

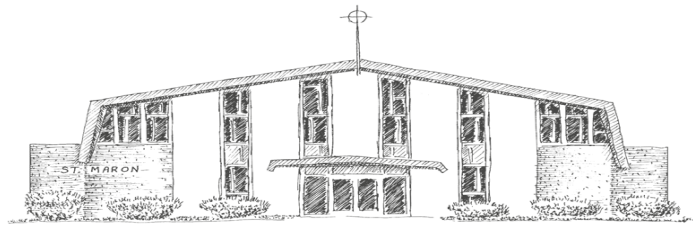
Saint Maron Catholic Church

New Sunday April 27, 2025

The Gospel of John for this Easter Sunday highlights the figure of Thomas and his journey of faith in the risen Jesus Christ, an experience of conversion.

At first, Thomas appears very self-assured. While the other disciples, fearful of the Jews, remain locked inside the house, Thomas is outside. He seems unafraid and confident. His isolation from the group reinforces the perception of self-sufficiency. While the disciples are united in mourning Jesus' absence, confused by the discovery of the empty tomb that morning, and bonded by the shared fragility of fear, Thomas remains apart alone and self-reliant.

Then we encounter Thomas making demands: to see and to touch, to rely solely on his human senses, seeking to assert control over the situation.



His self-sufficiency is further revealed in his distrust of the community's proclamation: "We have seen the Lord!"

But when Jesus appears again, eight days later, on the following Sunday, something changes in Thomas. He does not touch the Risen One's cloak, nor place his fingers in the wounds left by the nails. Instead, Thomas surrenders himself, letting go of his self-reliance. In just a few words, he expresses both conversion and faith: "My Lord and my God!"

Faith, then, is a journey of conversion: from trust in ourselves to a surrender of all we are and have to the risen Christ. For us today, this surrender comes through an act of trust, a conscious abandonment to the presence of the Holy Spirit, who lives within each of us. This is the same Spirit that the community of disciples received from the risen Christ on that Easter day.

The Risen Christ, the Living One, forever, is present in our lives, in history, and in the Church through the Holy Spirit, who, though invisible, is a real and powerful force of peace. To believe is to surrender to the action of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us and has been breathed into our hearts by the Risen Christ. This is the unfathomable mystery of the primacy of divine love, a love that seeks to save all humanity.



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LITURGY INTENTIONS

Sun. April 27: The New Sunday

(Is 52:7-12; 2 Cor 5:11-21; Jn 20:26-31 Lit. p 386)

- 9:30 am

Liturgy for the repose of the soul of pope Francis

Liturgy for Peter Sparkes, 1 year anniversary, by Family

Liturgy for all the donors and supporters of Saint Maron Church

- 11:30 am

Liturgy for the repose of the soul of pope Francis

Liturgy for all MYO & MYA Members

Liturgy for Alger P. LaHood, by Family

Liturgy for Philippe Gharios, 51 anniversary, by Hadi & Julie Gharios

Liturgy for Habib and Wadia Ghafari, by their children

NEXT WEEK

Sun. May 4: Third Sunday after Resurrection

(Job 42:1-6, 2 Tm 2:8-13; Lk 24:13-25 Lit. p 315)

- 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 all sick people in our parish

- 11:30 am

Liturgy for the intentions of the First Communicants Giselle Bashi, Antony Dib, Jordyn Safadi

Liturgy for the intentions of the parents of the First Communicants

Liturgy for the intentions of the Teachers of Catechism

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

LIFE IN CHRIST

The way of Christ "leads to life"; a contrary way "leads to destruction." The Gospel parable of the two ways remains ever present in the catechesis of the Church; it shows the importance of moral decisions for our salvation: "There are two ways, the one of life, the other of death; but between the two, there is a great difference."

Catechesis has to reveal in all clarity the joy and the demands of the way of Christ. Catechesis for the "newness of life" in him should be:

- a catechesis of the Holy Spirit, the interior Master of life according to Christ, a gentle guest and friend who inspires, guides, corrects, and strengthens this life;
- a catechesis of grace, for it is by grace that we are saved and again it is by grace that our works can bear fruit for eternal life;
- a catechesis of the beatitudes, for the way of Christ is summed up in the beatitudes, the only path that leads to the eternal beatitude for which the human heart longs;
- a catechesis of sin and forgiveness, for unless man acknowledges that he is a sinner he cannot know the truth about himself, which is a condition for acting justly; and without the offer of forgiveness he would not be able to bear this truth;
- a catechesis of the human virtues which causes one to grasp the beauty and attraction of right dispositions towards goodness;
- a catechesis of the Christian virtues of faith, hope, and charity, generously inspired by the example of the saints;
- a catechesis of the twofold commandment of charity set forth in the Decalogue;
- an ecclesial catechesis, for it is through the manifold exchanges of "spiritual goods" in the "communion of saints" that Christian life can grow, develop, and be communicated.

The first and last point of reference of this catechesis will always be Jesus Christ himself, who is "the way, and the truth, and the life." It is by looking to him in faith that Christ's faithful can hope that he himself fulfills his promises in them, and that, by loving him with the same love with which he has loved them, they may perform works in keeping with their dignity:

I ask you to consider that our Lord Jesus Christ is your true head, and that you are one of his members. He belongs to you as the head belongs to its members; all that is his is yours: his spirit, his heart, his body and soul, and all his faculties. You must make use of all these as of your own, to serve, praise, love, and glorify God.

Collection April 20, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 4,750
Online Donations	\$ 20
Good Friday Collection	\$ 2,372
Holy Land Collection	\$ 549
Donation by mail	\$ 200
Coffee & Donuts	\$ 51
You can support the Church by mail or through our website donating online <u>www.saintmarondetroit.org/donate-online</u>	

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 April 2025, In Loving Memory of **Living and Deceased Members of the Mabarak Family**, by Robert L. Mabarak
- Bread and Wine for the month of April 2025, In Loving Memory of **Deceased members of the Derjani Family**, by Michel & Roberta Kabeity and Family
- Bread and Wine for the month of April 2025, In Loving Memory of **Deceased members of the Kabeity Family**, by Michel & Roberta Kabeity and Family



Saint Maron Church

May, Month of Mary

Rosary @ Homes

Every Monday - Wednesday - Friday
@ 7:00 pm

SAINT MARON CHURCH

Join us to celebrate

The Great Moms
in our Parish



Sunday May 11th, 2025

Liturgies @ 9:30am & 11:30am

Life doesn't come with a manual.
It comes with a Mother.

