

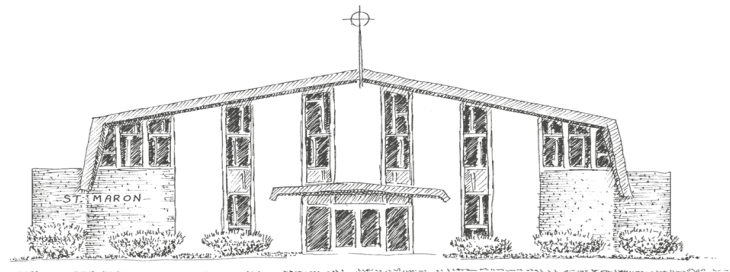
# Saint Maron Catholic Church

## Sunday of the Faithful Departed

February 23, 2025

The celebration of the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed holds deep significance in our faith, as it is a moment to live in memory and communion with those who have preceded us in passing from this world. It is an occasion to renew our spiritual relationship with our loved ones—those with whom we have shared joys and sorrows, hopes and victories, disappointments and achievements. Though their physical presence is no longer among us, our connection with them remains through faith, prayer, and remembrance.

Our faith teaches us that death is not the end but a passage—a transition to a new and eternal existence with God. By giving meaning to our death, we also give meaning to our life. This week, as we pray for all the departed, we entrust them to Christ, the Risen Lord, and reaffirm our faith in the resurrection.



We believe that at the moment of death, the soul returns to God, who welcomes it into eternal life. This belief transforms our understanding of death—not as an end, but as a new beginning. In our Maronite liturgy, we pray: “Lord, your cross is a ladder leading us to heaven’s heights.” Christ’s Cross has become our bridge to eternity.

For Christians, death is a passage to eternity—a true birth into the fullness of life. It is the day when the Lord calls us to His eternal kingdom and welcomes us into the joy of paradise. On this commemoration of all the faithful departed, we reflect not so much on the meaning of death but on the purpose of life itself. Though death is a natural part of human existence, it does not define us. The human soul, being spiritual and immortal, is not bound to eternal death. While we experience bodily death, we are also destined for resurrection.

Thus, death is not the final act of an individual’s personal history but rather the beginning of a new life in communion with God. As we pray in the *Hosoyo*: “Prepare us to share in the dwellings of joy to which we have been invited, through the abundance of your mercy and because of our perfect faith in you.” On this weekend, as we pray for our deceased brothers and sisters—those closest to us by bonds of affection and kinship, as well as those unknown and forgotten—we praise the Lord, who, through His death on the Cross and resurrection, has opened for us the way to eternal bliss.



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## LITURGY INTENTIONS

### Sun. Feb. 23: Sunday of the Faithful Departed

(Ezek 37:1-10, 1Thes 5:1-11, Lk 16:19-31 Lit 166)

• **9:30 am**

**Liturgy for Tonine Kamel, 40 Day Mass**, by Tonine & Tim Cowper

**Liturgy for Samuel Thomas**, by Marie Michaels and Family

**Liturgy for all Deceased members of St. Maron Church**

**Liturgy for all sick people in our parish**

• **11:30 am**

**Liturgy for Andrea Heintz**, by Family

**Liturgy for Ray Mabarak, 5 Years Anniversary**, by Delores Mabarak and Family

**Liturgy for all Deceased members of St. Maron Church**

**Liturgy for all sick people in our parish**

## NEXT WEEK

### Sun. March 2: Miracle at Cana in Galilee

(Is 55:1, 6-13, Rom 14:14-43, Jn 2:1-11 Lit 176)

• **9:30 am**

**Liturgy for all Couples in our Parish**

**Liturgy for all our parishioners to prepare their heart for the Journey of Lent**

**Liturgy for Deacon Georges Khoury**

• **11:30 am**

**Liturgy for Boutros Kassis, 40 Day Mass**, by George & Jamie Kassis and Family

**Liturgy for all Couples in our Parish**

**Liturgy for all our parishioners to prepare their hearts for the Journey of Lent**

## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

### *V. The Goods and Requirements of Conjugal Love*

#### *The unity and indissolubility of marriage*

The love of the spouses requires, of its very nature, the unity and indissolubility of the spouses' community of persons, which embraces their entire life: "so they are no longer two, but one flesh." They "are called to grow continually in their communion through day-to-day fidelity to their marriage promise of total mutual self-giving." This human communion is confirmed, purified, and completed by communion in Jesus Christ, given through the sacrament of Matrimony. It is deepened by lives of the common faith and by the Eucharist received together.

"The unity of marriage, distinctly recognized by our Lord, is made clear in the equal personal dignity which must be accorded to man and wife in mutual and unreserved affection." Polygamy is contrary to conjugal love which is undivided and exclusive.

#### *The fidelity of conjugal love*

By its very nature conjugal love requires the inviolable fidelity of the spouses. This is the consequence of the gift of themselves which they make to each other. Love seeks to be definitive; it cannot be an arrangement "until further notice." the "intimate union of marriage, as a mutual giving of two persons, and the good of the children, demand total fidelity from the spouses and require an unbreakable union between them."

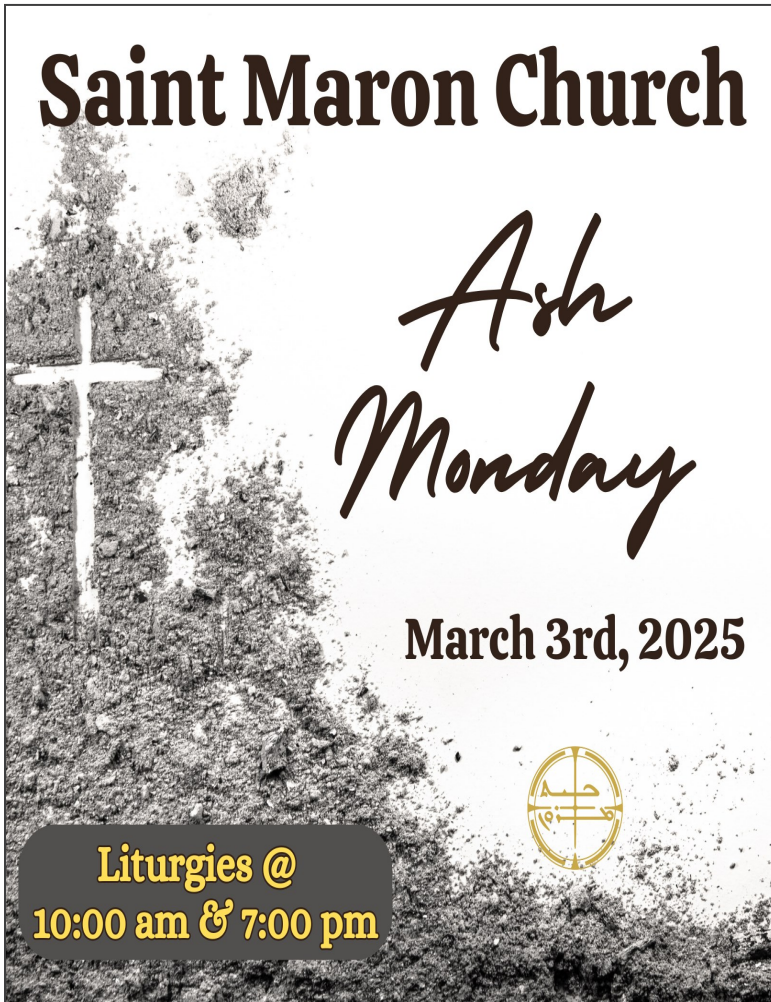
The deepest reason is found in the fidelity of God to his covenant, in that of Christ to his Church. Through the sacrament of Matrimony the spouses are enabled to represent this fidelity and witness to it. Through the sacrament, the indissolubility of marriage receives a new and deeper meaning.

It can seem difficult, even impossible, to bind oneself for life to another human being. This makes it all the more important to proclaim the Good News that God loves us with a definitive and irrevocable love, that married couples share in this love, that it supports and sustains them, and that by their own faithfulness they can be witnesses to God's faithful love. Spouses who with God's grace give this witness, often in very difficult conditions, deserve the gratitude and support of the ecclesial community.

Collection February 16, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 658
Online Donations	\$ 210
Donation by mail	\$ 235
Coffee & Donuts	\$ 39
<b>You can support the Church by mail or through our website donating online</b> <a href="http://www.saintmarondetroit.org/donate-online">www.saintmarondetroit.org/donate-online</a>	

Our deepest condolences go to **Mara Ghafari** on the passing of her mother **Vera Kalnins**.  
May her soul rest in peace.



# Saint Maron Church

## Ash Monday

March 3rd, 2025

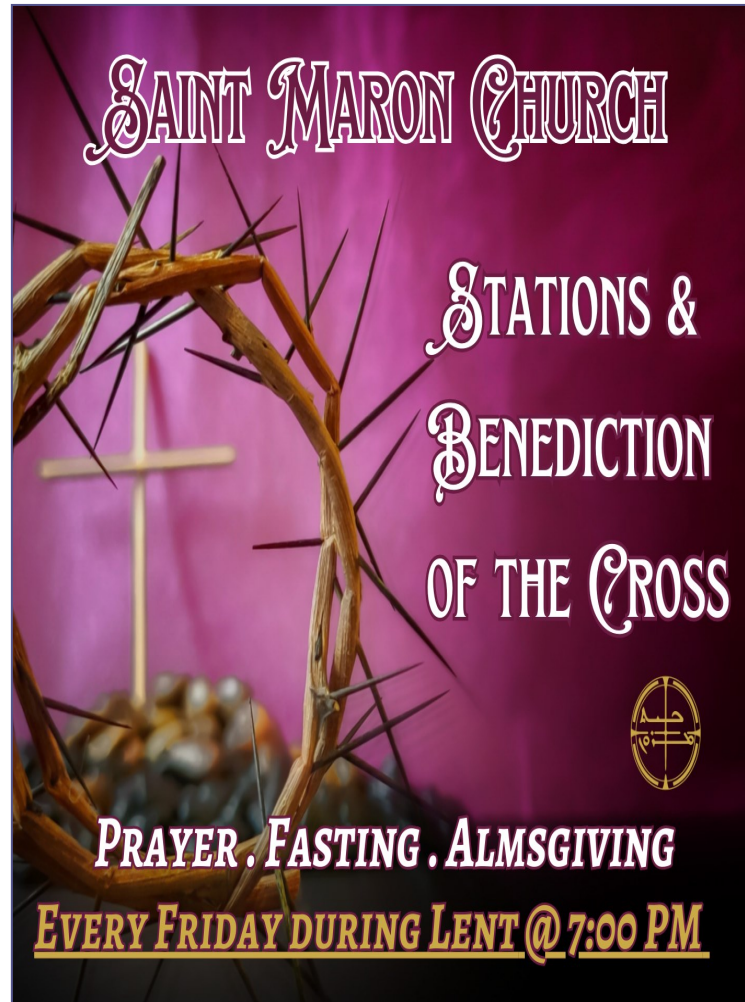
Liturgies @  
10:00 am & 7:00 pm

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 2025, in loving memory of **Anthony & De-lorez Neam**, by Gerry & Judy Folk.
- Bread and Wine for the month of February 2025, in loving memory of **Reem Safadi**, by George & Janet Safadi.
- Bread and Wine for the month of February 2025, in loving memory of **Phil Ejbeh**, by Dinah Ejbeh.

Our deepest condolences go to **Christine Khalil** on the passing of her brother **Joseph Assad Tonnos**.  
May his soul rest in peace.



# Saint Maron Church

## STATIONS & BENEDICTION OF THE CROSS

PRAYER . FASTING . ALMSGIVING

EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT @ 7:00 PM

Join the

# Young choir

Age 13 to 35



at Saint Maron Church

Starting Saturday

March 1st, at 11:00am



## SAINT MARON CHURCH



# Saint Joseph Feast day

Wednesday March 19th,

Liturgy @ 7:00 pm

Followed by Refreshments

