

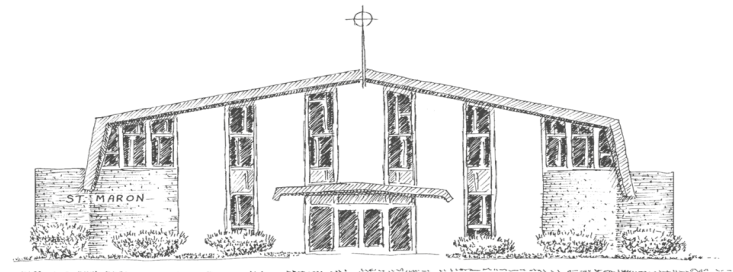
# Saint Maron Catholic Church

## Miracle at Cana in Galilee

March 2, 2025

In our Maronite liturgy for the Season of Great Lent, before the reading, we sing: **“The gates of Heaven open through fasting; accept our fasting, Lord, and hear our prayer.”** Our ancestors fasted, fully aware that fasting was an excellent preparation for the celebration of the Paschal mystery—Easter. The word *Lent* is derived from an Old English word describing the period between winter and spring when the earth begins to loosen its cold grip, allowing vegetation to sprout. We celebrate the Season of Great Lent as a passage from the wedding at Cana to the wedding of Jesus on the cross.

At the wedding in Cana, we see Mary, Jesus, the disciples, water, and wine. At the crucifixion, we again see Mary—this time with John—as blood and water pour forth from the heart of Jesus on the cross. At Cana, there was a bridegroom and a bride. At the crucifixion, Jesus



gives birth to the Church and takes her as His bride, sacrificing His life as an expression of infinite love—a love that even death cannot destroy.

The Fathers of the Church compare this to a ship in turbulent waters, discarding everything unnecessary to stay afloat. Likewise, the Season of Great Lent calls us to discard all that is not essential for our spiritual fulfillment and to detach ourselves from anything that hinders our journey toward Christ. We are reminded that “one does not live by bread alone”. By fasting from what is unnecessary in this life and nourishing ourselves with the Word of God and His infinite love, we move toward the goal of salvation. However, fasting alone is not enough; it must be accompanied by prayer, penance, and a sharing of our renewed life in Christ with others. Without this, fasting loses its true meaning.

Jesus died to reconcile us with the Father. The Season of Great Lent is an opportunity to take the necessary steps to return to God and seek the forgiveness of our sins. Each act of reconciliation renews our spiritual life, drawing us closer to God. The closer we come to Him, the more we identify with Christ and become true children, created in His image and likeness. By embracing this sacred season, we emerge from the grip of worldly temptations and step into a new life in Christ. Lent is *great* because it transforms us. Through it, we do not merely celebrate Jesus and His resurrection at Easter—we, too, can proclaim, “I have risen from sin.”

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## LITURGY INTENTIONS

### 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**

## NEXT WEEK

### Sun. March 9: Healing of the Leper

(2 Kings 5:9-14, Rom 6:12-23, Mk 1:35-45 Lit 196)

- 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 Joseph Assad Tonnos**

**Liturgy for Sultana Safadi**

- 11:30 am

**Liturgy for all people who died without confession and receiving the last sacrament**

**Liturgy for Couples struggling in their marriage**

## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

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

#### *The fidelity of conjugal love*

Yet there are some situations in which living together becomes practically impossible for a variety of reasons. In such cases the Church permits the physical separation of the couple and their living apart. The spouses do not cease to be husband and wife before God and so are not free to contract a new union. In this difficult situation, the best solution would be, if possible, reconciliation. The Christian community is called to help these persons live out their situation in a Christian manner and in fidelity to their marriage bond which remains indissoluble.

Today there are numerous Catholics in many countries who have recourse to civil divorce and contract new civil unions. In fidelity to the words of Jesus Christ - "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another, commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery" The Church maintains that a new union cannot be recognized as valid, if the first marriage was. If the divorced are remarried civilly, they find themselves in a situation that objectively contravenes God's law. Consequently, they cannot receive Eucharistic communion as long as this situation persists. For the same reason, they cannot exercise certain ecclesial responsibilities. Reconciliation through the sacrament of Penance can be granted only to those who have repented for having violated the sign of the covenant and of fidelity to Christ, and who are committed to living in complete continence.

Toward Christians who live in this situation, and who often keep the faith and desire to bring up their children in a Christian manner, priests and the whole community must manifest an attentive solicitude, so that they do not consider themselves separated from the Church, in whose life they can and must participate as baptized persons:

They should be encouraged to listen to the Word of God, to attend the Sacrifice of the Mass, to persevere in prayer, to contribute to works of charity and to community efforts for justice, to bring up their children in the Christian faith, to cultivate the spirit and practice of penance and thus implore, day by day, God's grace.

**Collection February 23, 2025**

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	\$ 2,567
<b>Online Donations</b>	\$ 70
<b>Donation by mail</b>	\$ 1,010
<b>Coffee &amp; Donuts</b>	\$ 29
<b>Second Collection</b>	\$ 193
<b>You can support the Church by mail or through our website donating online</b> <b><u><a href="http://www.saintmarondetroit.org/donate-online">www.saintmarondetroit.org/donate-online</a></u></b>	

Our deepest condolences go to **The Tahnoose Family** on the passing of their mother **Lila June Tahnoose**.  
May her soul rest in peace.

**LENT REGULATIONS**

- **Ash Monday (March 03) and Great Friday (Friday April 18)** are days of Fasting & abstinence for all Catholics **over the age of 14**. Abstinence means abstinence from Meat and Milk products. Fast means no food from midnight to noon. No Catholic will lightly excuse himself or herself from this obligation.
- **All other Fridays of Lent** are days of abstinence from meat products for everyone 14 years of age and older. Here again Catholics will not hold themselves lightly excused, but if there is a serious health problem, this obligation would not apply.
- We strive to make all days of lent a time of prayer and penance.

**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 March 2025, in loving memory of **Reem Safadi**, by George & Janet Safadi.
- Bread and Wine for the month of March 2025, in loving memory of **Living and Deceased Members of the Tabet and Fleifel Families**, by Nuha & Family.
- Bread and Wine for the month of March 2025, in loving memory of **Living and Deceased Members of the Mabarak Family**, by Robert L. Mabarak.

# Saint Maron Church

*Ash  
Monday*

**March 3rd, 2025**



**Liturgies @  
10:00 am & 7:00 pm**

# SAINT MARON CHURCH

## STATIONS & BENEDICTION OF THE CROSS



**PRAYER . FASTING . ALMSGIVING**  
**EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT @ 7:00 PM**

# SAINT MARON CHURCH



## Saint Joseph Feast day

Wednesday March 19th,  
Liturgy @ 7:00 pm  
Followed by Refreshments