

St. John Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



PASTOR

Father Elie G. Kairouz

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Parish Center632-9875
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HOLY NAME SOCIETY

Richard Saffire, Jr., Pres.288-9052
Robert Di Sibio, Sec.632-7895

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

Vicki Karam, Pres.689-9230
Paula Chameli, Sec.636-1416

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Albert Farah837-6917

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Corinne Sindo834-7301



ST. JOHN MARON PARISH

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Maronite family in Western New York, descendants of the Church of Antioch and children of Beit Maroun, are part of the Universal Church, the faithful Bride who was betrothed by the Eternal bridegroom. Protected under the wings of the Cross, nourished by the Body and Blood of our Savior, empowered by the Holy Spirit, bonded by prayer and supported by each other, we are committed, through Time, Talent and Treasure, to preserve the faith of Peter, to hand down the torch of our precious heritage to our children and to promote human life and dignity in our community and in the world.

DIVINE LITURGIES

Weekdays 8:00 AM
Holy Days 7:00 PM Vigil, 8:00 AM & 7:00 PM
Weekends 5:00 PM Saturday; 10:00 AM & 12:15 PM Sunday
July - August 5:00 PM Saturday; 11:00 AM Sunday
Eucharistic adoration 7:00 PM; 1st Tuesday of every month

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sundays (September through May) 11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Parents who fail to give their children a religious education and parishioners who do not attend Divine Liturgy at St. John Maron church regularly will be denied the privilege of being sponsors for the Mysteries of Initiation. Parents must be active parishioners and must attend church regularly in order to enroll their children in the Religious Education program of St. John Maron.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Upon request or according to the following schedule:

Saturday 4:30 – 4:50 PM
Sunday 9:30 – 9:50 AM and 11:45 – 12:05 PM

HOSPITAL & SICK CALLS

Immediate family members only may contact the pastor at: (716) 634-0669

MYSTERIES OF INITIATION

Baptisms and Confirmation arrangements must be made six (6) weeks in advance. Children should be baptized within forty (40) days after birth according to our Maronite Tradition. Godparents must be practicing Catholics and must present a letter of recommendation from their pastor if they do not belong to St. John Maron Church. Parishioners who do not attend St. John Maron Church regularly will be denied the privilege of being sponsors for the Mysteries of Initiation.

MYSTERY OF CROWNING

Marriage arrangements must be made at least one (1) year in advance. A Baptismal Certificate dated no older than six (6) months before the ceremony must be provided. The couple must make the Pre-Cana Conferences or their equivalent and present the evidence. Those who plan to get married outside of the United States and need a testimonial for Free State to Marry must contact the Pastor at least six (6) months before they travel.



2040 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221

****SUNDAY'S MESSAGE****

AUGUST 1, 2010

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

The Poor and the Invitation to the Banquet of the Kingdom (Luke 14:12-24)

During the time of Jesus, in Palestine, when a certain man had a banquet the day was announced long beforehand and the invitations were sent out and accepted; but the hour was not announced. When the day of the banquet came and all things were ready, ushers were sent out to summon the already invited guests. To accept the invitation beforehand and then to turn it down the day of the banquet was a serious insult to the host.

In this Parable the master stands for God. The originally invited guests stand for the Jews. Throughout their history, the Jews looked forward to the day when God would break in; and when He did, they tragically refused His invitation. The poor people from the streets and lanes stand for the tax collectors and sinners who welcomed Jesus in a way in which the orthodox never did. Those gathered in from the roads and the hedges stand for the gentiles for whom there was still ample room at the feast of God.

Unfortunately, there are many claims on our lives that easily turn us away from our creator and they are summarized in Jesus' parable as follows: (1) Possessions, (2) Novelties and (3) Pleasures.

1. Possessions: The first man said that he bought a field and was going out to see it. This man allowed the claims of business to usurp the claims of God. How true this is, especially when we get so immersed in things of this world and find no time to pray or worship.

2. Novelties: The second man said that he bought five yoke of oxen and that he was going to test them. This man let the claims of novelty usurp the claim of God. How true this is, especially when we purchase new items we become so taken up with them that we forget about worshipping our creator who provided everything for our lives. It is unfortunate to think that new games, new hobbies, new friendship or new possessions take up our time, occupy our mind and divert our whole being from a short time on Sunday to be with God.

3. Pleasures: The third man said "I have married a wife, and I cannot come." For the Jews of the Old Testament a wonderful law was laid down. It noted that "when a man is newly married, he was not to be listed in the army or be charged with any business; he shall be free at home for one entire year, to be happy with his wife whom he had taken" (Deuteronomy 24:5). This man, without any doubt, had this law in mind when he received the invitation. Here is the real test for us. Do we love ourselves, a mother, a father, a child or a spouse more than God? The most wonderful thing a family should have is the love of each other and the love of God without any selfishness whatsoever. They live best together those who live with God; they serve each other best those who also serve their follow-men. A Christian family's most rewarding thing is the fact that members of the family remember that they are also members of the greater Christian family and the household of God.

Should there be anyone or anything in life to alienate us from God? Should these three claims separate us from God who created us, and made all things possible for us? Should we think that we are too important, or too occupied to answer God's invitation? Should we think that we are too busy to come to God's house on Sunday? Should we think that we get no satisfaction out of being with God? After all, everything we possess, who we are, and all that we have, come from Him. Let us pay heed to the first commandment, put God before anyone else and answer in the affirmative for his wonderful invitation.

Rev. Georges Y. El-Khalli

****THE DIVINE LITURGIES****

THIS WEEKEND

5:00 PM Sat. July 31
11:00 AM Sun. August 1

Joseph & Rose Assaf
 Jewel Attea (40 Day)
 Amelia & Mamie Moran

REQUESTED BY

Elizabeth Assaf
 M/M Frank Attea & Family
 Zaine Joseph

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

8:00 AM Monday
8:00 AM Tuesday
8:00 AM Wednesday
8:00 AM Thursday
8:00 AM Friday

Jewel Attea
 Sarkis Elias
 Sharon Seklecki & Parents
 Halim Habib
 Jewel Attea

REQUESTED BY

Pat & Ken Lehner
 M/M Samir Mansour
 Anna Lahood
 Amy Habib & Family
 Anna & Tom Matassa

NEXT WEEKEND

5:00 PM Sat. August 7
11:00 AM Sun. August 8

Halim Habib
 Semaan Mahfoud (Anniversary)

REQUESTED BY

Amy Habib & Family
 M/M Joseph Almkiftifi

PARISH EVENTS

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

August 6th is the Feast of the Transfiguration. "After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them."

THE FEAST OF ST. DOUMIT (DIED 363)

St. Doumit was a contemporary to St. Ephrem and lived in the same vicinity. He started life as a pagan and was given an appointment by his King to persecute Christians. As he was strategizing, he was struck with a terrible and painful affliction which could not be cured. Like St. Paul, St. Doumit realized he was being punished by God for persecuting Christians, and he repented of his sins. He then lived a hermits life in a cave, weeping bitterly to atone for his past. After 32 years of suffering, he was miraculously cured and received from God the power to cure others. He is portrayed in our church window curing a paralyzed beggar. He is the patron of those suffering from arthritis, Parkinson's disease and infirmities of bones and muscles. His feast day is August 7th, right after the Feast of the Transfiguration, a significant placement reflecting Doumit's own spiritual awakening and transformation.

WEEKLY PARISH SUPPORT

It is the support system for our Parish. St. John Maron Parish exists to Support Your Faith & Attend to Your Spiritual Needs, but we cannot keep our doors opened without Your Faithful Weekly Financial Support. Please **Remember to Make Up your Weekly Envelopes** (Weekly, Fuel, Building Fund etc.) for your Saint John Maron Parish...when returning after being away for Vacation, Travel, etc...The support of our Parish is the responsibility of us all and not just a few. Thank you in advance for your understanding and your generosity. May God Bless you!

PARISH REGISTER

Now that many people use cell phones, we urge you to provide us your new cell number. If you have changed your mailing address and home telephone, we ask you to share them with us. We like to keep our parish address list updated and the purpose of this is twofold: it allows church mailings to reach you in a timely manner, and it saves the church money since the Post Office charges to forward the mail.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS

We will be needing a few teachers and substitute teachers for the upcoming year. More information will be coming on what grades we are looking for, but you can contact Corinne Sindo if you are interested at cstigger2@yahoo.com or the rectory. We know your time is valuable, but we hope you will consider volunteering.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP

This week the Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the Deceased of the Russell & Martino Families, requested by Elizabeth Russell.

The Sanctuary Lamp is located by the altar of St. John Maron. It will burn for the entire week. Offering for the lamp is only \$10 per week. It is scheduled on a first-come-first-serve-basis to ensure an equal opportunity for everyone.



Next week it will burn for Yacoub Dabbikeh, requested by John & Amy Zavitz.

THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Marie Abounader, Jeanne D'Arc Abou-Antoun, Magid Mansour, Rose Manzella, Lillian Noah, Raghad Dabbikeh Schroeder, & Lily Simon

Please remember the sick of our family in your prayers

FESTIVAL

Next weekend is our festival! All crews will be preparing for the festival by cooking many food items. Everyone in the parish is urged to come and help so that our festival will be a success. Please donate your time, we need help during the two days of the festival. Please pick whatever venue you are interested in and contact that Chairman. We would like to schedule everyone ahead of time so things run smoothly.

Festival Raffle: There are \$5.00 booklets of extra tickets available to be sold prior to the festival, please contact the El-Hawa's at 712-3151 or the rectory if you wish to receive extra booklets to sell. Also, if you haven't filled out your tickets which were included in the festival mailing and sent them in with \$20 please do so you can be entered in the raffle.

Festival Flyer: You, as parishioners, are the best help and the most effective marketing vehicle. To help publicize the festival, please make as many flyers as you can and share them with your neighbors and local businesses.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Here are more dates for the sexual abuse awareness sessions for September and October:

Sept. 11, 9:00 AM St. Martin de Porres (Buffalo); Sept. 14, 6:30 PM St. Jude the Apostle (N. Ton.); Sept. 15, 6:00 PM Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Elma); Sept. 15, 6:30 PM Our Lady of Lourdes (Bemus Point); Sept. 18, 9:00 AM Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Lakeview); Sept. 29, 6:00 PM Northern Chautauqua Catholic School (Dunkirk); Oct. 4, 6:30 PM St. Philip the Apostle (Cheek.); Oct. 12, 6:30 PM St. Benedict (Eggertsville); Oct. 22, 6:30 PM St. Amelia (Ton.); Oct. 23, 9:00 AM St. Amelia; Oct. 28, 6:00 PM SS. Peter & Paul (Hamburg).

To register on-line go to www.buffalodiocese.org and click on VIRTUS.