



Saints Peter & Paul Maronite Catholic Church

FEBRUARY 2023

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6201 Sheldon rd, Tampa, Fl, 33615

Weekend Mass Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm - Sunday 11:30 am
Eucharistic Adoration First Thursday of each month 6:00 pm

A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,
During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.
Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.
Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.
Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.
May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.
Amen.



The first day of Lent

Ash Monday one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Monday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Ashes on forehead. As Monday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too.

Ash Monday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us.

As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. Lenten season is a time to repent and to renew our faith. Fasting strengthens our souls against the sin and make us stronger and close to God.

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.

CCD

The January Children's Religious Education meeting was held on the 28th, where we learned about the meaning of Epiphany and Baptism. The February meeting will be on February 25, and we encourage all children aged 5-12 to join us!

MYA

MYA held their monthly meeting on January 22nd. This month's meeting started with Eucharistic adoration in the church. The MYA members prayed together and took some time in silence to be present with the Eucharist.

The remainder of the meeting consisted of small groups, games, and a BBQ dinner prepared by some of the MYA members. The next MYA meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb 26th at 6pm. In other exciting news, MYA's annual retreat is coming up- March 16th-19th in Asheville, North Carolina! It will be a beautiful retreat for prayer, friendship, and peaceful time in the mountains. To help cover some of the costs of the retreat, MYA will be having a raffle for the next four Sundays. Tickets are \$5 each and raffle prizes include gift cards and baskets. Please consider participating as our goal is to ensure every MYA member who is interested in attending the retreat will be able to do so at a reasonable cost. Please contact Abouna Fadi or any of the MYA committee members if you have any questions and we thank you in advance for your support.

MYO

The MYO this month went on an exciting trip to Tree Hoppers where they ziplined and did a multitude of obstacle courses. They enjoyed a lovely meeting that included a spiritual prayer and group talk which concluded with a lovely meal from Jersey Mikes. After, they boarded the bus where they prayed, sang songs, and bonded together as a group.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, February 11 at 4 pm where the MYO will further bond with each other. If you are interested in your youth joining the MYO and would like to be apart of the MYO group chats pleas contact Elyan Bouserhal at 813-407-8082.



History of the Maronites



On the mountains of Lebanon, in this mystical land, in these deep valleys, among these white mountains, in the land of honey and milk, in the nation of the Cedar and the Alphabet, in the Phoenician land, there the Maronite Church, the smallest of all the churches, has grown like a mustard seed and became a tree, so that several churches and denominations have come to be sheltered in its branches. The history of the Maronites was sealed by persecution and martyrdom for the sake of Faith, Freedom, and Independence.

Who are the Maronites? What is the Maronite Church?

The Maronites are those Christians who gathered around a monastery called Bet Moroon or the House of Maron built in 452 on the Orontes River, after the Council of Chalcedon and the request of Pope Leo.

Those Christians who defended their faith in Jesus Christ, human and divine, were called Maronites after a hermit priest, St. Maron, who was a great saint in that region of Syria. St. Maron lived on the mountains of Cyrrhus, near Antioch, in the 4th century AD, in the open air. God bestowed on him the gift of healing, which made his fame spread in the entire region.

St. Maron died around the year 410 AD. His disciples continued his mission. Abraham the hermit, the apostle of Lebanon, converted the Phoenician inhabitants of the mountains of Lebanon. Jebbet Bsharre and Mnaytra adopted Christianity.

The Phoenician pagans became Maronite Christians.

Bet Moroon.

In 451, the fathers of the Church held a meeting at the Council of Chalcedon. They clarified the teaching of the Church concerning the person of Jesus Christ. They proclaimed that Jesus Christ was both human and divine. The Maronites strongly defended the Council of Chalcedon, which made the Monophysites their bitter enemies.

Pope Leo requested to build a monastery for the disciples of St. Maron on the Orontes River. The monastery was called Bet Moroon. The conflict between the Maronites and the Monophysites led to a strong persecution that left 350 martyrs and many refugees in 517. The Maronites informed Pope Hormizdes about their struggle for the sake of faith and their martyrs. The pope of Rome sent them a letter to strengthen the Maronites describing the Maronite martyrs as soldiers of Jesus Christ and members of his Living Body.

Announcement



- Friday March 24: the Lenten dinner.

Join us the prayers of the Stations of the Cross and a Lenten Dinner that follows.

The Lenten Dinner consists of lentil soup, Saj and falafels meatless potato Kibbee...

for a donation of \$25 , please consider this amount as an alm giving in helping the church during Lent.

Hope you can join us to pray and eat together.

- Fundraiser

As a fundraiser for the Church, the Church Council along with the some of Maryamyett Group of the Parish decided to prepare Mixed Maamoul made with either walnuts, Pistachios and Dates to be available for sale during the Lenten Season for Easter. This way, you can support the church and get your Maamoul for Easter.

Thursday, December 15 and ending Friday, September 23.



COFFEE HOUR

- February 5th:** Mr. Fadi Jabbour
February 12th: Mrs. Ghada Harb
February 19th: Mr. John and Mrs. Diamond Dager
February 26th: Mr. Johny and Mrs. Stephanie Saroufim

Mass Intentions

Saturday February 4th

Mass for the souls of
Amalia El Kosseifi and Assaf Nohra

SUNDAY February 5th

the 40 Day mass for the departed soul of
Emile Jabbour followed by the mercy meal.

MARONITE SISTERS IN CHRIST

In the month of January, the ladies of the sodality met to pray, delve in the word of God and share about their relationship with our Holy Mother.

They will meet again on Ash Monday before the Divine Liturgy. As always, all ladies in the parish are encouraged to join them.