



## **Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church**

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[www.ollchicago.org](http://www.ollchicago.org)

### **Cana Sunday: Entrance into the Great Lent February 07, 2016**

Great Lent is a spiritual time for change, for transformation. The Maronite Catholic Church begins Great Lent with Cana Sunday, a commemoration of the transformation of water into wine at the wedding feast of Cana at Galilee. This change prepares us for the event of changing the wine into his Blood and bread into his Body.

The church encourages us to take this season of Lent as a time of Spiritual preparation for Easter. All the faithful who are physically capable are to abstain from meat on Ash Monday (February 8th) and all Fridays of Great Lent. Fasting in the Maronite Church involves eating and drinking nothing at all from midnight until noon.

On a personal level, all who wish to observe the more traditional Maronite practice of fasting and abstinence are encouraged to do so: Every day of Lent is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products [eggs, butter, milk etc...].



**O Lord, at the beginning of this holy Lent grant us to contemplate your signs and to sing of your glory. Look upon us in your love and have mercy on us in your goodness. We shall embrace penance and find strength in prayer, working according to your commandments of life and giving glory to the Holy Trinity, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

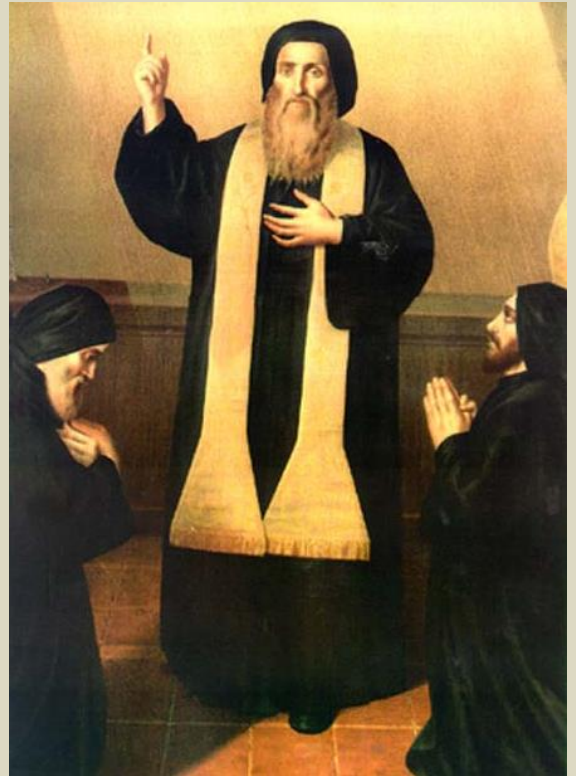
## **SAINT MAROUN (February 9)**

Saint Maroun, born in the middle of the 4th century, was a priest who later became a hermit, retiring to a mountain of Taurus near Antioch. His holiness and miracles attracted many followers, and drew attention Throughout the empire.

### **The Maronite Movement**

St Maroun is considered the Father of the spiritual and monastic movement now called the Maronite Church. This movement had a profound influence on Northern Syria and Lebanon. Saint Maroun spent all of his life on a mountain in the region of Cyrrhus in Syria. It is believed that the place was called "Kefar-Nabo" on the mountain of Ol-Yambos, making it the cradle of the Maronite movement.

The Maronite movement reached Lebanon when St Maroun's first disciple Abraham of Cyrrhus who was called the Apostle of Lebanon, realised that paganism was thriving in Lebanon, so he set out to convert the pagans to Christians by introducing them to the way of St Maroun. The followers of St Maroun always remained faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church.



### **Spirituality**

St Maroun's way was deeply monastic with emphasis on the spiritual and ascetic aspects of living. For Saint Maroun, all was connected to God. He did not separate the physical and spiritual world and actually used the physical world to deepen his faith in God.

St Maroun embraced the quiet solitude of the mountain life. He lived his life in open air exposed to the forces of nature. His extraordinary desire to come to know God's presence in all things, allowed St Maroun discover an intimate union with God. He was able to free himself from the physical world by his passion and fervor for prayer and enter into a mystical relationship of love with God.

### **Mission**

St Maroun's new ascetic-spiritual method attracted many people in Syria and Lebanon to become his disciples. Accompanying his deeply spiritual and ascetic life, he was a zealous missionary with a passion to spread the message of Christ by preaching it to all he met. He sought not only to cure the physical ailments that people suffered, but had a great quest for nurturing and healing the "lost souls" of both pagans and Christians of his time.

St. Maroun was able to convert a pagan temple into a Christian Church. This was to be the beginning of the conversion of Paganism to Christianity in Syria which would then influence and spread to Lebanon. After his death in the year 410 AD, his spirit and teachings lived on through his disciples.

## **REMEMBER IT**

His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

**John 2:5**

## **Deacon's Corner**

Do you ever stop for a moment and think about the expression; "things were a lot simpler in the old days". Some would say life was perhaps easier then and some might say things are easier now. But one thing that endured the "test of time" is our continuing relationship with God, our eternal Father.

You see, we have been given choices in our lives that haven't changed for the past 2,000 years since Jesus walked among us. He said; "Love the Lord thy God with your whole heart, and love your neighbor as yourself". How many of us truly live our lives in compliance of these two Commandments? How many of us "love the Lord thy God with your whole heart"? How many of us "love your neighbor as yourself"?

To "love the Lord thy God with your whole heart" to me means that we must always be prepared to meet our Father when our time on earth has been completed. We are all human, we are all subject to the evil one who lurks around us every minute of our life. Are we always strong enough to call on God, to help us overcome the evils of temptation that is always in front of us?

It's like having a big crack in the sidewalk as we walk along and are forever stumbling on that crack. Sometimes we fall, sometimes we just stumble a bit and sometimes we are able to walk over the crack. But no matter what the case is, we should always remember that God is always available to "pick us up" and help us over the "cracks in our sidewalk".

So while things continue to change, always remember that God, our Father, has not and will not change. He has been and always will be available to "bail us out" of any challenges we face on any given day.

## **Mass Intentions for Next Sunday February 7, 2016**

**09:30 Mass: The deceased of the Shaker Family (Req. by the Breit Family)**

# Rediscover Your Partner



MARRIED COUPLES ENCOUNTER

**Saturday, February 13, 2016**

**7 p.m.**

**Wine & Cheese Party with Guest Speaker**

Our Lady of Lebanon Church

950 N. Grace Street; Lombard IL 60148



Married couples are welcome to  
Register with Kira Haddad at (630) 841-1081



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950 Grace Street  
Lombard, IL 60148

# ***Soup Supper***

**Friday, February 26**

Following Stations of the Cross at **8 p.m.**

Come enjoy a variety of homemade soups, salads,  
mjadra, pizza and fruit. Unlimited Refills!

**\$10/adult**

**\$5/children 12 and younger**



**Sponsored by the MYO**

## Mass Celebration



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**Anaphora of the Twelve Apostles: 754**

## Sunday Readings



**Reading:** Romans 14:14-23 (*Do Not Make Another Stumble*)  
**Holy Gospel:** John 2:1-11 (*The wedding at Cana*)

## Mass Intentions

### 9:30 AM

**Bert Trapani** (Req. by Frank and Patricia Kermend)  
**And For the Maronite Church in the world.**

### 11:30 Mass

**1 year anniversary Dani Chahoud** (Req. by Diala Chahoud)  
**Hana Chahoud, Melia Chahoud and Anwar Chamoun**  
(Req. by Diala Chahoud)

**Antoon Naffah - Antoine & Georgette Khoury –  
Joseph & Olga Mattar** (Req. by Pierre & Ann Naffah)  
**Marie ElKhoury, Roger ElKhoury, Pierre Malek  
and Tarrese Hazkiel** (Req. by Madelaine Malek)



<b>Schedules</b>	<b>9:30 A.M. Mass</b>	<b>11:30 A.M. Mass</b>
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Joseph and George Estephan, Andres Ballines, Leila Nehra	Estifan Azzo, Cassandra Chahoud, Yasmina Mulcahey, Ramez Sayegh
<b>Readers</b>	Robert Antoon	Dr. Nadia Haddad (Arabic) Diala Chahoud (English)
<b>Ushers</b>	Nabil Zahra Frank Kermend	Elie Massoud, Sami Daou, George Zakhem, Amir Geha

## Announcements

✳ **Ash Monday February 8, 2016:** Mass at 7:30 P.M. with Blessing and Distribution of Ashes.

✳ **Stations of the Cross:** On Fridays of Great Lent, we will celebrate Mass at 7 P.M. and Stations of the Cross at 7:30 P.M., followed by a potluck.

✳ **Married Couples Encounter**

Next Saturday, February 13th at 7 p.m., a Married Couples Encounter will be held at the Shaker Hall. The topic is '**Rediscover Your Partner**' and will include a wine and cheese party in the Shaker Hall. Married couples are welcome to register by contacting **Kira Haddad at (630) 841-1081** or by signing up in the Church Narthex.

✳ **MYO Origins of Christianity Study**

Our MYO will take partake in a 10-part series study on the origins of Christianity thru its persecution, rise, and ideological schisms. This lesson plan will cover the period from the Great Flood all the way into the 20th Century in ten - 1 hour courses. All MYO are asked to attend each Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., until March 13.

### Let us remember

and pray for our Beloved Ones who died during the month of February

† Anton Kattany	† Leila Saadeh Sweilem	† Angelina Lombardo	† George Albert
† Jorge Ruiz	† Eva Wintergeast	† Jacob P. Schuck	† Libby Hajje
† David Gage	† Abraham Rayyan	† Monroe Bouzide	† Sarah Thomas
† Elsie Be-Hannesey	† Margaret Tamer	† John S. Nemeh	† George Owen
† Eleanor Haddad	† Antoine Khoury	† Ralph J. Lutfy	

### **COLLECTION**

**Sunday January 31, 2016: \$ 2,656.00**

Thank you for supporting your church and May God bless you!