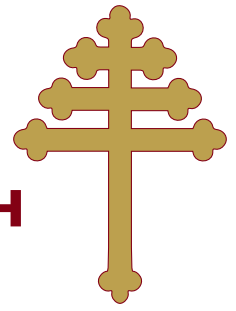




Welcome to
**SAINT MARON
 MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH**



ABOUT ST. MARON PARISH

613 Main Street
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PARISH OFFICE
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PARISH EMAIL
 office@saintmaronchurch.org

PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Fadi Khawand
 860-489-9015

DEACON
Steven Marcus

SUB-DEACON
Michael Soliani

FINANCE
Dr Jorge Baujin
Richard Noujaim
Carlos Nejaime
Mike Nejaime
Hanibal Tayeh

PARISH COUNCIL
Judy Theeb
Helen Piechocki
Pascale Nejaime

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

Please contact our priest ASAP after the birth of your child.

RECONCILIATION

Before or after Liturgy or by appointment

MARRIAGE

Couples must contact our priest six months before the wedding.

Find us on 
<https://www.facebook.com/SaintMaronTorrington>

Be sure to visit from time to time for National Maronite News, pictures of parish events and other announcements!

THE FINDING IN THE TEMPLE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

Adoration 4:00 p.m.; Liturgy at 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Rosary at 9:30 a.m.; Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

GOSPEL

LUKE 2:41-52

Finding in the Temple



The Evangelist said: Now every year his 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. This is the truth. Peace be with you.



Finding the Christ child in the Temple. St. Mary Church, Edgerton Ohio. via Wikimedia Commons

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 30 at 4:30 p.m.

For the repose of the soul of Ann Marie Baujin
Requested by Deacon Steve and Renee Marcus

Sunday, December 31 at 10:00 a.m.

Available

Monday, January 1 at 10:00 a.m.

The Circumcision of Jesus

Available

Saturday, January 6 at 4:30 p.m.

Feast of the Glorious Epiphany

For the repose of the soul of Ray Hubert
For good health for Chris Comeau
Requested by Madeline Hubert

Sunday, January 7 at 10:00 a.m.

40 Day Memorial

For the repose of the soul of Joseph Haddad
Requested by his wife, Helene and family

Saturday, January 13 at 4:30 p.m.

Available

Sunday, January 14 at 10:00 a.m.

Available

CHURCH SUPPORT

Totals for the weekends of
December 24/25 and
December 30/31
will be reported January 6/7

ST MARON'S IN THE COMMUNITY

Last week, Father Fadi was happy to visit city hall and the mayor's office, and offer his Christmas blessing to the city of Torrington. It was a joyful day as Father also visited Brooker Memorial as well, in order to wish the staff and clients Christmas blessings. St. Maron's is very blessed to have great partners within the city to help spread the peace that Christ's birth brings to all is us.



Above, Richie Noujaim, Lois Seymour, Cathy Coyle. Executive Director Brooker Memorial and Fr. Fadi.

Below: Lois Seymour, Elinor Carbone, Mayor of Torrington, Fr. Fadi, Richie Noujaim



Welcome Isla Sue Soliani!



Isla Sue Soliani, daughter of David and Jenna Soliani was baptized on Friday Dec 22. Steven Soliani and Kelly Armstrong are the Godparents. Subdeacon Mike & Lisa Soliani and Robin & Colleen Rodger are the grandparents.



EPISTLE

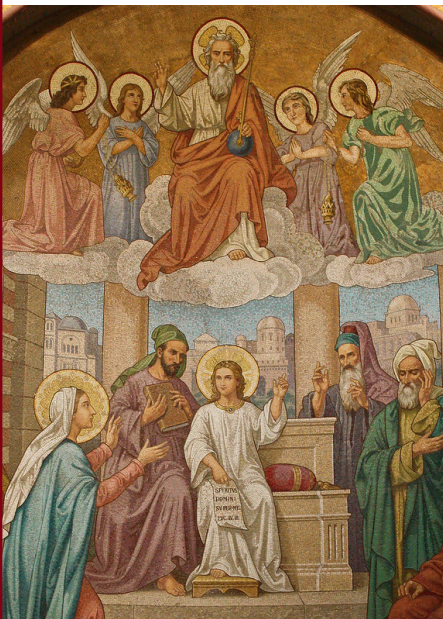
HEBREWS 7:11-19

Brothers and Sisters:

Now 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 nothing perfect); there is, on the other hand, the introduction of a better hope, through which we approach God. Praise be to God always!



Today's Gospel is the Fifth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary. The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops has this meditation, so appropriate in today's world, on their website for this Mystery:



As the Christ Child was found in the temple by the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, so we pray for all children, especially those lost and forgotten. May the Gospel of Life impel us to find them when they are most in need and to lead them home to a place where they are treasured, protected, and loved.

Photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP. Detail from a mosaic in the Rosary Basilica in Lourdes. via Flickr.



The Pastor's Corner

SHORT ARTICLES AND NOTES

My Dear Friends:

Bishop Sam Jacobs has written a lovely reflection on this season in his Spirit Aflame Newsletter:

A Child is born; a Son is given us. Not any child, but the Son of God become Man. The gift of the Father's love to us. How can we respond to such a great gift? Continue the celebration of his birth by staying in the spirit of his birth. As much as possible stay in the spirit of the Church, which celebrates the birth of our Savior for a whole week. Christmas is not just one day to be thrown away with the wrappings of the presents. The spirit of Christmas is to be manifested by our true love for one another. That should never end. Jesus continues to come where love exists. Even though there was no room in the inn, there was room in the heart of Mary and Joseph and the Shepherds. Love enabled them to recognize him when he came.

Let us all remember to keep Christmas this week - and throughout the coming year. If the whole world would do this, can you imagine the change we would see?

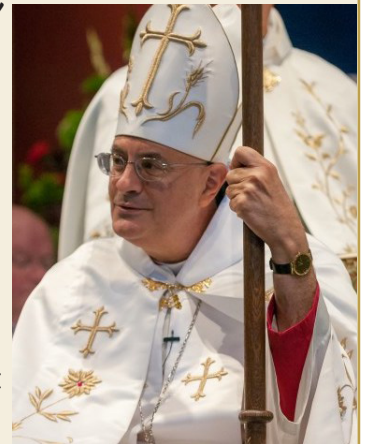
May you and your families have a blessed week ahead, and a blessed beginning to 2024.

Fr. Fadi

Please mark your calendars!

Bishop Gregory will be with us to celebrate the feast of Saint Maron on Saturday Feb 10th. Our Bishop will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at 4:30 PM. Immediately after the liturgy, we will continue to rejoice in our patron's feast at a Lebanese dinner.

More information to follow next week.



Notice, too, that at the crib, only two classes of people found their way to Christ when he came to this earth: the very simple, and the very learned—the shepherds who knew that they knew nothing, and the wise men who knew that they did not know everything; never the man who thought that he knew.

== Venerable Fulton Sheen



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