



SAINT MARON MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

613 Main Street
Torrington, CT 06790
stmaronchurch@yahoo.com
Phone: (860) 4899015

Sixteenth Week of Pentecost:
September 2, 2018



Welcome to Saint Maron Church

We are a Catholic Church, Maronite rite. What is “Maronite Catholic Rite”?

There are 22-24 rites in the Catholic Church. The Maronite rite is one of them. The Latin or Roman rite is another.

A rite represents an Church tradition about how the sacraments are to be celebrated. **Rome, Antioch** (Syria), and **Alexandria** (Egypt) are the main centers of those rites. The Maronite rite traces its origins to the work of St. Maron in the 4th century who founded a monastery east of Antioch. Later monks moved to the mountains in what is today Lebanon.

All rites *are entrusted to the Pope*, the divinely appointed successor of St. Peter. As the Bishop of Rome, he is the head of the Latin or Roman rite, by far the largest rite in the Church.

As Vicar of the universal Church, the Pope is shepherd of the rites of the West and the East. The Maronite church is the only Catholic Church named after its founder, Saint Maron.

The music and prayers you will sing and pray here have been in use for more than 1,500 years!

Our motto is: ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

Welcome again and we hope you will join our

Meet our Pastoral Team!

Father Tony Saab

Pastor
860-725-2924 (Direct line)

Steven P. Marcus

David Leard

Deacons

Paul Comeau

Subdeacon

Organists

Melanie Libby

Sunday 10:00 am

Michael Nejaime

Saturday 4:30 pm

Office Assistant:

Kathleen Perrotti

Bingo

Mondays and Fridays

Starting at 5:00 pm

Pastoral Council moderator

Mike Soliani

Fundraising Committee

Chairperson

Jack Leifert

Daughters of Lebanon:

Adla Keywan

Finance Committee

Friendship Circle

Knights of Columbus

Bingo Volunteer team

Sacraments

Baptism and Confirmation: Please contact the priest ASAP after the birth of your child.

Reconciliation: Before or after Liturgy or by appointment.

Marriage: Couples must contact the Priest six months before the wedding.

Office hours

Monday, Weds, Friday

9:00am to 1:00pm

Church office



Friday September 14
Feast of the Holy Cross

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday 4:30PM

Sunday 10:00AM

Please join us!

Luke 18:9-14

He then addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else. "Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity--greedy, dishonest, adulterous--or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.' But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; **for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.**

Liturgical Intentions

9/1	Rico Soliani and Daniel Pietrefase , requested by Marie Soliani and family
9/2	
9/8	
9/9	Mayer J. Slaiby , requested by the Slaiby family
9/15	40 Day Mass for Kathleen Lenihan , requested by her son Brian and his family One year anniversary mass for Antonio Viscariello , requested by his wife , children, and grandchildren.
9/16	Mary and John Comporesi , requested by Hayat and Jack Comporesi
9/22	Paul T. Keywan , requested by Lola and Adla Kewan
9/23	
9/29	
9/30	
10/6	Willard W. Soliani , requested by Marie Soliani and her family
10/7	

Upcoming Special Collection

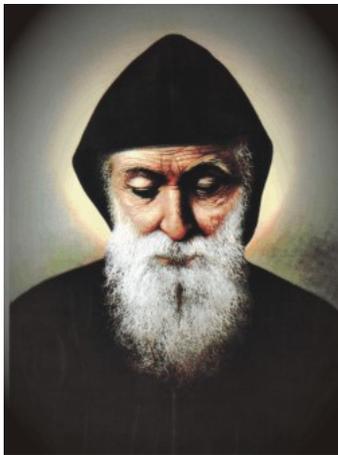
- Sept. 9: Catholic University
- Sept. 16: Catechetical Sunday
- Sept. 23: Monthly offering
- Oct. 7: Utility Fund
- Oct. 21: World Mission Sunday



Weekly Collections

Saturday August 25: \$540.00
Sunday August 26 : \$576.00

Monday Bingo: \$153.00 Sealed tickets \$110.00
Friday Bingo: \$89.00 Sealed Tickets: \$110.00



This year October 14 is designated as "Order of Saint Sharbel Sunday" in our Eparchy. On October 14, all Maronite parishes will be promoting the Order. The Order of Saint Sharbel is vitally important in providing financial and spiritual support for our seminarians, who are crucial for the future of

our Maronite Church. Please prayerfully consider joining the Order. You may enroll online at www.orderstsharbel.org or ask Father for more information.

The fundraising committee proudly invites you to join us

Mediterranean Buffet

Thursday September 13,2018
4:30-7:30 PM

In our Church Bingo Hall
Food made by Noujaim Bistro
Food, desserts, drinks, music...

Tickets \$30 a person
All proceeds are to support our church financial needs



Persecuted Christians Keep the Faith – and Are Ignored by Those Who Don't

William Kilpatrick

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2018 (THE CATHOLIC THING)

Imagine that you find an envelope outside your door. In it are six bullets and a note: “With these six bullets we will kill you and your family.” Imagine that a few days later a box is left at your door with a note saying, “In this box we will bring your children’s heads.”

For those who live in the West, it’s difficult to imagine such things, yet this is an everyday reality for Christians living in the Middle East and North Africa. *Faithkeepers* is a new documentary by the Clarion Project about Christians in Muslim lands who refuse to de-



nounce Christ despite daily persecution, including rape, torture, and murder. The question is, who is keeping faith with the faith keepers? According to Aid to the Church in Need, some **215 million Christians worldwide face severe persecution**, mostly at the hands of Muslims. Yet a recent poll of U.S. Catholics reveals that they are more concerned about climate change than the global persecution of Christians.

Given a list of five global concerns, Catholics put persecution of Christians at the bottom of the list. The plight of LGBT families wasn't on the list, but – seeing how thoroughly Catholics have been indoctrinated on the subject – one can imagine that if it were, it would be ranked as a more serious concern than Christian persecution. In fact, acceptance and inclusion of LGBT families was a main concern of the just concluded World Meeting of Families (WMOF) in Dublin. A featured speaker was Fr. James Martin, S.J.—one of the Church’s loudest voices on behalf of the LGBT community. Several other talks also focused on sensitivity to the special needs of LGBT individuals and their families. By contrast, as far as I can determine, **only one talk out of approximately 100 presentations concerned the plight of persecuted families in the Middle East.** Moreover, the two-page summary of the talk that I read contains neither the words “Christians” nor “Muslims.” Rather, the suffering families were portrayed merely as victims of generic “conflict.” On the one hand, Church leaders pay close attention to the concerns of a tiny minority (gays and lesbians make up approximately 2-3 percent of the general population, while transgenders are probably less than one-half of one percent) who pursue lifestyles that contradict Church teaching. On the other hand, the same leaders pay scant attention to the millions of Christians who are keeping the faith in the face of unrelenting persecution.

As the *Faithkeepers* film points out, Christians in the Middle East face extermination. In 1915, Christians comprised 20 percent of the Middle Eastern population. **Today the number is 4 percent and still declining.** But the film doesn't dwell on statistics. It wisely lets the victims tell the story: A young married woman is abducted, bound, thrown into a room with two other female prisoners, and together with them is tortured and raped. All of them refuse to convert to Islam. A boy witnesses his father's beheading, and becomes mute as a result, but experiences a miraculous recovery when his mother takes the family to a monastery in the hills. A family makes a dangerous escape in a car, with corpses on the road, bullets flying around them, children crying, and gas tank nearing empty.

There is another factor to consider. The abuse scandals have not only taken attention away from the persecution, they have also taken away much of the monetary support that could have been provided by the Church to the persecuted. **Some of the hundreds of millions of dollars that dioceses have paid in hush-money settlements over the years might well have gone to help those Christians in the Middle East and Africa who live in situations of constant danger.** Future Church historians will wonder at this gross inversion of priorities. They will wonder how the Church became so absorbed with sensitivity to sexual sub-cultures that it lost sight of a grave external threat to its very existence. They will also wonder why Church leaders in the early 21st century seemed more concerned with showing solidarity with Islam (witness the USCCB's anti-Islamophobia campaign) than in showing solidarity with persecuted Christians.

This lost perspective won't be easily restored, but a film such as *Faithkeepers* is a step in the right direction. In an age when some Christians want the Church to sacrifice the faith for the sake of their own sexual preferences, *Faithkeepers* acquaints us with **courageous Christians who are willing to sacrifice their lives for the sake of their faith.** Attendees at the WMOF would have benefited if Fr. Martin's tendentious speech had been replaced with a showing of this illuminating film.

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