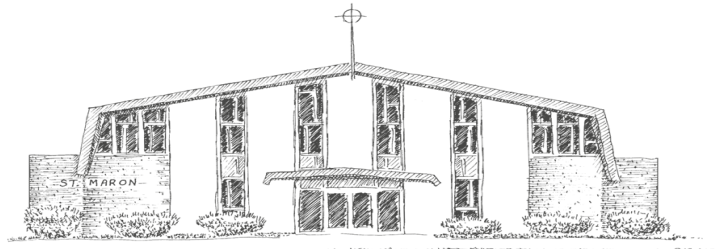


# Saint Maron Catholic Church

## First Sunday After the Holy Cross September 15, 2024

If you enter a bookstore nowadays, you will find an entire section dedicated to self-help, self-improvement, self-empowerment, self-actualization. These books claim that through various methods or habits, anyone can achieve success, happiness, health, and wealth, with some even promising salvation and perfection. However, the Holy Cross of Christ, which we exalt and celebrate, conveys a deeper message for us: true meaning in life and genuine happiness are not primarily found in what contemporary culture promotes—namely, relying on ourselves for salvation and keeping God at a distance. Instead, it lies in the profound act of self-giving—a joyful offering of oneself in love, much like Jesus did on the Cross: “Greater love than this no one has: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13).



This is why, when we do not clearly understand what the Cross is, one might mistakenly think that the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross is about exaltation of suffering and pain. Indeed, throughout Christian history, a “doloristic” spirituality has been fostered that has nothing to do with the call to joy that defines Christ’s Good News, as Pope Benedict XVI reminds us.

Embracing the Cross, then, does not mean seeking out suffering, but rather living everything that life offers us, asking whether we are living it in a spirit of giving, or if we are merely enduring it; whether we accept it out of love for Someone, or simply out of heroism.

To exalt the Cross is to exalt the boundless Love of the One who gave His life out of love for us. We exalt this love in our own lives, each time we make the sign of the Cross, renewing our profession of faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and acknowledging God’s presence in our daily moments—before embarking on a journey, or during our prayers. As St. John Chrysostom said: “Never leave your house without making the sign of the cross. It will be to you a staff, a weapon, an impregnable fortress”.

Do you want to know who God truly is? You must kneel at the foot of the Cross (Karl Rahner), embrace it with faith, and contemplate the face of the crucified One. In doing so, you will be transformed into a gift of self like Him, triumphing with His Holy Cross and singing with the Maronite liturgy: “May the children of the Church find their shelter and their strength in the shadow of Your Cross!”

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## LITURGY INTENTIONS

### Sun Sept 15: First Sunday After the Holy Cross

(Deut 17:14-20; 2 Tm 2:1-10; Mk 10:35-45 Lit. p 536)

- 9:30 am

Liturgy for Laura Joseph

Liturgy for Paul & Isabel Saigh

Liturgy for Catherine Stapleton

Liturgy for Amy & Joseph Laus

- 11:30 am

Liturgy for Shukri Amin, 40 day Remembrance, by Diane & Cesar Helou.

Liturgy for Rev. Francis and Wadad Obeid, by Family

Liturgy for Emile Obeid, by Family

## NEXT WEEK

### Sun Sept 22: 2nd Sunday After the Holy Cross

(Joel 2:1,10-16a; 1 Cor 15:19-34; Mt 24:1-14 Lit p 71)

- 9:30 am

Liturgy for Boulos & Margaret Helou, by Cesar & Diane Helou

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

Liturgy for Leila Kamel

- 11:30 am

Liturgy for Sami Abi Rached, 2 year Anniversary, by Family

Liturgy for Samira Howard, 1 year Anniversary, by Carol, Chris & Riva Monsour and Family

Liturgy for peace and stability in Lebanon and the entire world

Liturgy for Living and deceased members of St Maron Church

## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS

Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time: thus it is the sacrament of apostolic ministry. It includes three degrees: episcopate, presbyterate, and diaconate.

(On the institution and mission of the apostolic ministry by Christ, see above, no. 874 ff. Here only the sacramental means by which this ministry is handed on will be treated.)

### **I. Why Is This Sacrament Called "Orders"?**

The word order in Roman antiquity designated an established civil body, especially a governing body. Ordination means incorporation into an ordo. In the Church there are established bodies which Tradition, not without a basis in Sacred Scripture, has since ancient times called taxeis (Greek) or ordines. and so the liturgy speaks of the ordo episcoporum, the ordo presbyterorum, the ordo diaconorum. Other groups also receive this name of ordo: catechumens, virgins, spouses, widows,....

Integration into one of these bodies in the Church was accomplished by a rite called ordinatio, a religious and liturgical act which was a consecration, a blessing or a sacrament. Today the word "ordination" is reserved for the sacramental act which integrates a man into the order of bishops, presbyters, or deacons, and goes beyond a simple election, designation, delegation, or institution by the community, for it confers a gift of the Holy Spirit that permits the exercise of a "sacred power" (sacra potestas) which can come only from Christ himself through his Church. Ordination is also called consecratio, for it is a setting apart and an investiture by Christ himself for his Church. the laying on of hands by the bishop, with the consecratory prayer, constitutes the visible sign of this ordination.

### **II. The Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Economy of Salvation**

The priesthood of the Old Covenant

The chosen people was constituted by God as "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." But within the people of Israel, God chose one of the twelve tribes, that of Levi, and set it apart for liturgical service; God himself is its inheritance. A special rite consecrated the beginnings of the priesthood of the Old Covenant. the priests are "appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins."

Instituted to proclaim the Word of God and to restore communion with God by sacrifices and prayer, this priesthood nevertheless remains powerless to bring about salvation, needing to repeat its sacrifices ceaselessly and being unable to achieve a definitive sanctification, which only the sacrifice of Christ would accomplish.



**Collection September 8, 2024**

Sunday Collection	\$ 4,070
Online Donations	\$ 180
Donation by mail	\$ 510
Coffee & Donuts	\$ 33
Second Collection	\$ 762
You can support the Church by mail or through our website donating online <a href="http://www.saintmarondetroit.org/donate-online">www.saintmarondetroit.org/donate-online</a>	

**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 September 2024, in loving memory of **Elias Ajini**, by Zako & Tony Basil
- Bread and Wine for the month of September 2024, in loving memory of all **Deceased Members of the Ahee Family**, by Family.
- Bread and Wine for the month of September 2024, in loving memory of **Dr. Daher Rahi**, by Christi Rahi Kassab and Family

**I would like to thank all those who worked hard, the volunteers, the Committee, those who attended, those who sponsored or put an effort in making the Fall Festival a successful fundraiser for our Church. A Special thank you goes out to Mr. Alex Agbay and his Committee. May God Bless our parish always!**

**St Maron Church  
Catechism Classes  
2024 - 2025**

**Classes Begin  
Sunday, October 13th  
10:30 AM- 11:20 AM**



**Please fill out the forms in the church vestibule.**



# St Maron Church

## LADIES NIGHT



**Friday, October 25th**  
**7 PM Rosary - 7:30 PM Dinner**



The Maronite Seminary presents

A WEEKEND OF

## Discernment

Wondering if the Lord is calling you to the  
priesthood in the Maronite Church?  
Men aged 18-40 are invited for a weekend  
of fellowship, prayer, discussion and  
discernment.

Come and See on

**NOVEMBER 1-3, 2024**

**at Our Lady of Lebanon  
Maronite Seminary**  
7164 Alaska Avenue, NW,  
Washington, DC 20012

Overnight accommodations provided.

Please RSVP (202) 723-8831 or  
[maroniteseminary@comcast.net](mailto:maroniteseminary@comcast.net)

