 2:1-7

Mt 3:13-17

Fri, Jan 9

6:30 pm Divine Liturgy

Gal 5:2-15

Jn 5:31-38

Sat, Jan 10

Gal 5:16-26

4:30 pm Divine Liturgy

Jn 5:39-47

Pope's January Prayer Intentions

Universal: Peace: That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace.

Evangelization: Consecrated life: That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.

Pray for our Sick and Homebound

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

Jim TRAA, Wadad FRANGIE, Chantelle BOUDIWAN, 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; Amale RAHAL-ANDRAOS; Sarah BRENENSTUHL, Gail MOFFRE, Ellen DEEB; Robert SCHARG; Marian DEEP; Danny GHATTAS

Requested prayers from the Book of prayers

✦ For a brother who suffered a heart attack and will have surgery this week.

✦ For a special friend diagnosed with Breast Cancer.

Prayer of the Week

Each week we offer a prayer reflecting on our journey of faith. We would encourage you to use the prayer in your personal devotions, in your family time for prayer.

A Prayer for Priests

Most gracious Heavenly Father, We thank you for our faithful priests and bishops, whose spiritual fatherhood and example of fidelity, self-sacrifice, and devotion is so vital to the faith of your people.

May our spiritual fathers be guided by the examples of Saints Peter and Paul, all the Apostles and their saintly successors. Give them valiant faith in the face of confusion and conflict, hope in time of trouble and sorrow, and steadfast love for you, for their families, and for all your people throughout the world. May the light of your Truth shine through their lives and their good works.

Assist all spiritual fathers, that through your Grace they may steadily grow in holiness and in knowledge and understanding of your Truth. May they generously impart this knowledge to those who rely on them. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

January Birthdays

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

4 Tori & Carol Shufelt

12 Sarkis Frangieh

Elizabeth Ryan

21 Lora Karrat

22 Georgette Hannoush

23 John Merrifield Jr.

24 Elias Hannoush

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.

Jan. 04 Parish Pastoral Council (welcoming the new pastors)

Jan. 11 Available

Jan. 18 Available

Jan. 25. Samia Nicholas and family



Monthly Financial Chart

For the sake of transparency, the Parish Finance Council of St. Ann Maronite Church will be providing the following table illustrating the Parish's financial state on a monthly basis.

The table shows Income from regular collections as well as from fundraising and auxiliary income sources; and, the table points up Ordinary and Extraordinary Expenditures.

Please consider the State of the Church's finances as you decide your weekly donations, it is extremely important that weekly collections keep up with the increasing costs of an operational Church and Parish Office.

The Parish Finance Council INCOME

August 2013	2014 Budgeted	Actual up to August 2014	% of Budget	Variance
\$107,661.63	\$137,100.00	\$77,278.06	% 56.4	- \$59,821.94

EXPENSES

August 2013	2014 Budgeted	Actual up to August 2014	% of Budget	Variance
\$153,884.23	\$156,100.00	\$84,931.26	% 54.4	- \$71,168.74

Your Gift to God for Wednesday, Dec 24

Counted by Jeanette August & Subdeacon Rick Thornton

Weekly Offering **\$353.00**

TOTAL **\$353.00**

Your Gift to God for Thursday, Dec 25 Midnight

Counted by Jeanette August & Subdeacon Rick Thornton

Weekly Offering **\$545.00**

Building Fund \$30.00

Fuel & Heat \$25.00

Bishop's Appeal \$30.00

Christmas Charities \$40.00

Christmas Flowers \$10.00

TOTAL **\$680.00**

Your Gift to God for Thursday, Dec 25 10 am

Counted by Jeanette August & Subdeacon Rick Thornton

Weekly Offering **\$246.00**

Building Fund \$10.00

Fuel & Heat \$60.00

TOTAL **\$316.00**

Your Gift to God for Saturday, Dec 27

Counted by Marion Fotache & Subdeacon Rick Thornton

Weekly Offering **\$373.00**

Fuel & Heat \$20.00

Bishop's Appeal \$5.00

TOTAL **\$398.00**

Your Gift to God for Sunday, Dec 28 Midnight

Counted by Marion Fotache & Subdeacon Rick Thornton

Weekly Offering **\$1985.00**

Building Fund \$30.00

Bishop's Appeal \$470.00

Maronite Patriarchal Charities \$300.00

TOTAL **\$2755.00**

Thank You for your generosity and continued commitment to your parish! Please consider increasing your weekly

donation, and don't forget to make up the Sundays you are absent. We are counting on your efforts.

Schedule for Collection Counters

Dec 28	Marion Fotache & Subdeacon Rick Thornton
Jan 04	Marrian Furfaro & Ron Bagley
Jan 11	Georgette Hannoush & Rosemary Patnode
Jan 18	Betty Karrat & Subdeacon Rick Thornton
Jan 25	Marion Fotache & Subdeacon Rick Thornton

IRA Charitable Rollover Extended, But Only For A Limited Time

On December 19th, the President extended the IRA charitable rollover deduction. If you have an Individual Retirement Account and you are over 70 ½ you may qualify for this opportunity to make your minimum required distribution to a charity of your choice without having the distribution count as taxable income. This window of opportunity closes on December 31, 2014!

Here is a quick recap of the IRA charitable rollover rules. Gifts qualify under the law if:

1. The donor is age 70½ or older on the day of the gift.
2. The donor transferred up to \$100,000 directly from the donor's IRA to one or more qualified charities. This opportunity applies only to IRAs and not other types of retirement plans.
3. The donor does not receive any goods or services in return for the rollover gift in order to qualify for tax-free treatment.
4. The donor makes the gift by Dec. 31, 2014.

Always consult a qualified accountant for tax advice.

St. Ann's welcomes her new shepherds, Chorbishop John Faris

Chorbishop John D. Faris was born on 18 January 1951, the son of John and Goldie (née Bowlen) Faris, in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He attended Charles E. Boyle Elementary School, Benjamin Franklin Junior High School, and Uniontown Area High School.

In 1968, he attended Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and later received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Sacred Heart College in Detroit, Michigan in 1972. While at the North American College in Rome, he attended the Gregorian University, where he received a baccalaureate in Sacred Theology (magna cum laude) in 1975 and pursued a studies in moral theology at St. Alphonse University.

Archbishop Francis M. Zayek ordained him to the priesthood on 17 July 1976 at Saint George Church in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He was then appointed Vice Rector of Saint Maron Cathedral and Vice-Chancellor of the Apostolic Exarchate for the Maronites in Detroit, Michigan.

He was awarded a doctorate degree Eastern canon law (magna cum laude) from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome with the dissertation, The Communion of Catholic Churches: Ecclesiology and Terminology.

After obtaining the doctorate, he served in various collaborative roles of administration with Archbishop Zayek. In 1996, he resigned from the position of Protosyncellus (Vicar General) in order to begin work with the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. He served CNEWA in various positions until 2009. On 1 June 2009, Bishop Gregory J. Mansour



assigned Chorbishop Faris to the position of Pastor of Saint Louis Gonzaga Church.

From 1985-1995 and 2009 to the present, Chorbishop Faris has been an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the School of Canon Law at The Catholic University of America.

Chorbishop Faris was created a Chaplain to His Holiness (Monsignor) on 19 January 1988 and ordained a Chorbishop on 23 September 1991. He was also appointed Chaplain iure sanguinis of the Constantinian Order of Saint George on 12 February 1989. Chorbishop Faris is currently a Knight Commander of Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and serves on the Board of Councillors of the EOHSJ Eastern Lieutenancy of the United States. On 26 September 2010, the Equestrian Order awarded Chorbishop Faris its highest award, the Golden Palm, in recognition of his services to the churches in the Middle East.

In addition to his responsibilities in the Eparchy of Saint Maron, Chorbishop Faris serves as a Catholic Representative on the North American Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation and the United States Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic Consultation. He is also a member of the Catholic Delegation on the Joint Working Group of the Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches. He served as Consultor for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Liaison Committee for Latin and Eastern Church Affairs (1992-96) and General Secretary of the Society for the Law of the Eastern Churches (1991-2000).

Chorbishop Faris was elected President of the Canon Law Society in 1994. He has also served as consultor of the Board of Governors, chair and member of various committees in that society. He is also a member of the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland, the Canon Law Society of India, the Eastern Canon Law Society of India and the Society for Eastern Canon Law. He is also on the editorial boards of *Folia Canonica*, *Eastern Legal Thought* and *Gratianus*.

Father Elias Khalil

Fr. Elias Khalil was born in Hrajel, Lebanon. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Theology in 2008 and a Master's Degree in Human Resources Management in 2011.

He was a religion teacher for three years in Lebanon before he moved to the United States in August 2011 for service in the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, NY.

Between 2011 and 2013 he stayed at the Seminary of Our Lady of Lebanon in Washington, D.C. where he was pursuing a degree in Divinity.

On October 21, 2012 he was ordained as subdeacon at Our Lady of Lebanon Church in Washington, D.C. then he was ordained as a deacon on May 23, 2013 at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral in Brooklyn, NY.

In September 28, 2013 he was ordained as a priest by Bishop Gregory J. Mansour for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Hrajel, Lebanon.

Message from Chorbishop FARIS

My dear sisters and brothers,

I want to thank you for the warm welcome that you have shown to both Father Elias and me—you have already made us feel right at home! We shall now continue on the journey of faith with you.

The next few months will most likely present certain challenges, I do not think it will be all that difficult. Father Elias and I already know each other well and work well together; we shall now learn to work together in serving St. Ann Church.

While I am officially the "Administrator," Father Elias will be living with you and, for all practical purposes, be your priest and is ready to serve you. But be sure I personally look forward to getting to know you and serving as your parish priest. My cell phone number (646.342.1775) is published in the parish bulletin; feel free to use it.

Lastly, all of us wish Father Georges an abundance of blessings as a reward for the fine work he has done here at St. Ann. We hope that he will always call Saint Ann Church his home.

With much love and prayers for you and your loved ones, I am

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Father John FARIS

Blessing of Homes during Epiphany

House Blessings are traditionally conducted in the weeks following Epiphany. Father Elias can visit and bless your home or place of business. If interested, please list your name and preferred date on the Sign Up Sheet, on the bulletin board, in the church entry hall.

Annual Maronite Clergy Retreat

Per the directive of Bishop Gregory J. MANSOUR, all clergy of the Eparchy of St Maron of Brooklyn are required to attend an annual retreat, the week of **January 12 – 16, 2015**, at "*Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center*" in North Palm Beach, FL. During the pastor's absence, there will be no 9:00 am Divine Liturgy. In case an emergency arises in your family, please contact a Latin priest.

Please keep Bishop Gregory, Chorbishop John and Fr. Elias and the priests in your prayers.

Requesting a Divine Liturgy for the living or deceased

Liturgies are offered for the living or deceased as a means of assistance for their souls. These are scheduled on a first come, first served basis. A free-will offering or "stipend" goes to the priest's charity.

Please contact Fr. Elias (315) 580-2570, to schedule a liturgy for your living or departed family member(s). Monthly Altar Bread, Wine and Sanctuary Lamp offerings should also be directed to Fr. Elias. The 2015 calendar has a few openings remaining.

Sincere Condolences

We join with the entire parish in offering our sincere condolences to the **NESHEWAIT Family** on the passing of Wadad NESHEWAIT who passed away on December 26 in Yonkers, NY. Wadad was the grandmother of Adi & Tala and Amjad & Tala Neshewait.

May her memory be eternal in the hearts and minds of her loved ones. Please keep them in your prayers. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord!

Monthly Pancake Breakfast

From August through June, our congregation offers Pancake Breakfasts (served by the members of the Parish Council) on the last Sundays of each month **from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm** in our Parish Hall.





The menu includes pancakes with maple syrup, sausages, scrambled eggs, toast & jam, coffee, tea, orange juice, milk and water. Service is buffet style.

The dates for 2015 are

January 25 February 22
March 29 April 26
May 31 June 28

Epiphany 2015

Fr. Elias Khalil will bless the water for Epiphany on Saturday January 3, and Sunday January 4 during the Divine Liturgy.

The Feast of Epiphany, January 6 is a Holy Day of Obligation. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9 am and 6.30 pm (on the same day).

Pope Francis via Twitter - @Pontifex

If Jesus is to become the centre of our life, we need to spend time in his presence, before the Tabernacle .

The Maronite Liturgy

Communion Verses

The Distribution of Communion

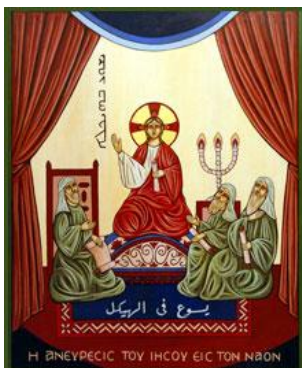
In distributing the Eucharist to the congregation, the priests and deacons pray for two effects, namely, that the Eucharist brings the "forgiveness of sins", and be a vehicle for "eternal life".

The present practice of the Maronite Church is to distribute the Eucharist by intinction. In ancient times, communion consisted usually of leavened bread and both the bread and wine were received by the faithful. The practice of giving communion to infants existed in the Maronite Church until the sixteenth or seventeenth century.

Another ancient practice was the custom of receiving the consecrated bread in the hands and touching it to the eyes, and also touching the fingers to one's lips still moist from the consecrated wine and touching the eyes, brows and sense organs. These gestures done with great piety were intended to symbolize the Eucharist purifying the senses. This practice has long since been abandoned, but is sometimes implied in some of the communion prayers in the Liturgy.

to be continued

EPIPHANY- The Finding in the Temple



The last icon of the Nativity Cycle, for the second Sunday after Christmas, features the Finding of Our Lord in the Temple, amongst the Doctors of Law. In this icon, Christ is represented as young in years, but filled with the wisdom of all eternity. Seated upon a decorative platform, He is raised above the religious teachers, who sit in the posture of students at His feet, amazed at His learning and teaching. They hold scrolls which represent the Old Testament Law and Prophets, while Christ Himself, the

living Word of God, is the fulfillment of the law and the prophecies, in Person.

SYNAXARION

We know little about the childhood of our Lord except for the incident which is celebrated in the liturgy today. Jesus, as a boy, joined his parents in going up to Jerusalem and the Temple for the feast of Passover. After fulfilling the requirements of Jewish law, Joseph and Mary set out for home, presuming that Jesus was traveling with relatives. In reality, he had remained in Jerusalem where Mary and Joseph found him in the Temple listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Luke's account of the incident ends with the note that Jesus was subject to his parents.

In today's feast, two points become clear to us: Jesus fulfills the law of Moses in his own life, and he does so as one who has humbled himself to become like us in all things but sin.

On the feast of the Circumcision, we were reminded that Jesus was subject to the requirements of the Mosaic law and today we are again reminded that Jesus fulfilled the spiritual responsibilities of a member of God's chosen people; for he prayed in the Temple and celebrated the Passover with his family, he who was both the true Temple and the Passover sacrificed for us. We are thus reminded that through our participation in the sacrifice of Christ's body, we became living temples of the Lord.

Jesus listened to the teachers of the law and amazed them by his questions. He who was the teacher of Israel would establish a new law which would not be written on tablets of stone, but rather upon our hearts.

Christ our Passover and Teacher comes among us with the humility and simplicity of a child. He who was the eternal Son of God abandoned his prerogatives and taught us by his obedience to his parents that we are subject to our Father in heaven, the Father's will must be our will, the Father's care and concern must be manifested in our love for his children.

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope
alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits
to be born again.
Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time,
many will see the
wonders of God
And live forever to praise
Your glorious name.

Amen





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

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