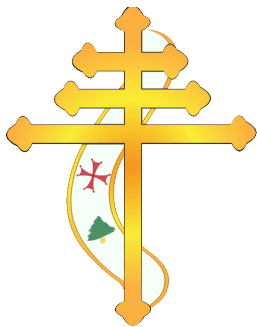


St. Anthony Maronite Catholic Church



Rev. Bassam M. Saade, D.Min, PASTOR

Deacon Dr. Enzo V. Di Giacomo
Deacon Norman Hannoush

LITURGIES

Saturday Vigil - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday - 12 noon. St. Anthony's Mass

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

12 noon

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Tuesday 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
and Saturday from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

VENERATION OF ST. CHARBEL'S RELIC

Every 3rd Sunday of the month
from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

BAPTISM

Call the Parish Office for information

MATRIMONY

Arrangements with the Pastor must be
made at least six months in advance

MARONITE CHRISTIAN FORMATION

(Religious Education)
Begins in September

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:30 - 4:15 p.m. or call
to schedule a confession.

COMMUNION FOR THE SICK

Please call the Parish Office at
413-732-0589.



SEPTEMBER 2022

375 Island Pond Road • Springfield, MA 01118
413-732-0589



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The beginning of the Season of the Holy Cross begins with the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**. St. Paul writes, *“The message of the cross is a complete absurdity to those who are headed for ruin, but to us who are experiencing salvation, it is the power of God.”* The cross is the universal symbol of Christianity just as the Crescent symbolizes Islam and the Star of David, Judaism. Sadly for many, it is just a piece of jewelry without significance for them but for those who believe it is both a tragic and a wonderful symbol reminding of the love of God and of His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord himself said, “Greater love has no man than he lay down his life for his friends” and yet in the crucifixion He showed even greater love for He died for his enemies as well even praying for them from the cross, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.” Our Lord also said to Nicodemus, “God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal life.” This love of God is a great mystery to us. Why should the Creator of the entire universe love each and every human being, even His betrayers and persecutors, so much that He would send his only begotten Son not only to preach, teach, heal and forgive but also to suffer an agonizing death in order to save them from eternal punishment and enable them to enter the kingdom of heaven? Indeed those who believe and enter the kingdom do so not as friends or guests of God but as His adopted sons and daughters sharing his very divinity through the adoption of baptism.

As St. Paul says, “Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified – a stumbling block for Jews and an absurdity to Gentiles but to those who are called Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.” We do not understand how this can be so. Where is the power of God revealed through the death of his Son on the cross? Where is the wisdom? We are always asking questions and seeking answers and this is fine in everyday matters but we have to realize that some things are completely beyond human comprehension and foremost among these things is the mystery of God himself.

St. Ephrem, the mentor of St. Maron, taught that the proper response to such mysteries was not to ask questions that cannot be answered but rather to sit in silent contemplation of the fact and allow it to speak to us through the Spirit dwelling in our hearts. If we do that we will be able to avoid all the tensions and argument that questioning tends to generate and instead we will be able to sit in silent, loving and grateful wonder at the mystery of God revealed in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the blessings of this feast and season be yours in abundance,

God Bless You, Fr. Bassam

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“As a faith community we preserve the rich spiritual heritage of the Maronite Church, its liturgy, spirituality, Culture and Aramaic “Syriac” language of Christ. We share this mission of the Universal Catholic Church by being a caring and welcoming family, inviting all who are seeking closeness with God to share this rich heritage and traditions with us. All are welcome”.

We pray for God’s blessings for the healing of the sick and shut-ins of our parish. If you know of anyone who is homebound and would like a pastoral visit or communion, please contact the rectory.

To sponsor a **religious gift in memory/honor of your loved one** or for a special intention, please call the parish office.

Memorials & Special Intentions - (\$50 each/month)

Altar Candles

Sanctuary Lamp

Altar Bread & Wine

Charcoal & Incense

Special Intentions

Shrine of St. Anthony’s Candles

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please continue to send in your weekly offerings to the parish office as we count on you to meet our monthly bills. Meanwhile, thank you to all those who have continued to support our parish with their envelopes and donations.

GUILD NEWS

The **NEXT GUILD MEETING** will be announced soon. Please attend and support the Guild activities. **COFFEE HOUR** – after mass everyone is welcome (Asking for volunteers and families to sponsor each Sunday coffee hour) May God Bless you and reward you for all the good you do.

OUR WOMEN’S GUILD OFFICERS – Suzie Hannoush as President, Rouba Sayegh as Vice President, Christelle Abboud as Secretary and Donna Shibley as Treasurer

LITURGY INTENTIONS - SEPTEMBER 2022

Saturday, September 3 4:30 p.m.	+ Nayla, Tania, Micha, Sam, Sandy & Rita by Fr. Bassam Happy Birthday!
Sunday, September 4 8:30 a.m.	+ Ray, Evelyn, Mark and Michael Stevens, by Stevens Brothers
10:30 a.m.	+ Julia & San Cufari RIP By Deacon Enzo & Marylou Di Gacomo
Tuesday, September 6 12:00 p.m.	+ For the People of the Parish by Fr. Bassam
Saturday, September 10 4:30 p.m.	+ Francis T Florence Hobaica by Sons & families
Sunday, September 11 8:30 a.m.	+ Christine, Sharm & Joey Stevens RIP Stevens Brothers <i>*Second Collection - Catholic University</i>
10:30 a.m.	+ Dennis Dewrance RIP (40 Day Mass) by JoAnn Stevens Dewrance, + Semaan Elias (40th Anniversary), by Wadiha Elias & family + Marie Sarkis RIP By John & Colleen Sadak
Tuesday, September 13 12:00 p.m.	+ For the People of the Parish, by Fr. Bassam
Saturday, September 17 4:30 p.m.	+ George Daboul RIP By Peter Daboul
Sunday, September 18 8:30 a.m.	+ Marie Sarkis by Elizabeth Sedelow
10:30 a.m.	+ Bishop Gregory Mansour 40th Anniversary + Marie Sarkis, RIP, by Elizabeth Sedeloa
Tuesday, September 20 12:00 p.m.	+ For Parish Volunteers and Helpers, by Fr. Bassam
Saturday, September 24 4:30 p.m.	+ Living and Deceased Members of the Saade Family, by Fr. Bassam
Sunday, September 25 8:30 a.m.	+ Ray, Evelyn, Mark and Michael Stevens, by Stevens Brothers
10:30 a.m.	+ Carl Moses & Patricia Kane RIP, by daughter & wife Beverly Moses + Marie Sarkis, RIP, by Michael & Laura Nichols
Tuesday, September 27 12 p.m.	+ Rita Saadeh Happy 15th Birthday by Fr. Bassam

Registration for the **First Communion class** is available now. Even if your children attend a catholic school, it's very important to teach them about our Maronite faith. Children in the 2nd grade & higher can register for our first communion class. Please register them ASAP God bless you All looking forward to start our new year. All are welcome.

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CONFESSIONS will be heard every Saturday from 3:45 – 4:15 or call to schedule a confession.

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MASS AND NOVENA OF ST. ANTHONY - EVERY TUESDAY AT NOON.

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ALTAR EUCHARIST CELEBRATION SEPTEMBER

The Altar Eucharist Celebration is being offered in September,

In Loving Memory of Stevens Family



Oh, Adorable Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, You have suffered death on the Cross for our sins.

Oh, Holy Cross of Jesus, be my true light!

Oh, Holy Cross, fill my soul with good thoughts.

Oh, Holy Cross, ward off from me all things that are evil.

Oh, Holy Cross, ward off from me all dangers and deaths and give me life everlasting!

Oh, Crucified Jesus of Nazareth, have mercy on me now and forever.



In honor of the Precious Blood of Jesus, his death, resurrection and ascension which leads to everlasting life; true as Jesus was born on Christmas Day; true as Jesus was crucified on Good Friday; true as Joseph and Nicodemus took Jesus down from the cross and buried Him; true as Jesus ascended into Heaven; may

He preserve me from my enemies visible and invisible forever.

Oh, Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me! Mary and Joseph pray for me.

Lord Jesus Christ, through Your suffering the Cross grant me strength to bear my Cross without fear or dread and give me the grace that I may follow You. Amen.



Holy Cross, whereon the Lamb of God was offered for the sins of the world,
Deliver and save us. Hope of Christians, Save us, O Holy Cross.

Trophy of victory over hell, Hope of the hopeless, Light of those who sit in darkness,
Foundation of the Church, Salvation of the world,

Bread of the hungry, Fountain of those that thirst, Clothing of the naked,
Lamb of God, Who was offered on the cross for the sins of the world, Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who was offered on the cross for the sins of the world, Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who was offered on the cross for the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

O Jesus, your cross is life-giving! Your death and resurrection brought us salvation. Send us the Holy Spirit while we praise You and meditate on the meaning of your death. Through the Holy Spirit, open our hearts so that we may be able to know that without sacrifice, we can never be your disciples.

Through Your Holy Cross, save us.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Guild will have their **Annual Bazaar** on November 19, 2022

PARISH COUNCIL & FINANCE COMMITTEE ELECTION

We love to have you join our Parish Council. To be eligible you will have to be a registered/active member of our parish attending church on regular basis. We look forward to your attendance.

Council meets monthly to discuss the needs of the parish and advise the Pastor on important decisions.

If you are interested in joining the Parish Council, please contact Fr. Bassam

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PASTA DINNER

\$10/pp – 5-7 pm

September 7– Meatballs or Italian Sausage/Peppers and Onions

Light appetizer, salad, pasta, coffee/tea or juice and dessert