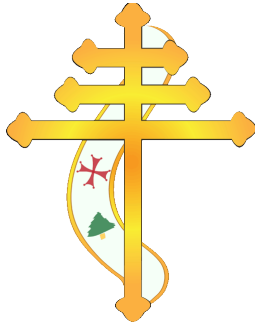


St. Anthony Maronite Catholic Church



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

Parish Council: Russ Ellis, Fred Frangie (President), Paul Malkoon, Ellen Gianinni, Laurie Schcrella Gurau, Donna Shibley (Secretary), Ray Stevens (Vice President), and Kevin Carneiro .

Trustees: Fred Frangie and Ray Stevens

Finance Committee: Fred Frangie, Ray Stevens, and Paul Malkoon

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.



SEPTEMBER 2026

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISH THIS MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

“A Prayer for Our Parish”

Gracious and Loving God, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon our Parish to fill us with love. Make us instruments of your love to everyone that we encounter at home, at work, in our neighborhoods, and in our parish community. Work through us so that we can bring your truth to those who are searching for you. Help us to grow in gratitude so that we can recognize and thank you for all the good things you have given us. Instill in us a deep sense of generosity so that we are willing to share our gifts, our talents, our time and our financial resources. Deepen our desire to follow your will and to do all things for your honor and glory.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, Amen.”

“To make Our Parish Better”

Keep your pastor, parish, staff, and fellow parishioners in your daily prayers. Saying a Rosary, spending time in adoration, fasting or offering up any suffering, annoyance or inconvenience you experience for the well-being of your parish will bring rewards not just for the parish but for you personally. You will begin to see yourself as spiritual support for all the good work being done in and through your parish. Pray also for the return of Catholics who have strayed from the practice of their faith, people raised with no faith, and people searching for meaning and purpose in life. No parish is perfect, and even the best parishes can improve. Imagine what would happen if every person in your parish did one thing to make the parish Better.

“Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap.” Lk 6:38



SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Catholic University of America & Maronite Seminary - September 6
Fuel and Energy - September 20 • Parish Maintenance - September 27
Thank you for your Generosity & Support

LITURGY INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026 FOR THE SEASON OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Tuesday, September 1 12:00 p.m.	+ Nayla, Tania & Micha Saade Happy Birthday by the Saade Family
Saturday, September 5 4:00 p.m.	LABOR DAY WEEKEND + Living and deceased family of David Abbass by David Abbass + William Frangie RIP by Family and Friends
Sunday, September 6 8:30 a.m.	LABOR DAY WEEKEND + Ray, Evelyn, Maryanne, Louis, Mark and Micheal Stevens RIP by The Stevens Family
10:30 a.m.	+ Sam, Sandy & Sam Semaan Jr. Happy Birthday, Semaan Semaan RIP by the Family + Rita Sayegh Hannoush RIP by Ghossan & Lina Samaha
Tuesday, September 8 12:00 p.m.	NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY + Special Intentions of Family and Friends by Fr. Bassam
Saturday, September 12 4:00 p.m.	+ Living and deceased family of David Abbass by David Abbass + Families and Friends Living and Deceased by Fr. Bassam
Sunday, September 13 8:30 a.m.	FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS + Ray, Evelyn, Maryanne, Louis, Mark and Micheal Stevens RIP by The Stevens Family
10:30 a.m.	+ Badwi Anis Boulos 40 day mass RIP by sister Marie Elias and Family
Monday, September 14 12:00 p.m.	FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS + Michel & Hilda Saade RIP and living and deceased members of the Saade family by Fr. Bassam
Tuesday, September 15 12:00 p.m.	+ Special Intentions and deceased family and friends by Fr. Bassam
Saturday, September 19 4:00 p.m.	+ George DaBoul RIP by Peter DaBoul + Living and deceased family of David Abbass by David Abbass
Sunday, September 20 8:30 a.m.	+ Souls in Purgatory RIP by the Stevens Family
10:30 a.m.	+ Rita Sayegh Hannoush RIP by George & Lorraine Robehmed + All those who need our prayers by Fr. Bassam
Tuesday, September 22 12:00 p.m.	+ Safe & Fruitful Pilgrimage by Fr. Bassam
Saturday, September 26 4:00 p.m.	+ Rita Saadeh Happy Birthday by Family + Living and deceased family of David Abbass by David Abbass
Sunday, September 27 8:30 a.m.	+ Ray & Evelyn Stevens RIP by The Stevens Family
10:30 a.m.	+ Rita Sayegh Hannoush RIP by Tony & Elissar Nsar + Safe Pilgrimage to All by Fr. Bassam
Tuesday, September 29 12:00 p.m.	+ Special Intentions by Fr. Bassam

† 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.

MEMORIALS - SEPTEMBER 2026



Altar Bread and Wine in Loving Memory of Paul F. and Claire Mooradd From Their Family - *September 2026 through July 2027*
Sanctuary Lamp for Knights of Columbus by The Knights of Columbus - *December 2026*
St. Anthony Candles in memory of my parents Michel and Hilda Saadé by Father Bassam and Family *September 2026*

MEMORIALS & SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Memorials & Special Intentions – **\$50 for each per month**

To sponsor **ALL** (Altar Candles, Sanctuary Lamp, Altar Bread & Wine, Shrine of St. Anthony Candles, Charcoal & Incense, Special Intention) **\$300.00 for all per month**. To sponsor a religious gift in memory/honor of your loved one or for a special intention, please call the parish office. (413) 732-0589 to schedule your request or see Abouna Bassam.

50/50 RAFFLES

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 and upkeep of our church property.
Please support our raffle and thank you for your generosity.



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.

✠ **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, September 14th at 7 p.m.** after the Mass of the holy cross in the church hall.

✠ **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** - Dinner in the Church Hall on **Wednesday, September 8th, from 5-7 p.m.**

✠ **COFFEE HOUR** – After mass everyone is welcome. We need volunteers and families to help or sponsor each Sunday coffee hour.
 May God Bless you and reward you for all your time, support and generosity.

✠ **SUNDAY HOSPITALITY** - Volunteers are needed to keep our Sunday Hospitality going, after both Masses. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated.

✠ **1st Communion Classes** start in September. Please register your children as soon as possible. Thank you.

✠ **MSGR. DAVID GEORGE 50TH ANNIVERSARY ON OCTOBER 4TH AT 3 P.M.**

The Liturgy will be celebrated by Our Bishop Gregory Mansour and a Reception will follow in the Church Hall. All are Welcome. RSVP Required by September 10, 2026 Please respond with the number of adults and children attending.

RSVP

Contact Donna Shibley
 sgtmom29@yahoo.com
 413-519-1845

Food contributions or assistance:

Contact Monte Suleiman
 monteammouri@icloud.com
 860-402-7800

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.

Thank you to all those who have continued to support our parish with their weekly envelopes and donations.

ONLINE GIVING – If you choose, you can now set up the parish as a regular payee with your bank or credit union!

Just input the information :

St. Anthony Maronite Church
 375 Island Pond Road, Springfield, MA 01118
 (413) 732-0589

“A Christian Steward is defined as “One who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others and returns them with increase to the Lord.”

PARISH FINANCES - JULY 2026

	PARISH	CEDARS
Income	30,580.00	28,860.25
Expenses	-28,345.64	-12,584.73
Profit/Loss	2,234.36	16,275.52

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 throughout the United States and the Massabki Annual Award for an exceptional parishioner or couples who work for the Church on the local level or on a National Level for the Glory of God



P.S. To be eligible to receive the Massabki Brothers Annual Award, you must be a registered member of NAM and in Good Standing. Registration forms are in the Vestibule and Online. Thank you.

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

Follow us on social media

✠ St. Anthony's Maronite Church ~ you will need to be accepted to join this group to protect who is allowed as pictures of families are posted

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

✠ St. Anthony's Maronite Catholic Church ~ this is a public group where anyone can join.

<https://www.facebook.com/StAnthonysMaroniteChurch>