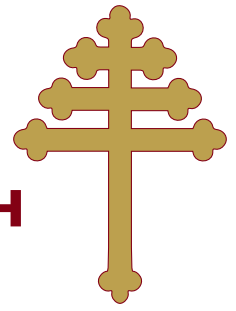




Welcome to **SAINT MARON MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH**



ABOUT ST. MARON PARISH

**613 Main Street
Torrington, CT 06790**

PARISH OFFICE
(860) 489-9015

PARISH EMAIL
office@saintmaronchurch.org

PASTOR
Fr. Fadi Khawand
860-489-9015

DEACON
Steven Marcus

SUB-DEACON
Michael Soliani

FINANCE
**Dr Jorge Baujin
Richard Noujaim
Carlos Nejaime
Mike Nejaime**

PARISH COUNCIL
**Judy Theeb
Helen Piechocki
Pascale Nejaime**

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

Please contact our priest ASAP after the birth of your child.

RECONCILIATION

Before or after Liturgy or by appointment

MARRIAGE

Couples must contact our priest six months before the wedding.

Find us on

<https://www.facebook.com/SaintMaronTorrington>

Be sure to visit from time to time for National Maronite News, pictures of parish events and other announcements!

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD: THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

Adoration 4:00 p.m.; Liturgy at 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Rosary at 9:30 a.m.; Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-18



Flight into Egypt / Killing of the Infants
The Apostle said: Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had

been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two

years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." This is the truth. Peace be with you.



THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT, c. 1515. Vittore Carpaccio. National Gallery of Art. Washington, D.C.

Father will pray the
ANAPHORA OF SAINT JOHN MARON
beginning on page 897

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 28 at 4:30 p.m.

For the repose of the soul of Charles Nader
Requested by Jorge & Hortensia Fernandez-Baujin

For the repose of the souls of
Maria and Paulo D'Addona
Requested by Sal and Linda Rinaldi

Sunday, December 29 at 10:00 a.m.

For the repose of the souls of
Roberto & Mariana Baujin
Requested by the family

Saturday, January 4 at 4:30 p.m.

For the repose of the souls of
Juan & Rosario Mercham
Requested by the family

For the repose of the soul of Egidio Recidivi
Requested by Nick and Patty Zabbara

Sunday, January 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Available

Saturday, January 11 at 4:30 p.m.

For the repose of the soul of Egidio Recidivi
Requested by Sub-Deacon Mike and Lisa Soliani

For the repose of the soul of Theresa Formaggioni
Requested by Sub-Deacon Mike and Lisa Soliani

CHURCH SUPPORT

Because of the Christmas /New Year holidays and short production weeks, the collections for the weekends of December 28/29 and January 4/5 will be reported the week of January 11/12.

THOUGHTS FROM THE SAINTS

Do everything for love. Thus there will be no little things: everything will be big. Perseverance in little things for love is heroism.

-- St. Josemaria Escrivá

Cheerfulness consists in not regarding things as our own, but as entrusted to us by God for the benefit of our fellow-servants. It consists in scattering them abroad generously with joy and magnanimity, not reluctantly or under compulsion.

-- St. Symeon the New Theologian

Somehow I am necessary for His purposes, as necessary in my place as an Archangel in his.

--St. John Henry Newman

The great danger for family life, in the midst of any society whose idols are pleasure, comfort and independence, lies in the fact that people close their hearts and become selfish.

-- St. John Paul II



OUR LADY OF ELIGE

Fr. Thomas Boyer wrote a little reflection a while back on Our Lady of Elige, an icon that we here at St. Maron are fortunate to have in the church. I have been wanting to share it with you. --Fr. Fadi

I have been very attentive to this icon and I did a little research about it recently. Some of you already may have taken a closer look, and I encourage you all to do so. Some of you may well have heard this before, but just in case there are those who are wondering about this icon, here is what I learned.

This is a unique and beautiful icon. It is known as Our Lady of the Maronites, and depicts the Virgin Mother supporting on her lap the Child Jesus Christ. It was discovered at the Patriarchal Church of Elige, Lebanon and is dated to around the 10th Century. This original image had been painted over several times. After uncovering several layers, the original icon has been revealed.

The age and authenticity is supported by the blue color of Mary's robe (deep blue) and Christ's (deep purple). These details are faithful to the Syriac tradition dating to the 6th Century. Blue signifies divinity, and purple signifies royalty. The halos of both figures are simple wide gold bands typical of Syriac iconography, without typical Byzantine influence, which usually has a cross in Christ's halo and lettering for the "Mother of God" in the Lady's.

Jesus is imparting a blessing with his right hand. In blessing, you will note that He has three fingers are joined. In the symbolism of icons, this is a profession of faith in the Trinity. Looking closely at the right hand of Mary, you may notice a gesture that declares the two-fold nature of Christ: human and divine. As is typical in Syriac icons, the Virgin Mother's hair is completely concealed and covered by the headband worn in the Semitic culture. The two star-like symbols on Mary's head and shoulder represent her enduring virginity before and after Christ's birth.

EPISTLE

HEBREWS 11:23-31 FAITH OF THE ANCIENTS

Brothers and Sisters:

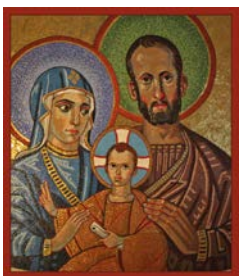
By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the king's anger; for he persevered as though he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. Praise be to God always!



TWO SHORT REFLECTIONS ON THE HOLY FAMILY AND THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT BY TWO RECENT POPES:

"May the Holy Family, who had to overcome many painful trials, watch over all the families in the world, especially those who are experiencing difficult situations. May the Holy Family also help men and women of culture and political leaders so that they may defend the institution of the family, based on marriage, and so that they may sustain the family as it confronts the grave challenges of the modern age! During this Year of the Eucharist may Christian families find the light and strength to be united and to grow as the 'domestic church' especially in their diligent participation in the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday." -- Saint Pope John Paul II, Prayer from Angelus *Message for the Feast of the Holy Family 2004*

"With the flight into Egypt and the return to the promised land, Jesus grants the definitive Exodus. He is truly the Son. He is not going to run away from the Father. He returns home, and he leads others home.



He is always on the path toward God and thus he leads the way back from exile to the homeland, back to all that is authentic and true." -- Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*

Detail of the apse mosaic in the St. Joseph's chapel of Westminster Cathedral, London. It was installed in 2003; the designer is Christopher Hobbs who worked with mosaic artist, Tessa Hunkin. Photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.



The Pastor's Corner

SHORT ARTICLES AND NOTES

My Dear Friends:

First and most importantly: I would like to thank all of you for the great generosity of your hearts that you have shown to my family and me this Christmas and always.

Now, a little more on St. Maron: Saint Maron, born in the middle of the 4th century in Syria, was a priest who later became a hermit, retiring to a mountain of Taurus in the region of Cyrrhus, near Antioch. His holiness and miracles attracted many followers.

Fr. Fadi

Pastor's Corner is sponsored by Torrington Savings Bank



PSALM NINETY-ONE

A prayer of someone who has taken refuge in the Lord. The psalmist is confident that God's presence will protect the people in every dangerous situation. The final verses are an oracle of salvation promising salvation to those who trust in God.

- 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shade of the Almighty,
- 2 Say to the LORD, "My refuge and fortress,
my God in whom I trust."
- 3 He will rescue you from the fowler's snare,
from the destroying plague,
- 4 He will shelter you with his pinions,
and under his wings you may take refuge;
his faithfulness is a protecting shield.
- 5 You shall not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,
- 6 Nor the pestilence that roams in darkness,
nor the plague that ravages at noon.
- 7 Though a thousand fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
near you it shall not come.
- 8 You need simply watch;
the punishment of the wicked you will see.
- 9 Because you have the LORD for your refuge
and have made the Most High your stronghold,
- 10 No evil shall befall you,
no affliction come near your tent.
- 11 For he commands his angels with regard to you,
to guard you wherever you go.
- 12 With their hands they shall support you,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
- 13 You can tread upon the asp and the viper,
trample the lion and the dragon.
- 14 Because he clings to me I will deliver him;
because he knows my name I will set him on high.
- 15 He will call upon me and I will answer;
I will be with him in distress;
I will deliver him and give him honor.
- 16 With length of days I will satisfy him,
and fill him with my saving power.



Bingo Night!

Mondays
Early BINGO
 Starting @ 6PM
REGULAR BINGO
 STARTING @ 7PM

Sealed Tickets

Saint Maron Church
 613 Main Street • Torrington, CT

BIG Jack pot!

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