

Saint Maron Catholic Church

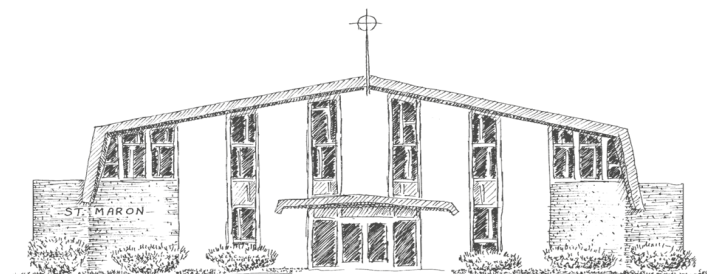
Healing of the Leper

February 22, 2026

A leper, one of the many lepers whom Jewish Law obliged to keep far from healthy people. A leper whose body was disfigured by illness, his skin marked, his limbs reduced to painful stumps. A leper forced to abandon everything: his family, his work, his village, his dignity. He was condemned to live in isolation, together with others struck by the same misfortune, far from human warmth and social life. A leper considered impure, unclean, even cursed by God in the eyes of society.

Yes, it is this leper who dares to approach Jesus and kneel before Him with a simple but profound prayer: "If you want, you can make me clean." There is no accusation, no demand, only trust. This man believes not only in Jesus' power, but also in His freedom and His heart. He places his entire life in the hands of Jesus.

Jesus is moved with compassion, not only for the physical suffering of the leper, but also for his loneliness, his rejection, his silent humiliation. And it is precisely this compassion that leads Jesus to perform the unthinkable, forbidden gesture: He stretches out



His hand and touches him. For love cannot remain distant. Love cannot hide behind fear or rules. Love draws close, even when closeness is risky. That touch is dangerous according to human logic. The disease is contagious. The Law forbids it. Yet Jesus does not hesitate. With a simple gesture and even simpler words, He reveals the heart of God: "I do will it. Be made clean." No magic, no spectacle, just mercy in action.

At that moment, the leper is healed. But more than his body is restored, his dignity, his place in the community, his hope are given back to him. Jesus then asks him to remain silent. But how can one who has been touched by mercy keep silent? The healed man proclaims what has happened. The one who was excluded becomes a witness. The impure becomes an apostle. Something similar will happen on Easter morning, when the first to announce the Resurrection will be Mary Magdalene, a woman healed by Jesus, transformed by His mercy. Once again, God chooses unexpected messengers.

This Gospel is truly beautiful. It reveals a Jesus full of compassion for our wounds and our dramas. It is also deeply consoling, because it tells us that everyone can become an announcer of Jesus. Not only those with a perfect past, not only those without scars. If a healed leper can proclaim the Good News, then no one, after being touched and healed by Jesus, can consider himself unworthy of becoming His messenger.

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LITURGY INTENTIONS

Sun. Feb 22: Healing of the Leper

(2 Kings 5:1-14; Rom 6:12-23 Mk 1:35-45 Lit. p 196)

• **9:30 am**

Liturgy for Marie Tannous Mensour, by Christine Khalil

Liturgy for Joey Andary, 8 year anniversary, by Family

Liturgy for Mike Michael and Cathy Marr

Liturgy for all sick people in our parish

• **11:30 am**

Liturgy for Ray Mabarak, by Family

Liturgy for Dr. Samir Haddad, by The Jabbour Family

Liturgy for all our Parishioners Intentions

NEXT WEEK

Sun. Mar 1: Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman

(Num 15:37-41; 2 Cor 7:4-11 Lk 8:40-56 Lit. p 207)

• **9:30 am**

Liturgy for Margaret Helou, by Cesar & Diane Helou

Liturgy for Margaret & Boulus Helou and Victoria, Charbel, and Katrine Fares, by Cesar & Diane Helou

Liturgy for Philip Agby, Anniversary Remembrance, by Dinah Agby

• **11:30 am**

Liturgy for All Deceased Members of the Derjani Family, by Michel & Roberta Kabeity and Family

Liturgy for All Deceased Members of the Kabeity Family, by Michel & Roberta Kabeity and Family

Liturgy for all sick people in our parish

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

GRACE AND JUSTIFICATION

I. Justification

The Holy Spirit is the master of the interior life. By giving birth to the "inner man," justification entails the sanctification of his whole being:

Just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification.... But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life.

II Grace

Our justification comes from the grace of God. Grace is favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life.

Grace is a participation in the life of God. It introduces us into the intimacy of Trinitarian life: by Baptism the Christian participates in the grace of Christ, the Head of his Body. As an "adopted son" he can henceforth call God "Father," in union with the only Son. He receives the life of the Spirit who breathes charity into him and who forms the Church.

This vocation to eternal life is supernatural. It depends entirely on God's gratuitous initiative, for he alone can reveal and give himself. It surpasses the power of human intellect and will, as that of every other creature.

The All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself.

Sanctifying grace is an habitual gift, a stable and supernatural disposition that perfects the soul itself to enable it to live with God, to act by his love. Habitual grace, the permanent disposition to live and act in keeping with God's call, is distinguished from actual graces which refer to God's interventions, whether grace of Christ is the gratuitous gift that God makes to us of his own life, infused by the Holy Spirit into our soul to heal it of sin and to sanctify it. It is the sanctifying or deifying grace received in Baptism. It is in us the source of the work of sanctification:

Therefore if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. at the beginning of conversion or in the course of the work of sanctification.

Collection February 15, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,971
Online Donations	\$ 310
Donation by Mail	\$ 10
Coffee & Donuts	\$ 44
You can support the Church by mail or through our website donating online www.saintmarondetroit.org/donate-online	

BREAD AND WINE

Please contact the Rectory to donate the Host and Wine for \$50.00/month, we will be accepting donations from three different families each month.

- Bread and Wine for the month of February 2026, in Loving Memory of all **Deceased Members of the Mabarak Family**, by Robert L. Mabarak & Melissa A. Gilmore
- Bread and Wine for the month of February 2026, in Loving Memory of **Anthony & Delores Neam**, by Gerry & Judy Folk
- Bread and Wine for the month of February 2026, in Loving Memory of **Dr. Daher Rahi**, by Chrissy Kassab and Family

Cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace “ *Pope Leo XIV* ”

We extend our deepest condolences to Joshua Peri on the passing of his beloved father **Lou Peri**. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

St. Maron Church - Detroit

**PALM
SUNDAY
LUNCHEON**

**SUNDAY MARCH 29TH
AFTER 11:30AM LITURGY**

ADULTS \$30 - KIDS \$20

RSVP By March 21st to 313-824-0196



Saint Maron Church

Lent is a time for Christians to seek renewal of their faith and relationship with God.



Lenten RETREAT

Jesus



Fr. Daniele Criscione

Saturday, March 14th from 11am to 4pm



RSVP by March 07, to 313-824-0196

SAINT MARON CHURCH

Eucharistic Adoration

"Nowhere on earth are we more welcomed or loved than by Jesus in Eucharist."



LITURGY

11.00 am

ADORATION

12.00 - 6.00 pm

Friday March 6th, 2026

Every First Friday of the month



Easter Lily Plants and Spring Bulbs 2026

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY (\$30 each)

In Memory of:

In Thanksgiving:

For: _____

Donated By: _____

Return with payment to the office OR put in collection basket by **March 25, 2026**

