

Saint Maron Catholic Church

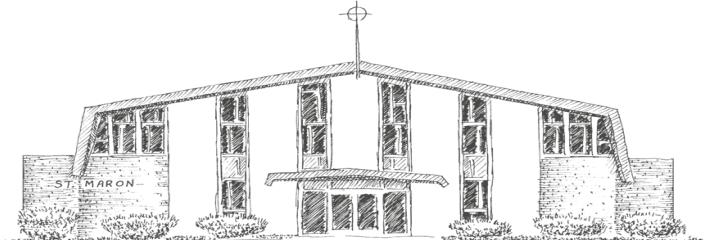
Finding of Our Lord in the Temple

January 4, 2025

The Bible does not offer many stories about Jesus' childhood. God chose to reveal only a limited glimpse of Jesus' life before He began His public ministry as the Son of God. What we do see, however, is deeply meaningful. Mary and Joseph were faithful and obedient to God's Law, and they raised Jesus in a home shaped by prayer, tradition, and reverence for God. Their daily life was simple, yet firmly rooted in faith.

Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem according to the Jewish custom of celebrating the Passover. As faithful Jews, they respected the traditions of their people and passed them on to their son, Jesus. In doing so, they taught Him—often without words—that fidelity to God is the surest path to closeness with Him. This reminds us that parents have a sacred responsibility: to transmit their faith to their children, not only through teaching, but through example and lived practice.

According to Jewish law, pilgrimage to Jerusalem was obligatory for men and optional for women and



children. For this reason, it is possible that Jesus did not make this journey before the age of twelve. Still, we can imagine that such a devout family would often travel together. The custom was to go to Jerusalem three times a year—for Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles. These pilgrimages were not burdens, but expressions of love for Yahweh and trust in His presence.

When Jesus remains behind in the Temple, Joseph accepts his Son's explanation: "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Lk 2:49). Neither Joseph nor Mary fully understood these words, just as the disciples later struggled to understand Jesus' announcement of His Passion. Yet they did not oppose God's plan. Instead, they trusted. This raises important questions for us: How do I react when I face situations I do not understand? Do I become angry and discouraged, or do I choose to trust in Jesus? Do I continue to pray, even in moments of confusion and pain?

Joseph was a righteous man, chosen by God to protect His greatest treasures. As head of the Holy Family, he faithfully fulfilled his mission, ensuring that Jesus grew "in wisdom, in stature, and in favor before God and others." The family is rightly called a "domestic church." Whether we are parents or children, we are all called to holiness. Like the Holy Family, we are invited to make a pilgrimage toward the Father's house. Am I helping my family walk this path? Am I nurturing a deeper love for the Father who sent us His Son?



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LITURGY INTENTIONS

Sun. Jan. 4: Finding of Our Lord in the Temple

(1 Kings 3:5-14; Heb 7:11-19; Lk 2:41-52 Lit. p 87)

- **9:30 am**

Liturgy for Gary Naseef, by Elizabeth Pipper

Liturgy for Margaret Helou, by Cesar & Diane Helou

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

- **11:30 am**

Liturgy for peace and stability in the World

Liturgy for our Parishioners Intentions

Liturgy for Living and Deceased Members of Saint Maron Parish

NEXT WEEK

Sun. Jan. 11: 1st Sunday After the Epiphany

(Is 40:6-11; 2 Cor 10:1-11; Jn 1:29-34 Lit. p 107)

- **9:30 am**

Liturgy for Harry K. Nofar, by Daniel Michael

Liturgy for Sam Hakim, by John & Geralynn Okonowski

Liturgy for Theresa Joseph Abood, 9 Year Anniversary, by John and Richard Abood & Family

- **11:30 am**

Liturgy for Jalileh Bassil Al Nashef, 40 Day Mass, by Family

Liturgy for all sick people in our Parish

Liturgy for all Christians in the World, especially those Persecuted for their Faith

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

GOD'S SALVATION: LAW AND GRACE

THE MORAL LAW

I. The Natural Moral Law

The "divine and natural" law shows man the way to follow so as to practice the good and attain his end. the natural law states the first and essential precepts which govern the moral life. It hinges upon the desire for God and submission to him, who is the source and judge of all that is good, as well as upon the sense that the other is one's equal. Its principal precepts are expressed in the Decalogue. This law is called "natural," not in reference to the nature of irrational beings, but because reason which decrees it properly belongs to human nature:

Where then are these rules written, if not in the book of that light we call the truth? In it is written every just law; from it the law passes into the heart of the man who does justice, not that it migrates into it, but that it places its imprint on it, like a seal on a ring that passes onto wax, without leaving the ring.

The natural law is nothing other than the light of understanding placed in us by God; through it we know what we must do and what we must avoid. God has given this light or law at the creation.

The natural law, present in the heart of each man and established by reason, is universal in its precepts and its authority extends to all men. It expresses the dignity of the person and determines the basis for his fundamental rights and duties:

For there is a true law: right reason. It is in conformity with nature, is diffused among all men, and is immutable and eternal; its orders summon to duty; its prohibitions turn away from offense To replace it with a contrary law is a sacrilege; failure to apply even one of its provisions is forbidden; no one can abrogate it entirely.

Application of the natural law varies greatly; it can demand reflection that takes account of various conditions of life according to places, times, and circumstances. Nevertheless, in the diversity of cultures, the natural law remains as a rule that binds men among themselves and imposes on them, beyond the inevitable differences, common principles.

Collection December 28, 2025

Christmas Collection	\$ 3,819
Sunday Collection	\$ 1,580
Online Donations	\$ 1,100
Donation by mail	\$ 10
Coffee & Donuts	\$ 90
<p>You can support the Church by mail or through our website donating online</p> <p>www.saintmarondetroit.org/donate-online</p>	

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 January 2026, in Loving Memory of all **Deceased Members of the Morris & Elizabeth Elias Family**, by Daughter Christine Elias-Senska
- Bread and Wine for the month of January 2026, in Loving Memory of **Jalileh Bassil Al Nashef**, by Tony & Zako Bassil
- Bread and Wine for the month of January 2026, in Loving Memory of all **Deceased Members of the Tabet Family**, by Nuha Tabet and Family

Thank you, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Saleh, for taking care of the Christmas sweet expenses.

Thank you to all the ladies for making us Meghleh for Christmas. God bless you all!

Thank You



We extend our sincere gratitude to
**Dr. & Mrs. Naji Gebara, Dr. & Mrs. Georges Ghafari,
and The Thomas Family,**
who donated the new chairs for our Church Hall.

We wish to thank
Mrs. Jeanette Rahi & Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Rahi, and Families
who graciously donated the new tables for the Hall,
in memory of Dr. Daher Rahi.

Your kindness strengthens our community and helps
make our parish a more welcoming place for all.
God bless you all!



Saint Maron Church - Detroit

TUESDAY JANUARY 6, 2026



LITURGY @7:00 PM

Liturgy and Blessing of the Water

ST MARON FEAST DAY

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 07, 2026

11466 KERCHEVAL STREET,
DETROIT MI 48214

6:00PM LITURGY
7:30PM HORS D'OEUVRES
8:30PM DINNER
9:30PM PARTY

RSVP BY JANUARY 25TH

For more information
Call 313-824-0196



SINGER DORIS FARHAT

DJ ABE