



Heart of Jesus Catholic Church

Maronite Rite

Pastor: Chorbishop Michael G. Thomas, JCD
Deacon: John Jarvis

WEEKEND MASSES	Saturday at 4:00 pm (English) Sunday at 11:00 am (English + Arabic)
WEEKDAY MASSES	Monday through Thursday at 12:00 noon
OFFICE HOURS	Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm <i>Closed on: Holy Days of Obligation and Federal Holidays</i>

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PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

FEAST OF SAINT RAFKA

MARCH 23, 2025



MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 03/22

4:00 pm

For William A. Bovino
By Dan Elliott

Sun. 03/23 **Parable of the Prodigal Son**
Feast of Saint Rafka

11:00 am For Christopher Saheed
By Carol Rondeau

Mon. 03/24 - Thurs. 03/27 **NO MASS**

Fri. 03/28 **NO NOON MASS**
Day of Abstinence from meat
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross and
Benediction of the Cross



LENTEN TIMES OF FAST AND PENITENCE

Beginning on Ash Monday, March 3rd and ending on Saturday of the Light, April 19th, is a season of penitence. In our Maronite Church each day of this season is considered to be a day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products (with the exception of Sundays and Holy Days). Although highly encouraged, this fast is not obligatory in this Eparchy. However, it is obligatory to abstain from meat on Ash Monday and all Fridays of Lent, and to fast on Ash Monday and Great Friday, as long as one is physically able to do so.

Ash Monday and Great Friday are not only days of abstinence, but also days of fast, whereby, no food or drink (except water or medication) is to be taken from midnight to noon, as long as one is physically able to do so.

Sat. 03/29

4:00 pm

40 Days Memorial Mass
for Antoinette Tartak

By Gary and Jasmine Burkholder

Sun. 03/30 **Healing of the Paralytic**

11:00 am For Elias Abou-Ghazale, the Grandfather of
Sandra Harb

By Sandra and Joseph Harb and Family

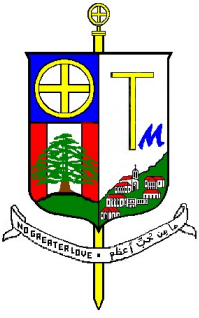
SECOND COLLECTION

A Second collection will be taken this weekend,
Saturday & Sunday, March 22 & 23, for the
Eparchial Charities Appeal.
(Please see the attached letter from
Bishop Gregory Mansour.)

PARISH FINANCES

March 15 & 16

Collection Basket	\$ 1,829.00
Automated Bank Checks	\$ 455.00
Electronic Payments	\$ 95.00
Candles	\$ 109.00
Total	\$ 2,488.00



EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN

Office of the Bishop

109 Remsen Street

Brooklyn, New York 11201-4212

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

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Lent 2025

Prot. No. 013 S / 25

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter Holy Lent, the season of penance and sacrifice, we remember that we are pilgrims of hope, and although we suffer with our Lord, we also know the joy of His Resurrection.

We can reflect His love to others by making a sacrificial gift. I hope you will consider once again the needs of the Eparchy of Saint Maron this Lent. There are so many people suffering here and around the world (especially in Lebanon, Syria and the Holy Land) who can be helped by our prayers, fasting and almsgiving. The Eparchy can be part of your Lenten sacrifice, as we rely upon your generosity to serve the faithful in the Eparchy and the Middle East.

Your gift to this year's Annual Lenten Appeal will support:

- **Seminarians:** We currently have three excellent men preparing for the priesthood. Our seminarians are our future; we need to educate them well so that they can minister effectively as priests someday. The costs of Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary are about \$450,000 per year. **40% of your contribution to this year's Annual Appeal will go for Seminarians.**
- **Ministries:** Our outreach to youth, young people, the elderly, families, and in defense of life from conception to natural death, helps people at the most crucial times in their lives. You can ensure that the Eparchy continues this important work. **20% of your contribution will go to support Ministries.**
- **Retired Priests:** The Eparchy's 14 retired priests served the faithful well. We help them with a modest pension each month. **20% of your contribution will support Retired Priests.**
- **Help for Lebanon and the Middle East:** The Eparchy has provided an unprecedented amount of support to help in Lebanon and the Middle East over the past few years. We can never forget the homeland of our Maronite Church. **10% of your contribution will support Christians in Lebanon and the Middle East.**
- **Endowment:** The Eparchy's Endowment Fund supports today's needs and ensures the Eparchy will have resources in the future. **10% of your contribution will be deposited into the Eparchy's Endowment.**

Please open your heart once again and make a gift. Your participation in this Appeal impacts the lives of many people, both inside the Eparchy, and in the Middle East. Any gift will be appreciated. Please visit <http://www.stmaron.org/lenten-appeal> for more information.

Thank you, and may God bless you for your generosity! I wish you a blessed Lent and Easter.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+ Gregory J. Mansour

PS: Please also consider remembering the Eparchy and your parish in your estate plan, or as the beneficiary of an insurance policy, retirement plan or charitable gift annuity. Thank you.



Falafel Luncheon

Celebrate the feasts of Saint Joseph and

Saint Rafka @ Heart of Jesus

March 23, 2025

Children enrolled in Religious Education Classes are Free.

Menu:

Falafel Sandwiches

Soft Drinks

Desert

Donation: \$15.00

Sponsored by:

**Therese Francis and
François Hanna**



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7 March 2025

Prot. No. 213-1-25
Cir 25-37

Dear Brother Priests,

I have made the following transfers and appointments, effective June 1, 2025:

Chorbishop Michael G. Thomas, JCD, at his request, is given permission to retire from active service. He will continue as a Judge of our Eparchial Tribunal.

Monsignor James A. Root, is appointed Vicar General (Protosyncellus) of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, while retaining his assignment as Pastor of Saint Anthony of the Desert Church, Fall River, Massachusetts. Simultaneously, his appointment as Protopresbyter will cease.

Very Reverend Dominique Hanna, from Eparchial Vice-Chancellor, to Eparchial Chancellor, while retaining his assignment as Rector of Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral in Brooklyn, New York.

Reverend Rabih Aoun, M.L.M., from Parochial Vicar of Saint John Paul II Church in Sleepy Hollow, New York, to Administrator of Heart of Jesus Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Reverend Vincent Farhat, is appointed Protopresbyter of the New England Region.

I want to express a word of gratitude for the good work Chorbishop Michael has done for this Eparchy over these many years, I cannot thank him enough for his many sacrifices, his support, and his wise counsel. I also express a word of gratitude for those priests who accepted to assume some aspects of his many roles. I thus remain, dear brothers, with much gratitude,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Gregg*

+Gregory John Mansour
GJM/ac

The Eparchial Couples Ministry & St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center



THE PROFOUND MYSTERIES

GREAT FRIDAY & SATURDAY OF THE LIGHT

April 1st, at 8 PM EST



Meeting ID: 876 7703 2009

Passcode: 399441



Main Speaker:
Bishop Gregory J. Mansour



WHO ARE THE MARONITES?

The Maronite Church is one of 22 Eastern Rites of the Catholic Church, under the authority of the Pope. It dates back to the early Christians of Antioch (Syria) where Jesus' followers "were called Christians for the first time" (Acts II:26). The actual name "Maronite" is derived from the name of Saint Maron, who was a priest and hermit, and died around the year 410 AD.



*Pope Saint John Paul II, Bishop Frank Caggiano, Chorbishop Michael Thomas
The Vatican - June 1992*

As part of the Roman Catholic Church, the Maronites profess the same beliefs in the Dogmatic and Moral teachings of the Church and celebrate the same seven Sacraments. Their liturgical celebrations are more unique and reflect their early Apostolic beginnings. For example, in some prayers and hymns of the Mass, the Maronites still use Syriac, a dialect of the Aramaic language spoken by Jesus and his Apostles, and incense is regularly used.

During the civil and religious persecutions of the 7th century, the Maronites fled their churches and monasteries in the plains of Syria, and took refuge in the verdant mountains and caves of nearby Lebanon. Since then, Lebanon has been considered the homeland of the Maronite Church.

Millions of Maronites now live in various countries throughout the world, but their Mother Church remains in Lebanon. The current Maronite Patriarch, Bechara Peter Rai, was made a Cardinal by Pope Benedict XVI, in November of 2012. Cardinal Rai lives at the Maronite Patriarchal residence in Bkerke, Lebanon.

The United States is home to two Maronite Eparchies (Dioceses). The Most Reverend Gregory Mansour is our Bishop who resides in Brooklyn, New York. Bishop Mansour is a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), as is the Maronite Bishop of the Western Eparchy, the Most Reverend Elias Zaidan who resides in Los Angeles.

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Mark the first Sunday of March for our Picnic



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