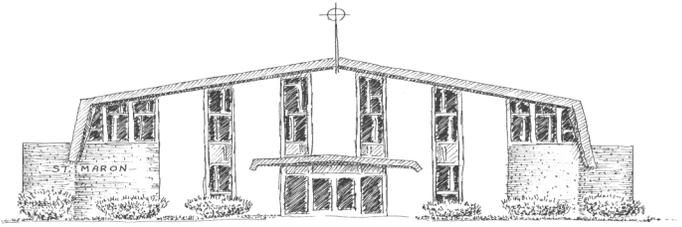


Saint Maron Catholic Church

Birth of John the Baptist December 04, 2022

Saint John the Baptist is the only saint whose birth is commemorated because it marked the beginning of the fulfillment of the divine promises: John is that “prophet”, identified with Elijah, who was destined to be the immediate precursor of the Messiah, to prepare the people of Israel for his coming. His Feast reminds us that our life is entirely and always “relative” to Christ and is fulfilled by accepting him, the Word, the Light, and the Bridegroom, whose voices, lamps, and friends we are. “He must increase, but I must decrease”: the Baptist’s words are a program for every Christian.

Saint John the Baptist, whose life was totally directed to Christ, as was that of Mary, Christ’s Mother. Thus, commemorating his birth actually means celebrating Christ, the fulfillment of the promises of all the Prophets, among whom the greatest was the Baptist, called to “prepare the way” for the Messiah.



All the Gospels introduce the narrative of Jesus’ public life with the account of his baptism by John in the River Jordan. Saint Luke frames the Baptist’s entrance on the scene in a solemn historical setting. The baptizing Prophet became so famous that many asked themselves whether he was the Messiah. Nevertheless, he was the first “witness” of Jesus, having received instructions from Heaven: “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit”. This happened precisely when Jesus, after receiving baptism, emerged from the water: John saw the Spirit descending upon him in the form of a dove. It was then that he “knew” the full reality of Jesus of Nazareth and began to make him “known to Israel”, pointing him out as the Son of God and Redeemer of man: “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

As an authentic prophet, John bore witness to the truth without compromise. He denounced transgressions of God’s commandments, even when it was the powerful who were responsible for them. Thus, when he accused Herod and Herodias of adultery, he paid with his life, sealing with martyrdom his service to Christ, who is Truth in person. Let us invoke his intercession, together with that of Mary Most Holy, so that also in our day the Church will remain ever faithful to Christ and courageously witness to his truth and his love for all.

Pope Benedict XVI



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LITURGY INTENTIONS

Sun. Dec. 04: Birth of John the Baptist

(Readings: Gal 4:21-5:1; Lk 1:57-66 Lit. p 48)

• 9:30 am

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

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

Liturgy for all the families in our parish to prepare their homes for Christmas and make a room for the Baby Jesus in their hearts

Liturgy for the Intentions and Donors of Catholic Extension Society

• 11:30 am

Liturgy for Najibeh Maalouf, 3 year anniversary, by Rita & Naji Barrak and family

Liturgy for all the families in our parish to prepare their homes for Christmas and make a room for the Baby Jesus in their hearts

NEXT WEEK

Sun. Dec. 11: Revelation to Joseph

(Readings: Eph 3:1-13; Mt 1:18-25 Lit. p 57)

• 9:30 am

Liturgy for Mary Agby, 1 Year Remembrance, by her daughter Dinah Agby

Liturgy for all sick people in our parish

Liturgy for all the families in our parish

Liturgy for the Intentions and Donors of Catholic Extension Society

• 11:30 am

Liturgy for Antoine Jabbour, by Family

Liturgy for Anne Moroun

Liturgy for the Intentions of our parishioners

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

Why the liturgy?

In the Symbol of the faith the Church confesses the mystery of the Holy Trinity and of the plan of God's "good pleasure" for all creation: the Father accomplishes the "mystery of his will" by giving his beloved Son and his Holy Spirit for the salvation of the world and for the glory of his name.

Such is the mystery of Christ, revealed and fulfilled in history according to the wisely ordered plan that St. Paul calls the "plan of the mystery" and the patristic tradition will call the "economy of the Word incarnate" or the "economy of salvation."

"The wonderful works of God among the people of the Old Testament were but a prelude to the work of Christ the Lord in redeeming mankind and giving perfect glory to God. He accomplished this work principally by the Paschal mystery of his blessed Passion, Resurrection from the dead, and glorious Ascension, whereby 'dying he destroyed our death, rising he restored our life.' For it was from the side of Christ as he slept the sleep of death upon the cross that there came forth 'the wondrous sacrament of the whole Church.'"

For this reason, the Church celebrates in the liturgy above all the Paschal mystery by which Christ accomplished the work of our salvation.

It is this mystery of Christ that the Church proclaims and celebrates in her liturgy so that the faithful may live from it and bear witness to it in the world:

For it is in the liturgy, especially in the divine sacrifice of the Eucharist, that "the work of our redemption is accomplished," and it is through the liturgy especially that the faithful are enabled to express in their lives and manifest to others the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church.

Collection November 27, 2022

Collection	\$ 1,924
Online Donations	\$ 0
Donation by mail	\$ 260
Coffee & Donuts	\$ 47
Candles	\$ 381
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 December 2022, in loving memory of **Moufid Eid**, by Georges & Louana Ghafari and family
- Bread and Wine for the month of December 2022, in loving memory of **Raymond Daher**, by Eddy & Hamsa Daher
- Bread and Wine for the month of December 2022, in loving memory of **Mary Agby**, by her daughter Dinah Agby

Join us to celebrate
Saint Maron's Feast Day
Saturday February 11th, 2023



Saint Maron, we ask you to protect our parish and our families. Always help us follow Christ in our daily life as you did!



Liturgy with his Excellency
Bishop A. Zaidan at 6:00 pm
followed by dinner at St Maron's Hall

Saint Maron Church



Christmas
NOVENA

In December when the nights are long, rose unto us the Day, of Whom there is no bound! In winter when all the world is gloomy, forth came the Fair One Who cheered all in the world!

Dec. 15-23 @ 7:00 PM Confessions @ 6:30 PM

Christ is Born! Alleluia!

Saint Maron's Christmas Celebrations

Saturday Dec. 24

Christmas Eve

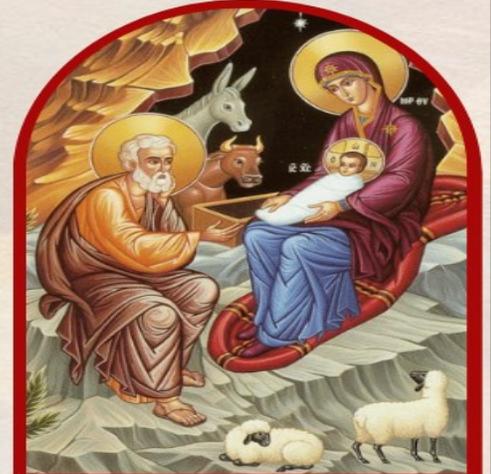
Liturgy @ 6:00 PM

& 11:00 PM

Sunday Dec. 25

Christmas Day

Liturgy @ 11:30 AM



**Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace!**



Saint Maron Church

Christmas Party

Sunday

Dec. 18

after

11:30 liturgy

RSVP by Dec. 10th

