We are the Maronite Eastern Catholic Community of Saint Joseph Parish in Sandy Springs GA, part of the Universal Catholic Church. We follow and preserve the rich traditions and heritage of the Monastic Maronite Antiochene Catholic Eastern Syriac rite. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered by our baptismal promises and the Lord’s disciples as stewards of God’s bountiful gifts. Our purpose is to joyfully proclaim the presence of Christ to the total community by dedicating ourselves to worshiping, teaching, learning and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are a family of God who works together for the spiritual, physical and social growth of the community. We respect every individual regardless of race or ethnic origin and we welcome them as part of our community. We are committed to preserve and pass-on our Eastern Antiochene tradition and spiritual heritage to our children.
March 15, 2020

Parable of the Prodigal Son

Readings of the Week

Sunday, 3/15  
2 Cor 13:5-13  
Lk 15:11-32

Monday, 3/16  
2 Cor 9:1a, 5-15  
Lk 9:37-45

Tuesday, 3/17  
1 Cor 16:15-24  
Mk 8:22-26

Wednesday, 3/18  
Rom 14:1-13  
Lk 7:1-10

Thursday, 3/19  
Eph 3:1-13  
Mt 1:18-25

Friday, 3/20  
2 Cor 12:21-13:5  
Mt 9:27-35

Saturday, 3/21  
2 Tim 4:9-19  
Mk 3:1-12

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 14  
5:00 PM
For Michael Knoblock,  
requested by Celina Knoblock

Sunday, March 15  
9:00 AM
For Emil Boassy,  
requested by Fred and June Isaf.

11:00 AM
For Doumit and Violette Frangieh,  
requested by Fouad Frangieh and Family

Wednesday, March 18  
10:00 AM
For Rowanda Isaf,  
requested by Fred and June Isaf

Prayer Requests

To offer a Mass for a loved one, please stop by the parish office or call us to check the schedule and book your Mass.

Visiting the Sick

If you know a parishioner who is sick or shut-in, and who would like Father to visit, please send that person’s contact information to the parish office: info@sjmcc.org or 404-525-2504.

Altar Servers

New altar servers will “shadow” our experienced altar servers Alex, Marco, and Rohan at this Sunday’s 11am Divine Liturgy. Arrive at least 15 minutes beforehand. Female altar attendants should see Deacon Bob 15 minutes before the Divine Liturgy and immediately after the Liturgy for before and after duties.

Easter Lilies

If you would like to donate Easter lilies for the altars, please take an order form and envelope from the vestibule of the chapel. Lilies cost $10 per plant and may be given in memory of a loved one. Names of donors and loved ones will be published in the parish bulletin.
### Calendar March 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date, March</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 1</td>
<td>The Healing of the Leper; Ladies Altar and Rosary Society meets at 10AM in the conference room. Knights of Columbus meets at 10AM in the library.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, March 2</td>
<td>Feast of St. John Maron</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 5</td>
<td>Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, 7PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 6</td>
<td>7PM Stations of the Cross, followed by Lenten supper.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 8</td>
<td>Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman; Daylight Savings Time begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 12</td>
<td>Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, 7PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 13</td>
<td>7PM Stations of the Cross, followed by Lenten supper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 15</td>
<td>Parable of the Prodigal Son; Film “The Greatest Miracle” at 10:30 and 12:45 in the conference room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 19</td>
<td>Feast of St. Joseph</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 20</td>
<td>7PM Stations of the Cross, followed by Lenten supper.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 22</td>
<td>Healing of the Paralytic; Knights of Columbus Spaghetti dinner after 11AM Liturgy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, March 23</td>
<td>Feast of St. Rafka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 26</td>
<td>Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 27</td>
<td>7PM Stations of the Cross, followed by Lenten supper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 29</td>
<td>Healing of the Blind Man; Ladies Society leads Rosary at 10AM (in English) and 10:20 (in Arabic).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Thank You!**

Judy Nassar, Ghada Osta, Susie Hagley, Roula Bassil, Nayla Younes, Rita Ghorra, and Sara Younes for the supper on March 6.

And the Choir for the supper on March 13.

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**Stations of the Cross and Lenten Suppers**

We continue our tradition of praying the Stations of the Cross every Friday night at 7PM during Lent, followed by a Lenten supper. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule of the chapel, if you would like to provide one of the Lenten suppers.

We need volunteers for April 3.
March 15, 2020

Parable of the Prodigal Son

If you are of Lebanese descent and want to obtain your Lebanese nationality, contact:

Nelly Younes Daou, representative for "Project Roots".

Arabic Classes

It is not too late to register for Arabic classes!!

For information, please contact:
Nelly Younes Daou at nellyydaou@hotmail.com or Perla Osta at perlaosta1@gmail.com.

In celebration of the feast of our patron, Saint Joseph, the Knights of Columbus will host a spaghetti dinner after the 11AM Liturgy on Sunday, March 22.

Please join us in the parish hall to celebrate this parish feast!!

Clergy Retreat

Father Tony will attend the Clergy Retreat for the Eparchy of Saint Maron from Monday, March 23 through Friday, March 27. Therefore, there will be no weekday Masses while he is out of town.

Please pray for Father Tony and for all the clergy of the Eparchy during this time of spiritual renewal.

The Outreach Ministry is collecting soda can tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Please drop them in the little paper houses in the chapel vestibule or give them to Kathie Calabrese. Thank you!

The francophonie Atlanta Festival is participating in the Francophonie Festival in Atlanta!


For more information, contact Habib Osta at ostah@msn.com
Our renovation has begun!!!
Please be patient with us as we undertake the long-awaited renovation!
During this time, we cannot celebrate the Liturgy in the main sanctuary.
All three weekend Liturgies
Saturday 5PM
Sunday 9AM
Sunday 11AM
will be celebrated in the chapel.

Mercy Meal Policy
On account of our contract with the Apostles Learning Center, it is not possible to use the parish hall for Mercy Meals on weekdays. The school has very strict policies concerning the security of the children in their care and they cannot open their facilities to us while the children are in the building.
Thank you for your cooperation with this policy.

Lenten Guidelines for Fasting
All Maronites who are physically capable are to abstain from meat on Ash Monday (March 04, 2019) and all Fridays of Lent.
Ash Monday and the Great Friday of the Crucifixion are also days of fasting. Fasting in the Maronite Church involves eating and drinking nothing at all (except water and medicine) from midnight until noon. The rest of the day normal meals can be taken, but without meat. All Maronites who are physically capable are to fast on these two days.

Clergy, religious and laity who wish to observe the more traditional Maronite practice of fasting and abstinence are encouraged to do so. That practice is summarized in the following, taken from the Synod of Mt. Lebanon (1736): Every weekday of Lent (Monday through Friday) is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products (eggs, butter, milk, etc.) Fasting involves eating and drinking nothing at all (except water and medicine) from midnight until noon. The rest of the day normal meals can be taken, but without meat or dairy products. Dairy products are excluded because they are animal byproducts. Saturdays and Sundays are exempt from fasting and abstaining, as are the following four feast days: St. Maron - February 9, The 40 Martyrs - March 9, St. Joseph - March 19, and the Annunciation - March 25.
Attention, all parishioners, male and female, young and old! The Ladies Altar and Rosary Society is sponsoring their bi-annual bake sale after all Masses on Palm Sunday weekend, April 4th and 5th. The ladies welcome any donations of Middle Eastern delicacies to make this church fundraiser a successful one. Pre-orders are also welcome. To let us know what items you would like to donate and/or pre-order, please contact Nancy Mondalek at nsp963@aol.com. Thank you for supporting our efforts to support St. Joseph’s!

Decorated candles for Palm Sunday and Easter are available, starting Sunday March 15 before and after both Masses. For pre-order and custom - made candles please contact Denise Farhat or Rita Ghorra. Quantity is limited. All proceeds go to benefit the church-sponsored charities.

Thank you for your support.
Cancelled!!!
Two screenings of “The Greatest Miracle, scheduled for Sunday March 15
are cancelled.

Ladies breakfast, scheduled for Sunday March 15, is cancelled.

What is Palm Sunday?
Get-together for children, scheduled for Saturday,
April 4 has been
Cancelled!!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter into the season of preparation through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, I ask you to recall all the
ways in which God has blessed you. As you reflect on that, I also ask you to consider supporting the
Eparchy of Saint Maron with a donation to our 2020 Lenten Appeal, to further the Eparchy’s mission of
service to God’s faithful people.

Your generosity towards this year’s Annual Eparchial Appeal will support:

➤ Seminarians: We currently have five men preparing for the priesthood. Our seminarians are our future
priests, and we want them to get the best education and formation possible. We need your help to invest in
their education and formation. Each seminarian costs about $45,000 per year, in the form of tuition, books,
room, board, health insurance and other costs. 40% of your contribution to this year’s Annual Appeal
will go for Seminarians.

➤ Ministries: Our ministries to young people, the elderly, families, and in defense of life from conception to
natural death, help people in the most vulnerable times in their lives. Please help ensure that the Eparchy can
help those in need when they need help the most. 30% of your contribution will go to support Ministries.

➤ Retired Priests: Collectively, the 15 retired priests of the Eparchy served the faithful for over 50 years.
Now, we help them with a modest pension of $2,000 per month. 20% of your contribution will go to
support Retired Priests.

➤ Helping in Lebanon and the Middle East: The Eparchy assists Lebanon and the Middle East in multiple
ways, for example: by applying for grants to American foundations and donors, advocating for the persecuted
Christians of the Middle East with the U.S. government, and channeling and providing direct financial
assistance. 15% of your contribution will go to support Christians in Lebanon and the Middle East.

➤ Endowment: The Eparchy’s Endowment Fund provides a source of income each year for the needs of the
Eparchy and ensures that the Eparchy will have resources in the future. It also provides a “rainy day fund”
if needed in the future. 10% of your contribution will be deposited into the Eparchy’s Endowment.

I pray that you will open your heart once again and consider giving a gift. Your participation in this Annual
Appeal makes a positive difference in the lives of so many people, both inside the Eparchy, and outside of
it in the Middle East. Any gift you make will help.

Thank you, and may God bless you for your generosity. I wish you a blessed Lent and Easter.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+ Gregory J. Manour

PS: Please also consider remembering the Eparchy and your parish in your estate plan, or as the
beneficiary of an insurance policy, retirement plan or charitable gift annuity. Thank you.
A Special “Thank You” for our supporters. Our weekly bulletin reaches more than 600 people by both email and print. We encourage you to advertise your business and share the services you can offer to other parishioners. To advertise in the bulletin, send us your business card. Suggested donation $200 per year.

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The Respect Life Ministry will meet on Sunday, March 22, at 10AM in the conference room.

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