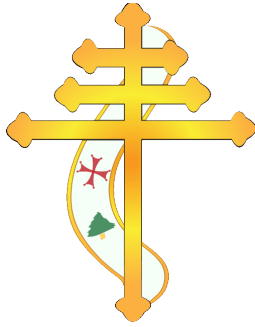


St. Anthony Maronite Catholic Church



Rev. Bassam M. Saade, D.Min, Pastor
Deacon Dr. Enzo V. Di Giacomo
Deacon Norman Hannoush

Parish Council: Monte Albdaawi, Russ Ellis, Fred Frangie (President),
Anna Maria Ghossein, Bassam Karam, Gene Karam, Paul Malkoon,
Donna Shibley (Secretary), Ray Stevens (Vice President)

Trustees: Fred Frangie, Ray Stevens

Parish Finance Committee: Kevin Carneiro, Peter Hannoush, Paul Phaneuf

LITURGIES

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday - 12 noon. St. Anthony's Mass

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

12 noon & 6 p.m.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Tuesday 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
and Saturday from 3:00 - 3:50 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 3:00-3:45 p.m. or
call to schedule a confession.

COMMUNION FOR THE SICK

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



AUGUST 2025

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".

375 Island Pond Road • Springfield, MA 01118
413-732-0589 • stanthony419@comcast.net



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

Your Donations and Financial Support are greatly appreciated and needed. 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 weekly envelopes and donations. God Bless You Fr. Bassam



SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

The Catholic University of America – September 7 • Fuel and Energy – September 21

Parish Maintenance – September 28

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT.

† Your Prayers are needed. We pray for God's blessings and the healing and well-being of the sick and the shut-ins of our parish. Remember them in your prayers. If you know of anyone who is homebound and would like a pastoral visit and communion, please contact the rectory or Father Bassam personally.



The Christian Stewardship concept is that we all have gifts from GOD mainly

TIME, TALENT, TREASURE

Give and it shall be given to you Luke 6:38

May Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, reward you for your help and support to our Parish.

LITURGY INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Tuesday, September 1	LABOR DAY WEEKEND
Tuesday, September 2 12:00 p.m.	+ Nayla, Tania & Micha Saade Happy Birthday by Uncle Fr. Bassam + Living and deceased family of David Abbass by David Abbass
Saturday, September 6 4:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL + Sam & Sandy Semaan (SI) Happy Birthday & Semaan Semaan (RIP) by Christiane Semaan & Children + William Frangie RIP by Fred and Debra Frangie
Sunday, September 7 8:30 a.m.	+ Ray & Evelyn Stevens RIP by Stevens Family + Marilyn Rondeau RIP by Lynn & Zahra Dehneh
10:30 a.m.	+ Claire Mooradd RIP (1 year Anniversary) by Fr. Paul Mooradd & Family
Monday, September 8 4:00 p.m.	NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY + Wadad Sayegh RIP by Lynn & Zahra Dehneh
Tuesday, September 9 12:00 p.m.	ST. JOACHIM & ANNE (PARENTS OF THE VIRGIN MARY) + Sandy Semaan Happy Birthday by the Semaan Family + Helen Hooben by Sister Gertrude Hooben
Saturday, September 13 4:00 p.m.	+ George Daboul RIP by Peter DaBoul + Living and deceased family of David Abbass by David Abbass
Sunday, September 14 8:30 a.m.	THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS + Ray, Evelyn, Mark, Michael, Louis & Mary Anne RIP by Stevens Family
10:30 a.m.	+ Deceased members of the Elias Family RIP by Wadiha Elias and Family
Tuesday, September 16 12:00 p.m.	+ Living and deceased family of David Abbass by David Abbass
Saturday, September 20 4:00 p.m.	+ Max Hooben SI by Grandma Gertrude Hooben + William Frangie RIP by Joseph & Susan Lacopa
Sunday, September 21 8:30 a.m.	1ST SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS + Pour Souls in Purgatory RIP by Stevens Family + The Knights of Columbus SI by Sue and Ray Stevens
10:30 a.m.	+ Elias Abdallah Hannoush RIP by Anne Marie Lynch
Tuesday, September 23 12:00 p.m.	+ Rita Saadeh Happy Birthday by The Saadeh Family + Living and deceased family of David Abbass by David Abbass
Saturday, September 27 4:00 p.m.	+ Bill & Mary SI by Friend Gertrude Hooben + William Frangie RIP by Rosemary & James Kallial
Sunday, September 28 8:30 a.m.	2ND SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS + Ray, Evelyn, Mark, Michael, Louis & Mary Anne RIP by Stevens Family
10:30 a.m.	+ Elias Abdallah Hannoush RIP by Lynn & Zahra Dehneh
Tuesday, September 30 4:00 p.m.	+ Louis Stevens RIP by George & Peggie Sarkis



MEMORIALS - SEPTEMBER 2025

† **Altar Bread and Wine** in Loving Memory of Paul F. and Claire Mooradd From Their Family - *through March 2026*

† **Sanctuary Lamp** in Memory of Michel and Hilda Saade & Saade Family RIP By The Family

† **St. Anthony's Candles** - Available for *August and the rest of the year*

Altar Candles, Sanctuary Lamp, Shrine of St. Anthony Candles, Charcoal & Incense are available.

To sponsor a **religious gift in memory/honor of your loved one** or for a special intention Memorials & Special Intentions (\$50 each/month) Monthly memorial intentions for living and deceased members of your family and friends can be requested.

Please see Abouna Bassam or call the office 413-732-0589 or his cell 407-276-1136 with your request.



PRAYER FOR LEBANON

God of refuge, hear our prayer as we hold the people of Lebanon in our hearts and implore Your protection and peace. In Your mercy, bring comfort to those who mourn, healing to those who are injured, shelter to those who are homeless sustenance to those who hunger.

Give strength to those who are working to rebuild shattered lives, and protect those who have fled homes to find safety.

Lead us in Your ways so that together we may bring the light of new hope wherever there is destruction and despair.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



CONFESSIONS will be heard every Saturday from 3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. as well as upon request.
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Saturday from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Mass and Novena of St. Anthony - every Tuesday at noon.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Council member, please see Fr. Bassam.
Applicants must be a member of the parish in good standing and attend mass on a regular basis.

- ✠ **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – Monday, September 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the Church Hall
- ✠ **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** - Serving Dinner in the Church Hall on Wednesday September 3rd, from 5-6:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 and comes with all the extras (dine-in or take-out) All are welcome.
- ✠ **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** will be hosting our Social Meeting on Tuesday September 16th at 6 p.m. All are invited Knight's member or not. We will have coffee and a lite snack (No charge). We socialize and play Pich (cards).
- ✠ **SAVE THE DATE** - October 24th Halloween Knights sponsored by the Knights of Columbus details to follow in October Bulletin
- ✠ **WOMEN'S GUILD NOVEMBER CRAFT FAIR** – November 22th from 9 am - 4 pm. Please contact Kathy Alevras 413-734-1177 for Vendor Information and Registration
- ✠ **COFFEE HOUR** – After mass everyone is welcome (We need volunteers and families to help or sponsor each Sunday coffee hour) June God Bless you and reward you for all your time, support and generosity.
- ✠ **50/50 RAFFLES** will be starting again. Our Monthly Raffles to Benefit our Church Maintenance. 100 tickets will be sold for \$10 each, \$500 will be awarded to the winner & the profit will benefit our Parish toward our Maintenance & upkeep of our Church Property. Please support our raffle and Thank you for your generosity.
- ✠ **REGISTER NOW - CLASSES FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION** will begin at the end of September 2025. The Sacrament registration forms are available in the church lobby and at the parish office. You must be a member of the Parish to register.
- ✠ **JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE** started December 24, 2024 ending January 6, 2026. Pope Francis has officially dedicated the year 2025 to be a Jubilee Year. The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis hopes Catholics will travel in 2025 to experience the Holy Year in Rome. For those unable, he hopes they celebrate the message of Hope in their local churches. Hope is the central message of Jubilee Year 2025. Pope Francis prayed "July the Jubilee year be an opportunity to be renewed in Hope. In the heart of each person Hope dwells in the desire and expectation of good things to come"

PARISH FINANCES - JULY

	Parish	Cedars
Income	17,814.40	16,490.00
Expenses	-18,727.85	-8,452.75
Profit/Loss	-913.45	8,037.25
Donation	10,000.00	
	9,086.55	

Please we need your help and Financial Support to keep our Parish stable. Thank you for your Generosity.



BECOME A NAM MEMBER

NAM Registration – please consider becoming a NAM (National Apostolate of Maronite). It is very important for our Parish to support our National Laity Organization, who gives scholarships to our children and the Massabki Annual Award for an exceptional parishioner or couples who work for the Church.

More info: <https://www.namnews.org>

Follow us on social media

✠ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/269624729721819> ✠ <https://www.facebook.com/StAnthonysMaroniteChurch>