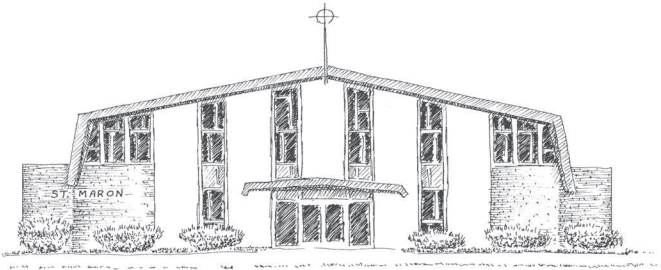


# SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

SEASON OF LENT

**MARCH 27, 2011**

## Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church



**Saint Maron Maronite Church**  
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**Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church - Detroit**

# SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

During Lent, we constantly reflect upon the theme of our sinfulness and the mercy of God. During the Divine Mysteries, we pray: "Many are my sins, but greater is your mercy. When placed on a scale your mercy prevails over the weight of the mountains known only to you. Consider the sin and consider the atonement. The atonement is greater and exceeds the sins." Our sins have been atoned for because of the infinite compassion and mercy of God.

Jesus tells of how the son boldly goes to the father and asks for "his portion." Actually, all of the property belongs to the father and the son has no rights to any of it. How often do we treat all of the gifts of God as if they were our rightful portion rather than gifts of God. Seeking freedom and pleasure, with money in hand, the son does not concern himself about anybody or anything, he goes far from home so that no one knows what he is doing. He ran off to live among the non-believers where more pleasures could be offered to him, but he soon went through all of his money. A famine struck the land and he was forced to seek work in tending for pigs. The Jews considered pigs as unclean and the one who cared for pigs as cursed. In the face of physical and moral degradation, he was forced to come to his senses. "How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough to spare, but I perish with hunger. I will arise and go to my father...."

The father must have been awaiting for the son daily, because he saw him at a distance and ran out to meet him. He embraced and kissed him. He gave him a robe (a sign of honor), a ring (a sign of authority) and shoes (unlike slaves who did not have shoes). The son was treated as if he had never been away.

The son showed courage and humility in his return. It took courage to examine his life and ascertain his pitiful condition. It took humility to admit his mistakes to his father.

The older son represents those who prefer to see a sinner destroyed rather than saved. He is jealous and self-righteous, considering only the sins of his brother and not of his repentance. He even tries to incite the father against his brother. However, the father encouraged him to be happy because his brother who had been lost has been found. How joyful is heaven on the occasion of the return of a sinner to the Father.

On some occasions we are able to identify with the prodigal son who has gone astray. Let us imitate his courage and humility and seek the forgiveness of the Father. At other times, we are able to see ourselves as the older son, righteous and unwilling to forgive the mistakes of another. At times like this, let us listen to the wisdom of the Father and be joyful at the conversion of the sinner.

**Sunday, March 27, 2011**

**9:00 a.m. [Lector: Robert Safadi]**

- **Victoria Sam**, by Michael Gabriel
- **Leon Joseph**, by Mrs. Martha Eid
- **Bacher & kay Michael**, by Mike Michael
- **Dr. Simon Basile** (out of town)

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**11:30 a.m. [Lector: Don Howard]**

- **Esther (Ganem) Michael memorial Mass**, by the family

**Monday, March 28, 2011**

**9:00 a.m. Sister Mary Leonette**, (out of town)

**Tuesday, March 29, 2011**

**9:00 a.m. Sister Mary Leonette**, (out of town)

**Wednesday, March 30, 2011**

**9:00 a.m. Sister Mary Leonette**, (out of town)

**Thursday, March 31, 2011**

**9:00 a.m. Sister Mary Leonette**, (out of town)

**Friday, April 1, 2011**

**9:00 a.m. Leon Joseph**, by United Kesrawan Society

**7:00 p.m. Station of the Cross and Benediction with the crucifix**

**Sunday, April 3, 2011**

**9:30 a.m. [Lector: Robert Safadi]**

- **Victoria Sam**, by Richard Leach
- **Leon Joseph**, by Mike Michael
- **Erwin Bork**, by Isabelle Farrar
- **Kay Latouf**, by Mike Michael
- **Sister Mary Leonette**, (out of town)

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**11:30 a.m. [Lector: Don Howard]**

- **Our Patriarch Beshara Boutros Al-Rahi**, by Msgr. Baz
- **For all the sick people in our parish**, by Msgr. Baz
- **Boulos Helou and Victoria Fares**, by the Helou family

**Parish Staff**

Secretary.....Ms. Inaam Tamer  
 Parish Council President.....Dr. George B. Ghanem  
 Stewardship Committee President...Dr. G. Ghafari  
 Church Attorney.....Mr. Don Howard  
 Director of Public Relation.....Dr. Daher Rahi  
 Church Accountant.....Mr. Peter Jabbour  
 Hall Manager.....Mr. Rodolphe Jabbour  
 Church Business Manager.....Mr. Edward O'Brien  
 Ladies Altar Society President Ms. Veronica Asmar  
 Ushers Coordinator.....Mr. Raymond Mabarak  
 Language Classes Director....Mrs. Theresa Ghafari  
 Organist.....Mr. Teddy Tedesco  
 English Soloist.....Ms. Mary Anderson  
 History & Archive Coordinator. Ms. Veronica Asmar

**DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**Sundays** at 9:30 a.m. & 11:30a.m.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
The Office is closed on Weekends.

**MYSTERY OF BAPTISM & CHRISMATION**

You must be a **registered** and **active** member of the parish. Please inform the church office when your child is born. Arrangements should be made **between the parents and the church three weeks in advance of the date** you desire to have your child Baptized and Chrismated. Godparents must be baptized, at least age 14 and must provide a letter of "Good Standing" from their lawful pastor.

**MYSTERY OF CROWNING**

Allow a MINIMUM of SIX months for all necessary preparations including pre-marriage sessions. The new Code of Canons for the Oriental Churches (CCEO) makes this time frame an absolute necessity. No exceptions will be made unless for extreme reasons.

**MYSTERY OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Notify the parish offices or the priest as soon as possible if a family member is in the hospital, nursing home, or is a shut-in, so that the priest can minister to them.

**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

**Our Offerings to God**

**Our offerings for Sunday, March 20, 2011 for both Collections is \$ 1940.00 and candles \$**

**WISH LIST FOR THE CHURCH**

**Please contact the Rectory to donate the Host and Wine for \$50.00/month, we will be accepting donations from two different families each month.**

- **Bread and Wine in memory of Ghassan Ghafari by Theresa Ghafari and family** for the month of March 2011.
- **Bread and Wine in memory of Assad Amine by the family** for the month of April 2011.
- **Bread and Wine in memory of Chemali and Mabarak families by Dolores & Ray Mabarak** for the month of May 2011.
- **Bread and Wine in memory of Assad Amine by the family** for the month of May 2011.
- **Bread and Wine in memory of Adib & Afife Saleh** for the month of June 2011.
- **Bread and Wine in memory of Dawood & Dasaro families** for the month of June 2011.
- **Bread and Wine** for the month of October 2011. By **Dr. & Mrs. Raymond d Farrar**

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**LET US KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS**

St. Maron's parishioners and friends who are **sick**: Harriet Armaly, Josephine Johns, Victoria Peters, Catherine Marr, Julie Hakim, Ronald Hakim, Joyce Mabarak.

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**Email Id's and Facebook Id's**

We need to have your email address in order to better reach you. Please email your email address to Msgr Baz at: [Father@saintmaronchurch.com](mailto:Father@saintmaronchurch.com). We are planning to start emailing the bulletin and the special announcements to our parishioners. Your information will be kept confidential. Also please keep in touch by joining our Facebook group at: **"Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church - Detroit"**

**St. Maron's Church Hundred year Celebration**

We are having our 100 year Anniversary Celebration on the weekend of Sept 30, Oct 1, & Oct 2, 2011. Our Beloved Bishop Shaheen will be present among us. We will have the following events:  
9-30-11 **Clergy Night Banquet K of C**  
10-1-11 **100 Year Anniversary Mass & Banquet**  
10-2-11 **Family Day Celebration**

**If you can help in any way, please see the Chair Person Theresa Ghafari.**

We are looking forward to have a historical celebration.

**MARONITE SYNAXARION**

- 3-2 St. John Maron, first Maronite Patriarch**
- 3-3 St. Thomas Aquinas**
- 3-9 The forty Martyrs**
- 3-19 St. Joseph foster Father of Jesus**
- 3-23 St. Rafka**
- 3-25 Annoucement to the Virgin Mary**
- 3-26 the Archangel Gabriel**

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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Friday after the service on Fridays during Lent at the hall. I hope many people will come and attend these Bible Study. Thank you.**

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Palm Sunday April 17**
- Easter Sunday April 24**
- Golf outing Monday August 1, 2011**
- 100 years of Maronite Heritage in Detroit, October 1 & 2 /2011**