

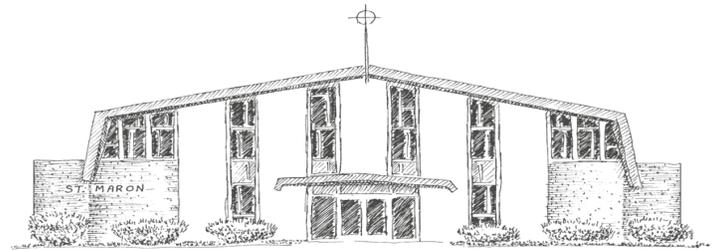
# Saint Maron Catholic Church

## Parable of the Prodigal Son

March 8, 2026

Most of us know the parable of the Prodigal Son. It is a stunning revelation of a Father who, when faced with those who make mistakes, and we all make mistakes, takes off the judge's robe and puts on the simple clothes of a dad. The story shows us a God who does not begin with accusations, but with a heart that runs to meet us.

Yet how much effort we still need to make to move from the idea of God we carry in our hearts to the true face of God announced by Jesus. In many ways, the heart of Luke's Gospel beats in this parable, because it speaks at once about the human person and about God. It speaks of the child who sees God as a competitor or an adversary, someone who wants to control him, and therefore demands an inheritance that is not yet his due. That demand creates distance: the son leaves, wastes the patrimony in foolishness, and loses not only his money but also his dignity.



But the parable also speaks of the other kind of lostness: the older son who stays. He lives his belonging to the father as obligation, almost as slavery, doing his duty without joy, turning life into a ledger, and letting bitterness replace gratitude. His vision of life becomes cramped, emotionless, and resentful.

Here, then, is the God Jesus reveals: a Father, but not a paternalist. He loves deeply, yet he does not suffocate us with possessive protection or count every step we take. He teaches the difference between good and evil, and he places our choices before our eyes, but he does not cancel our freedom. Free will is the gift that reveals the nobility of the human person. It sets us above mere determinism and fatality, because through it we can reason, decide, repent, and begin again. We are capable of planning our lives, shaping our character, and choosing love freely.

This is the face we are called to rediscover during Lent: mercy and compassion, not the harsh face of revenge. Jesus presents a God who is light-years away from the distorted images we sometimes create. He is a Father who leaves us free, even free enough to make mistakes, and who still waits, watches the horizon, and hopes today. He is a Father who runs to embrace the returning child, and who also goes out to speak gently to the older brother, inviting him to enter the feast. In that embrace, and in that invitation, our true home is revealed.

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## LITURGY INTENTIONS

### Sun. Mar 8: Parable of the Prodigal Son

(Zech 3:1-7; 2 Cor 13:5-13 Lk 15:11-32 Lit. p 217)

• 9:30 am

**Liturgy for all women in our parish, that God may bless them with strength, wisdom, and peace**

**Liturgy for Mary Thomas, 3 Year Anniversary, by Family**

**Liturgy for Grace El Tawil**

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

• 11:30 am

**Liturgy for all women in our parish, that God may bless them with strength, wisdom, and peace**

**Liturgy for Marie Cherfan, by Family**

**Liturgy for Angel Isakof, 5 Year Anniversary, by Kalia & Albert Fares and Family**

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

## NEXT WEEK

### Sun. Mar 15: Healing of the Paralytic

(Is 35:1-10; 1 Tim 5:24-6:5 Mk 2:1-12 Lit. p 237)

• 9:30 am

**Liturgy for Marie Ferris Michaels, Birthday Remembrance, by Mary Michaels**

**Liturgy for Nadia Sukkarieh**

• 11:30 am

**Liturgy for Sultana & Elias Safadi, by Family**

**Liturgy for Mariam Said Moghrabi, by Haniyeh Haddad**

**Liturgy for Antonio & Angel Malkoun, by Joe & Gretta Malkoun and Family**

## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### *GRACE AND JUSTIFICATION*

#### *II Grace*

Among the special graces ought to be mentioned the graces of state that accompany the exercise of the responsibilities of the Christian life and of the ministries within the Church:

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Since it belongs to the supernatural order, grace escapes our experience and cannot be known except by faith. We cannot therefore rely on our feelings or our works to conclude that we are justified and saved. However, according to the Lord's words "Thus you will know them by their fruits" - reflection on God's blessings in our life and in the lives of the saints offers us a guarantee that grace is at work in us and spurs us on to an ever greater faith and an attitude of trustful poverty.

A pleasing illustration of this attitude is found in the reply of St. Joan of Arc to a question posed as a trap by her ecclesiastical judges: "Asked if she knew that she was in God's grace, she replied: 'If I am not, may it please God to put me in it; if I am, may it please God to keep me there.'"

#### *III Merit*

You are glorified in the assembly of your Holy Ones, for in crowning their merits you are crowning your own gifts.

The term "merit" refers in general to the recompense owed by a community or a society for the action of one of its members, experienced either as beneficial or harmful, deserving reward or punishment. Merit is relative to the virtue of justice, in conformity with the principle of equality which governs it.

With regard to God, there is no strict right to any merit on the part of man. Between God and us there is an immeasurable inequality, for we have received everything from him, our Creator.

The merit of man before God in the Christian life arises from the fact that God has freely chosen to associate man with the work of his grace. the fatherly action of God is first on his own initiative, and then follows man's free acting through his collaboration, so that the merit of good works is to be attributed in the first place to the grace of God, then to the faithful. Man's merit, moreover, itself is due to God, for his good actions proceed in Christ, from the predispositions and assistance given by the Holy Spirit.

**Collection March 1, 2026**

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,836
Online Donations	\$ 400
Donation by Mail	\$ 660
Coffee & Donuts	\$ 50
Votive Candles	\$ 692
You can support the Church by mail or through our website donating online <a href="http://www.saintmarondetroit.org/donate-online">www.saintmarondetroit.org/donate-online</a>	

**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 2026, in Loving Memory of all **Deceased Members of the Mabarak Family**, by Robert L. Mabarak & Melissa A. Gilmore
- Bread and Wine for the month of March 2026, in Loving Memory of **Reem Safadi**, by George & Janet Safadi
- Bread and Wine for the month of March 2026, in Loving Memory of **Dr. Daher Rahi**, by Chrissy Kassab and Family

Our Congratulations and Best Wishes to

**LIANA ROSE IBRAHIM**

who was Baptized at St. Maron Church on Sunday, March 1, 2026.

May God bless her to be great disciple of Jesus Christ!

**Pope's Intention for March**

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence

*St. Maron Church*  
Liturgy for the Feast Day of  
**ST. JOSEPH**  
Wednesday, March 18th | 7 PM  
St. Maron Church  
11466 Kercheval Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan



# Saint Maron Church

*Lent is a time for Christians to seek renewal of their faith and relationship with God.*



## Lenten RETREAT



*Jesus*

Fr. Daniele Criscione

**Saturday, March 14th from 11am to 4pm**



RSVP by March 07, to 313-824-0196

St. Maron Church - Detroit

# PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON

**SUNDAY MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>  
AFTER 11:30AM LITURGY**

**ADULTS \$30 - KIDS \$20**

RSVP By March 21st to 313-824-0196

## Easter Lily Plants and Spring Bulbs 2026

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY (\$30 each)

In Memory of:

In Thanksgiving:

For: \_\_\_\_\_

Donated By: \_\_\_\_\_

Return with payment to the office OR put in collection basket by **March 25, 2026**

