



# Saints Peter & Paul Maronite Catholic Church

**MAY 2024**

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[peterpaultampa@gmail.com](mailto:peterpaultampa@gmail.com)

**6201 Sheldon rd, Tampa, Fl, 33615**

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

"O most holy Virgin Mary,

Mother of God and our Mother,  
We come to you with confidence,  
Seeking your maternal guidance and protection.  
Pray for us, that we may be worthy  
Of the promises of Christ.

O holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners,  
Now and at the hour of our death.

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 .

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- "You're invited to join us for Mass on May 12th as we celebrate Mother's Day! Following the service, we'll have a special coffee hour and refreshments.\*

- "Please note that Father Fadi will be visiting his family in Lebanon from May 20th to June 13th. During this time, Mass will only be held on Sundays, with no Saturday Masses.\*

- "Join us on May 19th at 11:30 am for a beautiful First Communion ceremony with our precious children! We'll celebrate with cake cutting at Saint Sharbel House after the Mass.\*

- "Throughout the month of May, the sodality will pray the rosary before each Mass. May the Virgin Mary pray for us and guide us."

## First communion

"Beloved in Christ! On May 19th, we will witness a beautiful milestone as Lilybelle Khoury, Geo and Jayden Rimman, Kyle Sahyoun, George Hughes, Stephanie Klaib, and Christina Shehadeh



receive their First Holy Communion! Please keep these precious souls in your prayers as they prepare to partake in the Holy Eucharist for the first time. May this sacred moment bring them closer to God's love and grace.

## Saint Rita Feast

"You are cordially invited to celebrate the Feast of Saint Rita with us! Join us for Mass at Saint Rita Church in Dade City :

14404 14th St, Dade City, FL 33523

on May Friday 17 at 11:00 AM.

Following the Mass, we will gather for a coffee hour to continue the celebration.

( organized by the Sodality )

We hope to see you there as we honor the patron saint of impossible causes!"

--"Dear parishioners,

On behalf of St. Peter and Paul Marah Catholic Church, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Anthony Abraham Foundation for their generous donation of \$25,000. We also extend our thanks to our dear Carmen, who kindly delivered the check in continuation of her beloved father Charlie Maalouf's legacy.

May he rest in peace.

May God bless the Anthony Abraham Foundation and the Maalouf family for their kindness and generosity. With gratitude and blessings.

-- *a heartfelt thank you*

to Mrs. Lina Fraifer for your dedication and resourcefulness in saving the Hosanna Sunday candles and generating a profit of \$600 for the church!

Your efforts are truly appreciated and blessed. May God continue to guide and bless you in all that you do.

-- As we gather to worship and celebrate the Holy Mass, let us remember to dress modestly and respectfully, worthy of the presence of God.

Our church is a sacred space that deserves our reverence and dignity. Please refrain from wearing shorts or other revealing clothing, and instead choose attire that reflects the solemnity and beauty of our faith. As St. Paul reminds us, "Let us approach God with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."

(Hebrews 12:28-29)

Let us show our love and respect for God by dressing appropriately for worship.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. May God bless you all!"



**بيت الرب هو بيت الصلاة**

**الحشمة في الكنيسة**  
The Decency inside the Church

 أرتداء القبعة No Hats	 الحديث والسلامت No talking during church	 اللباس المكشوف No revealing clothing
 بدون الاكمام No sleeveless	 استعمال الهواتف No Cell Phone	 بدون الاكمام No strapless clothing
 اللباس القصير No Shorts	 الاكل والشرب No food or drinks	 اللباس القصير No Short Skirts or Dresses

**أحترام بيت الله هو احترامنا لذاتنا**  
Respect the Lord's Home as you would respect yourself

# May, a month devoted to the Virgin Mary

By Linda Petersen Intermountain Catholic



Since the 13th century, the Catholic Church has designated the month of May, which always falls between Easter and Pentecost, to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. "The Church's devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship," the Catechism of the Catholic Church states. "The Church rightly honors the Blessed Virgin with special devotion. From the most ancient times the Blessed Virgin has been honored with the title of 'Mother of God,' to whose protection the faithful fly in all their dangers and needs." The devotion to Mary differs from the adoration given to the three Persons of the Trinity, "and greatly fosters this adoration," the Catechism notes, adding, "Mary's role in the Church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it."

Since the early days, Church leaders have honored the mother of Jesus Christ. In the second century, St. Irenaeus of Lyons wrote extensively about the Virgin Mary and her role in the salvation of mankind. Since then, many popes have venerated Our Lady; most recently, Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI constantly referenced her in their encyclicals, as does Pope Francis, who prays at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome before and after his travels abroad.

The feast of the Queenship of Mary, now celebrated each year on Aug. 22, previously was celebrated on May 31. It was instituted by Pope Pius XII in his 1954 encyclical *Ad Caeli Reginam* (Queenship of Mary in Heaven), "so that all may recognize more clearly and venerate more devoutly the merciful and maternal sway of the mother of God," he wrote. "

We are convinced that this feast will help to preserve, strengthen and prolong that peace among nations which daily is almost destroyed by recurring crises. Is she not a rainbow in the clouds reaching towards God, the pledge of a covenant of peace?" Last year, Pope Francis consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and recently asked Catholics to annually renew their consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. "Let us not tire of entrusting the cause of peace to the Queen of Peace," he said. "

Therefore, I would like to invite each believer and community, especially prayer groups, to renew every March 25 the act of consecration to Our Lady, so that she, who is Mother, may guard us all in unity and peace."

Perhaps the most well-known devotion in honor of Our Lady is the rosary; this is "among the finest and most praiseworthy traditions of Christian contemplation," Pope John Paul II wrote in his encyclical *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*. "With the rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the mother of the Redeemer."

This month the Church also celebrates the May 13 feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Pope John Paul II credited the Blessed Virgin of Fatima with saving his life after he was shot on her feast day in 1981. He also had a love for Our Lady of Czestochowa, an image of the Virgin Mother which, legend says, was painted by Luke the Evangelist on a tabletop which was built by Jesus. "If we wish to rediscover in all its richness the profound relationship between the Church and the Eucharist, we cannot neglect Mary, Mother and model of the Church," he wrote in his encyclical *Ecclesia De Eucharistia*. "Mary can guide us towards this most holy sacrament, because she herself has a profound relationship with it. ... Mary is a woman of the Eucharist in her whole life.

The Church, which looks to Mary as a model, is also called to imitate her in her relationship with this most holy mystery. ... Mary, throughout her life at Christ's side and not only on Calvary, made her own the sacrificial dimension of the Eucharist."

## MSIC

"The Maronite sisters in Christ met on April 3 at the church, where they adored the Lord Jesus in the blessed sacrament, led by Abouna and Mrs Agnes . Following a beautiful Eucharistic adoration, they gathered at St. Charbel's house for a spiritual reading, led by Mrs. Lana. Mrs. Souad encouraged the group to attend the Mass at St. Rita's Church in Dade City on May 17 at 11 AM to celebrate the feast of St. Rita. Additionally, the group announced that their last meeting of the year will be held on May 1 at St. Charbel's house, featuring special surprises. The meeting concluded with the sisters sharing delicious food and pastries, praising the Lord together."



## MYA NEWS

"The MYA (Maronite Young Adult ) gathered on Sunday, April 28, for their monthly meeting. Clara began by warmly welcoming everyone and encouraging members to attend Sunday Mass regularly, emphasizing the importance of nurturing a close relationship with God. Fr. Fadi then led a thought-provoking discussion on the Gospel of John 18:15-18, 25-27, highlighting the significance of perseverance and faith. Following the spiritual reflection, Micha expertly organized a lively bingo game, bringing joy and laughter to all participants. The evening concluded with a delightful meal, courtesy of Mrs. Vania, who prepared a scrumptious taco salad and fettuccini pasta. The group expressed their heartfelt gratitude to her for her kindness. The next meeting is scheduled for May 19 at 6 pm, and all are eagerly looking forward to it!"



## MYO NEWS

"On Saturday, April 27, the MYO (Maronite Youth Organization) group gathered at 4 PM in the parish, led by Mr. Joey Ch. The meeting began with prayer, followed by a presentation from Mr. Antoine Harb. He shared with the youth the rich history and connection between Lebanon and the Maronite Catholic Church, including the origins of the Maronite Church. After the informative session, the group enjoyed a fun-filled game of bingo, with exciting prizes to be won! The evening concluded with a delicious meal of meatballs and pasta, lovingly prepared by Mrs. Christine. As we reflect on our time together, let us remember the spiritual quote: 'Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.' (Hebrews 11:1) We look forward to our next gathering!"



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

"Our recent CCD meeting with the children of our parish was a truly beautiful experience. We began with a heartfelt opening prayer in the church, led by Fr. Fadi, followed by an engaging presentation by Mrs. Leila on the life story of Saint George. The children then enjoyed some fun games under the oak trees. Later, they were divided into small groups to reflect on the importance of prayer and why we pray, delving into a profound topic. The meeting concluded with a delightful sharing of food, lovingly prepared by the mothers. As we reflect on this gathering, let us remember the wise words of Saint Augustine, 'Prayer is the breath of the soul, and just as the body cannot live without breathing, so the soul cannot live without prayer.'"

## March 2024 Financial Standing

### Ordinary Income:

- Collections on the Weekends, Holy Week Collection, ACH, Church's Stipends from Marriages, Funerals and Baptisms, Candles, Coffee Hour, Dues, Checks and MYA Knefe Sales: \$ 9,825.89

- Extraordinary Income: Donations to Church: \$ 3,311.00

**TOTAL REVENUE: \$13,136.89**

### Ordinary Expenses:

Electricity , Water, Bookkeeping, Medical Insurance, Assessments, Retirement, rent, Mortgage, Internet, Phone, Alarm, Waste Management, Eparchy Appeals, Cleaning, Maintenance ( Landscaping, AC, Pest Control), Church Supplies, Charity, Salary and Activity Expenses for CCD, MYO and MYA ( including MYA Retreat in Georgia) : \$21,755.42

### Extraordianry Expenses :

-Auditing Expenses \$371.13

**TOTAL EXPENSES: \$22,126.55**

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Total Income Vs. Expenses: -\$8,989.66

Total Amount in Checking: \$74,681.66

Total Amount in Savings: \$29,888.32

Money Market: \$ 240,294.01

**Thank you for your contribution in helping maintain the Church.**

Father Fadi Rouhana

