



Saints Peter & Paul Maronite Catholic Church

December 2023

www.peterpaultampa.com

peterpaultampa@gmail.com

6201 Sheldon rd, Tampa, Fl, 33615

Weekend Mass Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm - Sunday 11:30 am

Eucharistic Adoration First Thursday of each month At 6:00 pm

Loving God, during this holy season of Christmas we ask for your blessing on our all families. Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways be an inspiration to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph's courage provide hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty.

Let Jesus' life ignite all families with a spirit of light and love. May the grace that encircled the Holy Family widen to embrace all families. Amen.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Baptism:** By appointment, one parent and one sponsor must be practicing Catholics.

- **Confession:** One hour before the Divine Liturgy. At other times by appointment.

- **First Holy Communion :** Celebrated publicly once a year . Please contact Father Fadi to sign up for classes.

- Communion of the Sick:

Please let us know when a loved one is sick, hospitalized, or homebound.

- **Last rites:** Please let us know immediately when a loved one is gravely ill and in danger of death. Be sure to provide for the spiritual needs of your loved ones.

- **Mass intentions:** If you would like to have a Mass offered for your intentions or the intentions of a loved one, living or deceased, please contact the Pastor before two weeks at least .

Lebanese Food Festival of Tampa Bay

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church celebrated their annual 3 days Lebanese Food Festival on November 10-12-13 with a record number of attendance. The Festival is the largest event of the year to support the church and a way to build a sense of community. A great time was had by everyone of all ages. The Food festival included music, traditional folk acts and dance (dabke) performed by our young parishioners to keep with the Lebanese heritage. The event also featured a variety of delicious and authentic foods, pastries and drinks for all to enjoy.

Like every year the festival is always a successful event where the church is able to share its Lebanese roots and heritage with our fellow communities.

Many thanks to all the donors and the helping hands that made this year's festival a memorable success.



Mass Intentions:

- Saturday December 2nd: for the departed soul of Toni Bou Eid requested by the Kataeb Group in Tampa .

For the Departed soul of Gebrayel and Hares Rouhana.

- Sunday December 3rd:
For the departed souls of : Abdo Imad and Aaref and Adelle Maroun.

For the departed soul of Farid Atta and all the Atta family departed souls .

-Sunday December 10th :
The forty day Mass of Sami Akouri followed by the mercy meal .

-Sunday December 17th : for the departed soul of Elie Chouweifat . May his soul rest in peace.

Annoucements:

The Christmas Novena will start on Friday December 15th at 6 PM for 9 consecutive days until December 23 rd .

On Saturday and Sunday, the Novena will take place during the Divine Liturgy right after Holy Communion.

The Divine Liturgy on Saturday is at 6 PM and on Sunday at 11:30AM.

Christmas vigil Mass : Sunday December 24th at 6 pm .

Christmas Day Mass: Monday 25th at 11:30 am .

New year Day Mass Monday January 1st at 6 pm .

Feast Days in December:

12/3 St. Francis Xavier
12/4 St. Barbara
12/5 Birth of John the Baptist
St. Saba the Hermit
12/6 St. Nicholas
(Zakhia)
12/7 St. Ambrose, Doctor of the Church
12/8 The Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation) 12/12 Revelation to Joseph
St. Spiridon the Wonderworker
Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)
12/13 St. Lucy
12/14 St. Nemtallah El-Hardini
12/18 Daniel the Prophet
12/19 Genealogy Sunday
12/20 St. Ignatius of Antioch
12/24 Vigil of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord
12/25 The Glorious Birth of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation) 12/26 Sunday after the Birth of Our Lord
Felicitations to the Virgin Mary
12/28 The Adoration of the Magi
12/29 The Flight into Egypt
The Massacre of the children of Bethlehem 12/30 The Return from Egypt to Nazareth

Merry Christmas to all parishioners.

When the events that were to precede the advent of the Messiah had been fulfilled, according to the predictions of the ancient prophets, Jesus called the Christ, the eternal Son of God, was incarnated in the womb of the Virgin Mary and, made man, was born of her for the redemption of humanity. Since the fall of our first parents, the wise and merciful providence of God had gradually arranged all things for the fulfillment of his promises and the fulfillment of his greatest mystery: the incarnation of his divine Son.

May the Baby Jesus always keep the joy of Christmas alive in your hearts. Merry Christmas to all parishioners.



Join Us for
COFFEE HOURS



- Sunday 3 : Mr. John and Mrs. Nathalie Maroun .
- Sunday 10 : Mr. Charbel and Mrs Elaine Klaib.
- Sunday 17 : Mr Pierre and Mrs Aline Chouweifati.
- Sunday 24 : The Parish
- Sunday 31: The Parish .



Thank you Mrs Racha Eid and Mrs. Sawsan Marcos for the beautiful and prayerful decorations in the Church.

CCD

The Children's Religious Education class will have their next meeting on December 16th starting at 3:30 pm. This will be the Christmas celebration - with a special visitor!!! As always, we encourage all children aged 5-12 to join us! Looking forward to seeing you!



SODALITY

The Maronite Sisters In Christ Sodality will be meeting Wednesday, December 13th at 10:30am right before the Divine Liturgy. They encourage all the women of the parish to join them during their meeting in prayers and fellowship. Colossians 4:2 "Persevere in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."



MYA

Great memories were made at MYA's November meeting. Abouna Fadi led a bible study and discussion about Jesus calming the storm (Mark 4:35-41), reminding all that when God is in our boat, there is nothing to be afraid of. Just as Jesus's disciples were afraid of drowning in a severe storm, we often let fear take over us and forget that Jesus is always watching us and his will prevails. Let us all strive to be strong in our faith and always invite Jesus to our boat/in our lives. After some fun games, MYA members shared in a thanksgiving potluck meal. Everyone contributed and it was a beautiful community of sharing a meal with love and gratitude. Afterwards, MYA members packaged Thanksgiving meals and brought them to downtown Tampa, where they shared them with a smile to the homeless in our community. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the meeting. Mark your calendars for the next MYA meeting on December 17th at 6pm.



Reflection:

What does it mean that Jesus is the Son of God ?

Jesus is not God's Son in the sense of a human father and a son. God did not get married and have a son. God did not mate with Mary and, together with her, produce a son. Jesus is God's Son in the sense that He is God made manifest in human form (John 1:1, 14). Jesus is God's Son in that He was conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit. Luke 1:35 declares, "The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.'"

During His trial before the Jewish leaders, the High Priest demanded of Jesus, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God" (Matthew 26:63). "'Yes, it is as you say,' Jesus replied. 'But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven'" (Matthew 26:64). The Jewish leaders responded by accusing Jesus of blasphemy (Matthew

26:65-66). Later, before Pontius Pilate, "The Jews insisted, 'We have a law, and according to that law He must die, because He claimed to be the Son of God'" (John 19:7).

Jesus is God made manifest: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."



October 2023 Financial Standing

Ordinary Income:

- Collections on the Weekend, Holy Days and ACH, Church Stipends from Marriages, Funerals and Baptism, Candles, Coffee Hour, Raffles, Dues, Checks... : **\$11,952.00**

Extraordinary Income:

-Lenten Supper, MYO and MYA Retreat Fees, Festival, Picnic: \$ 7,525.00 (Festival donations received in October)

Total Ordinary Revenue: \$19,479.39

Ordinary Expenses:

Electricity, Water, Bookkeeping, Medical Insurance, Assessment, Retirement, Rent, Internet, Phone, Alarm, Waste Management, Eparchy Appeal, Cleaning, Maintenance (Landscaping, AC, Pest...)Charity, Church Supplies, Salary and Activity expenses for CCD, MYO and MYA : **\$10,276.00**

Extraordinary Expenditures:

-Insurance (Catholic Mutual Group), MYA Retreat, MYO Activities, Taxes, Festival Event: \$10,833.00

Total Ordinary Expenses : \$21,109.00

Total Ordinary Income vs Expenses: (\$1,630.18)

Total amount in Savings as of 10/31/23: \$274,511.05

Total amount in Checking as of 10/31/23 \$28,661.42

Thank you for your contribution in helping maintain the Church.

Father Fadi Rouhana

Bookkeeping by Heidi Christiansen, Balanced Bookkeeping FL, Inc.



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Congratulations on a very successful Festival! It gets better every year!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who gave their time and assistance!

“For God loves a person who gives cheerfully” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

The Financial Committee along with our Bookkeeper, Heidi Christiansen, have counted all the cash and checks received at the Festival as well as payments via credit card. They have reviewed QuickBooks and confirmed the following figures for the Festival:

Income \$105,197.04

Expenses \$17,621.48

Net Profit \$87,575.56

Our net profit was \$15,000.00 more than last year!



Thank you for always being the greatest supporter for the Parish, we simply couldn't do what we do without amazing Parishioners like you.

Fr. Fadi Rouhana