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.
October 4, 2020

Third Sunday after Holy Cross (Holy Rosary Sunday)

Readings of the Week

| Sunday, 10/4 | Phil 3:17-4:1 | Mt 24:23-31 |
| Monday, 10/5 | Rev 7:9-17   | Mt 24:32-44 |
| Tuesday, 10/6| Rev 10:1-11  | Lk 6:20-26  |
| Wednesday, 10/7 | Rev 11:1-12 | Lk 5:33-39  |
| Thursday, 10/8 | Rev 12:1-12  | Lk 21:34-38 |
| Friday, 10/9  | Rev 13:1, 2b-4, 6-7, 11-12, 15-18 | Jn 5:17-23 |
| Saturday, 10/10 | Rev 14:1-8, 13 | Jn 5:24-30 |

Mass Intentions

Sunday, October 4
11:00 AM
For Rocco Calabrese,
Requested by Deacon Bob and Kathie Calabrese

Tuesday, October 6
10:00 AM
For Wally Greene,
Requested by Georgette Samaritan

Wednesday, October 7
10:00 AM
For Theresa Shiner,
Requested by Tom and Mary Brunner

Thursday, October 8
10:00 AM
For Deacon James Stone,
Requested by Fred and June Isaf

Friday, October 9
10:00 AM
For Edith June Isaf,
Requested by Fred and June Isaf

Saturday, October 10
5:00 PM
For William and Genevieve Delgross,
Requested by Linda and Brian Delgross

Holy Hour of Adoration
Friday, October 2
7:00 PM

Every Thursday at
9:30 AM
(before Mass)

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.
Order of Saint Sharbel Sunday, October 11

JOIN THE ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL
TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF MARONITE SEMINARIANS
AND HELP BUILD THE FUTURE OF THE MARONITE CHURCH

Meet this year’s Seminarians for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn

JOIN THE ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL TODAY
Enroll online at www.orderstsharbel.org or in your Parish.

For more information about the Order, contact the Order of Saint Sharbel
Vice President, Charlene Hiffa at mchiffa@bellsouth.net or ask your Parish Priest.
If you are interested in becoming a Priest, Religious Sister, or Deacon, contact Vocations Director
Father Dominique Hanna at (718) 624-7228 or cathrectory@verizon.net.
Guidelines for Liturgy

The Archbishop of Atlanta encourages all who are healthy to return to church for Mass and the Sacraments. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Divine Liturgy remains in effect through September, if you are in a vulnerable condition and believe it is too soon for you to return to church.

For reasons of health and safety and to conform to our governor’s guidelines, we shall continue to hold our Liturgies in the following manner:

There will be two Divine Liturgies on weekends during September, one at 5 PM on Saturday and one at 11 AM on Sunday. In order to ensure that we will have enough room for the required social distancing, please attend the 5PM Liturgy on Saturday if possible, so that the 11 AM Liturgy on Sunday will not be too crowded.

• The Divine Liturgy will have a 50% seating capacity. Acolytes will not serve.
• Every second pew will be available for seating. Members of the same household can sit together. Everyone else should maintain social distance of six feet when seated, in the Communion line, and while entering / leaving church.
• No one will be admitted without a mask (bring your own), which must be worn during the entire Divine Liturgy.
• Parishioners over the age of 65, or those with compromised immune systems, or those who are in contact with persons with vulnerable health conditions are encouraged not to attend the Divine Liturgy. Parents are discouraged from bringing children under the age of 5.
• Our Maronite bishop wants us to continue our practice of receiving Holy Communion on the tongue. However, if you wish to receive in your hands, you may do so.
• Parishioners should not congregate in vestibule or parking lot and should proceed directly to their cars. The Sunday Coffee hour remains canceled until further notice.

These norms will remain in effect until circumstances require or permit a change.

May our Blessed Mother protect all of us from all evil.
Devotedly yours in Christ,
Rev Tony Akoury
Anchored in Hope
VIRTUAL REGIONAL MYO RETREAT
Blessed are those who trust in the Lord; the Lord will be their hope.
Jeremiah 17:7

Southern & Far Southern Region:
October 24th
6:30 - 8 PM (EST)

Register at maroniteyouth.org

Email the MYYA Office at myyaoffice@gmail.com with any questions.

Adult Faith Formation Fall 2020
Maronite Spirituality
Learn more about the Maronite Faith and Traditions.
Open to all adults in our Eparchy of St. Maron Brooklyn

Virtual Workshops
OCT. 1: THE MARONITE CHURCH
FR. DOMINIQUE HANNA
OCT. 15: SCRIPTURE & Typology
FR. VINCE FARMAT
OCT. 22: STS. EPHREM & JAMES OF SERUG
FR. JAMES DORAN
OCT. 29: VOCATIONS IN THE MARONITE CHURCH
FR. ELIE MIKHAEL

Via Zoom on Thursdays 8:00-9:15PM
Register Here
HOSTED BY THE MARONITE SERVANTS OF CHRIST THE LIGHT
The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary and to respect for life. Please join the Ladies Altar and Rosary Society for the prayer of the Rosary every Sunday during the month of October at 10 AM in the chapel. The Rosary will be prayed in both Arabic and English. We will offer our prayers especially for these intentions:
For all those who are facing serious medical or spiritual difficulties.
For the re-opening of our church and the flourishing of our parish.
For the protection of and respect for life, marriage, and family.

We are now working with FlowerCraft to create arrangements befitting our beautifully renovated sanctuary! Parishioners are welcome to donate a month’s altar flowers in memory of or in honor of a loved one, and families may like to contribute together. If you would like to donate, please contact Maryse Murad at marysemurad@gmail.com

The flowers for the altar are given by Fred and June Isaf in honor of Christa Isaf and Mark Worley.
Demand a COVID-19 Vaccine Free from Abortion

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked all Catholics to contact the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar, to prevent the use of cell lines from aborted babies in vaccines for the corona virus. Please follow this link to the website where you will be able to write directly to Secretary Azar.

https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/Campaigns/73486/Respond

CALL TO ACTION ON ABORTION PILL

A rising threat to the lives of unborn babies is the chemical abortion pill. The number of chemical abortions in the US has gone up dramatically, while the overall number of abortions has decreased. COVID-19 is expected to only make the problem worse, with more women (and teen girls) seeking chemical abortions at home—even illegally, by mail and without a doctor’s prescription. This is especially scary because chemical abortion can be more painful, traumatic, and risky for women than surgical abortion. But there is hope: a new bill has been introduced that could help protect mothers and babies from chemical abortion.

SAVE Moms and Babies Act (H.R. 4399 / S. 3072)

The Support and Value Expectant (SAVE) Moms & Babies Act (H.R. 4399 / S. 3072) could help improve regulation of chemical abortion pills. The SAVE Moms & Babies Act would codify current FDA (Food and Drug Administration) safety regulations requiring physicians to dispense the pills, prevent providers from dispensing these drugs remotely, by mail, or via tele-medicine, and prevent the (FDA) from approving new chemical abortion drugs or from making labeling changes to existing abortion drugs.

Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith introduced S. 3072. On Tuesday, September 22, she plans to go to the Senate floor to ask the Senate to adopt the bill by “unanimous consent”. While this request is unlikely to succeed (it only takes one member to object), this request will provide an opportunity to talk about the dangers of chemical abortion and to raise awareness about the need for this bill. You can watch Senator Hyde-Smith’s request and other pro-life senators’ comments live on Tuesday, tentatively scheduled for 4:15ET.

Please TAKE ACTION NOW to urge your Senators and Representative to co-sponsor and work to enact S. 3072 or H.R. 4399 or to thank them if they have already done so

Thank Sanofi Pasteur for Pro-life Vaccines

The FDA recently approved Sanofi Pasteur’s request to switch from using an aborted fetal cell line (MRC-5) to using an ethical animal cell line to produce its polio combination vaccines Pentacel and Quadracel. The drug company has also chosen to discontinue production of its stand-alone polio vaccine, Poliovax, which also used MRC-5 for its production, and to retain another stand-alone polio vaccine, IPOL, that is ethically produced. Furthermore, Sanofi-Pasteur’s ongoing effort to develop a vaccine for COVID-19 also does not rely on cell lines linked to elective abortion.

One important step we can take to ensure the production of ethical vaccines is to recognize and thank drug companies, like Sanofi Pasteur, when they move away from unethical vaccine production. We can hope that, with some encouragement, other vaccine manufacturers may consider creating other morally acceptable vaccines.

Any motivation to create additional, morally acceptable products will certainly be strengthened if we can show a market demand for ethical sources.

Please TAKE ACTION NOW to thank Sanofi-Pasteur and to encourage others to do so as well.
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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