



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

## Sunday of the Commemoration of the Righteous and the Just Feast of Saint Maron

February 2023

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Today our Maronite Church celebrates the Sunday of the Righteous and the Just, or the Feast of all Saints. How will God judge the one billion Chinese, who are officially atheist or the 800 Hindu and all the others who have not heard of Jesus?



Jesus answers these fears by saying that He will return as King of all nations. All those not knowing Christ, have shared in common destiny of humankind will be judged by Him. In fact, He will never abandon them, those little ones who are His brothers as His representatives.

The question is who are the least important ones? Christians who lied among pagans, perhaps those whom we find in all sectors of society. People are judged by the way they have cared for those in need. The Kingdom of God is presented to them with its only law-love. The fire represents the torment of those who condemned themselves by closing and freezing their hearts so that they become incapable of love. What the world needs above all is not only bread, water, and clothing, but the truth and the hope that God entrusted to His Chosen One.

Jesus never stopped questioning us: "Did you love your brother and how did you love him?" It is the Lord Jesus Himself who comes to question us, did we visit the sick and needy? Let us open our hearts and hands to all who ask for help.

Pastor: **Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid**  
Our Services

**DAILY:** Monday–Friday 8:00 AM Eng.

**SATURDAY VIGIL:** 4:30 PM English

**SUNDAY:** 9:30 AM English

& 11:30 AM Arabic/Aramaic/English

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday:** 4:30 PM

Rosario y la Misa en Español

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:** 4:30 PM

Tagalog Mass

**Tuesday @ 6 pm** Rosary & Bible

Anointing of the Sick every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday

Rev. Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid MLM  
Sharbel Maronite Mission  
Las Vegas



### READINGS:

Wisdom 5:1-8, 15-16

Hebrews 12:18-24

### GOSPEL:

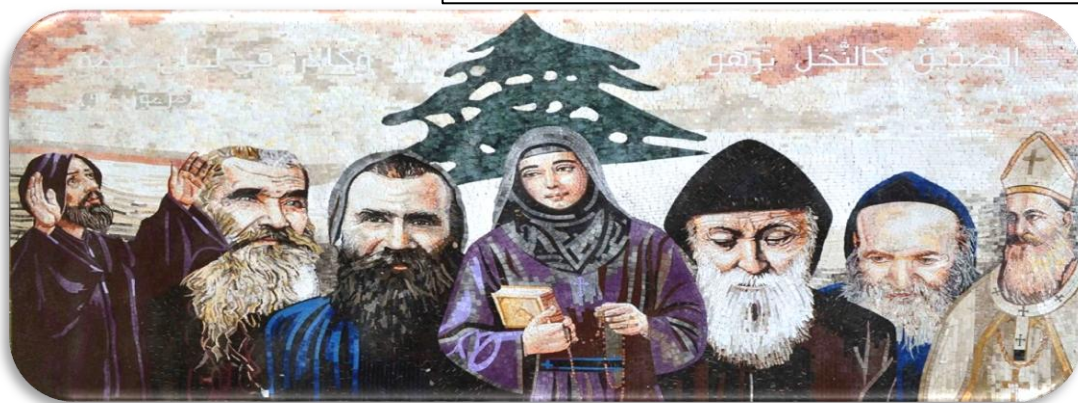
Matthew 25:31-46

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## OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS PRAYS FOR MIGRANTS IN GREETINGS TO JOURNALISTS ON PAPAL PLANE

Pope Francis prays for migrants who have died while seeking to cross the Sahara Desert and Mediterranean Sea, as he greets journalists aboard the papal plane en route to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

As he flew over the Sahara, at the start of his 40th Apostolic Journey abroad, Pope Francis asked for a prayer for people who have died trying to cross the desert and the Mediterranean Sea.

The Pope made the request on Tuesday while aboard the papal plane bound for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

As he offered words of gratitude to the more than 70 journalists on the flight, hailing from some 12 countries, the Pope said, "We pray for those people."

While expressing gratitude to be able to make this long-desired Apostolic Journey to the DRC and South Sudan, the Holy Father also expressed disappointment to no longer visit the Congolese city of Goma due to violence in the area.

Keeping with tradition, the Pope exchanged a brief greeting with each journalist, as they came up to greet him aboard the flight.

The Pope thanked the press for their work, which enables the visit to reach people around the world.

The ITA-Airways papal flight left Rome's Fiumicino International Airport at 8:29 AM local

time Tuesday morning, carrying the Pope and more than 70 journalists.

The flight is scheduled to arrive at "Ndjili" International Airport in the DRC's capital of Kinshasa around 3 PM local time.

On Tuesday morning, before leaving his Vatican residence at the Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis met with about ten migrants and refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, who are supported, along with their families, by the Jesuit-run Centro Astalli in Rome.

Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the Prefect of the Dicastery for Charity, accompanied the group for their visit with the Pope.

## OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS' FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION: FOR PARISHES TO BE OPEN COMMUNITIES

Pope Francis releases his prayer intention for the month of February, in which he asks parishes to be generous and open communities close to all.

In his prayer intention video for February, Pope Francis asks parishes to truly be communities; places of listening and welcome whose doors are always open to all, no one excluded.

### Parishes are not an exclusive club

In the video, which begins with an image of the outside of a beautiful but empty parish church, followed by that of the same church full of people, thus becoming even more beautiful, Pope Francis notes that every parish should put a sign on their door saying, "Free Admission".

In a press release accompanying the second prayer intention of 2023, the Pope's Worldwide Prayer network explains that with these words Pope Francis wants to remind all of us that there are no special requirements for entering because as he says, "parishes are not a club for the few, which give a certain kind of social belonging."

Indeed, in Pope Francis' vision, parishes are "close-knit communities, without bureaucracy, people-centered — a place where the gift of the Sacraments can be found."

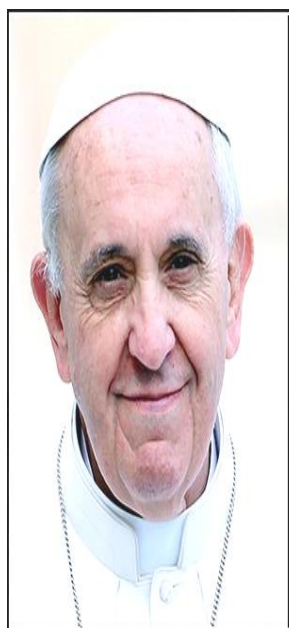
This idea is conveyed by the images of the video coming from parishes around the world, which show get-togethers, talks, the distribution of aid to those most in need, visits to the elderly and the sick, pageants, and internal or external events.

### Open doors

In his video, Pope Francis insists on this idea of parishes continuing along the path of being a center of welcome and listening: "They have to become once again schools of service and generosity, with their doors always open to those who are excluded and to those included. To all."

We can succeed, the Pope says, by being "daring"; rethinking "the style of our parochial communities" and "placing communion — communion of people, ecclesial communion — at the center."

Pope Francis had already highlighted the centrality of the parish in making the Church closer to the people. In his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, published at the beginning of his pontificate, which he noted that they have the peculiarity of being "the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters". Therefore, should not become "a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few".



The parish is the presence of the Church in any given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration.

— Pope Francis —

AZQUOTES

## OUR MARONITE PATRIARCH CARDINAL BECHARA EL RAI TO VISIT UK

Cardinal Bechara Boutros Al-Rahi is to travel to the United Kingdom on an unprecedented journey to bring the voice of Middle Eastern Christians to the forefront. The pastoral visit promises to play out as a multi-dimensional event.

Cardinal Bechara Boutros Al-Rahi, will make his first-ever pastoral visit to the United Kingdom from 7th to 14th January 2023, to meet Christian church leaders and members of his church based there.

The Lebanese-born Cardinal, the Patriarch of Antioch and head of the Maronite Church, will also be bringing the voice of suffering Lebanese Christians at a time of unprecedented political and economic turmoil in their country.

The Maronite Church makes up the largest Christian denomination in Lebanon and has become its leading voice.

### The Lebanese crisis

For nearly three years, Lebanon has been assailed by the most devastating multi-pronged crisis in its modern history, with a crippling economic and financial crisis that started in October 2019 that has been exacerbated by the impact of Covid-19 and the massive Port of Beirut explosion in August 2020.

In these dramatic years, Cardinal Al-Rahi has spoken up, especially for the 80 per cent of the population that has been pushed into poverty, and repeatedly expressed his concerns for the survival of Christianity in the Middle East.

A statement released by the charity *Fellowship and Aid to the Christians of the East* (FACE) explains: "These issues and the concerns of members of the Maronite Church, both in Lebanon and across the globe, will be among the topics Cardinal al-Rahi will address during his talks with Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster; the Rt Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald, Patron of *Fellowship and Aid to the Christians of the East*, the Most Reverend Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham; the Maronite parish in London, Church leaders in the Midlands, British Government ministers, British parliamentarians, and representatives of the British and foreign diplomatic corps."

### The visit

According to the statement, Cardinal Bechara Al-Rahi's visit is set to unfold under many declinations:

**Pastoral:** At the invitation of Revd Fadi Kmeid and the Maronite Parish of London, the Patriarch will celebrate Sunday Mass in the Maronite Rite at Ealing Abbey.

**Ecclesial:** At the invitation of Revd Ignatius Harrison, Provost of Birmingham Oratory, the Patriarch will preside over a Mass in the Maronite Rite concelebrated by the Archbishop of Birmingham and his diocesan clergy, at the Shrine of St John Henry Newman, in celebration of the communion that exists between the Holy See and the Maronite Patriarchate.

**Ecumenical:** At the invitation of the Most Revd Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham, the Patriarch will participate in an Ecumenical Vespers at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, attended by Church leaders from across all denominations in the Midlands, at which the preacher will be Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald.



*Archbishop Paul El-Sayah; Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald; His Beatitude Bechara Al-Rahi; and FACE's John Adam Fox*

**Patriarchal:** The Patriarch will attend meetings with, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales; Rt Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of the Church of England; British parliamentarians; British Government ministers; and representatives of the British and foreign diplomatic corps.

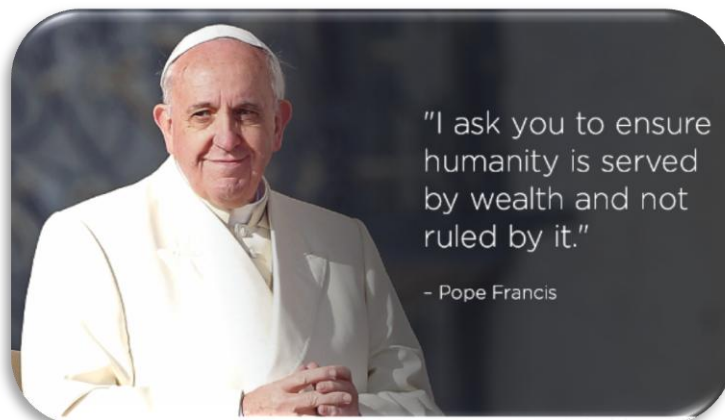
### The Maronite Church

The Maronite Church, whose origins date back to the early 4th century, is in full communion with the Pope of Rome as a *sui iuris* particular church. Maronites number approximately 4 million in the world, of which roughly a quarter live in Lebanon, where they constitute up to 30% of the national population, and three-quarters live outside the Middle East.

### Fellowship and Aid to the Christians of the East

The ecclesial and ecumenical events of the Patriarch's visit are organized by FACE. The charity's mission is to help Christians in the Middle East to remain in their homelands, to promote development and to offer pastoral assistance and support.

FACE also works to preserve the heritage of the Eastern Churches, supporting communities and church leaders by offering grants for local projects dedicated to education, health care and spirituality.



"I ask you to ensure humanity is served by wealth and not ruled by it."

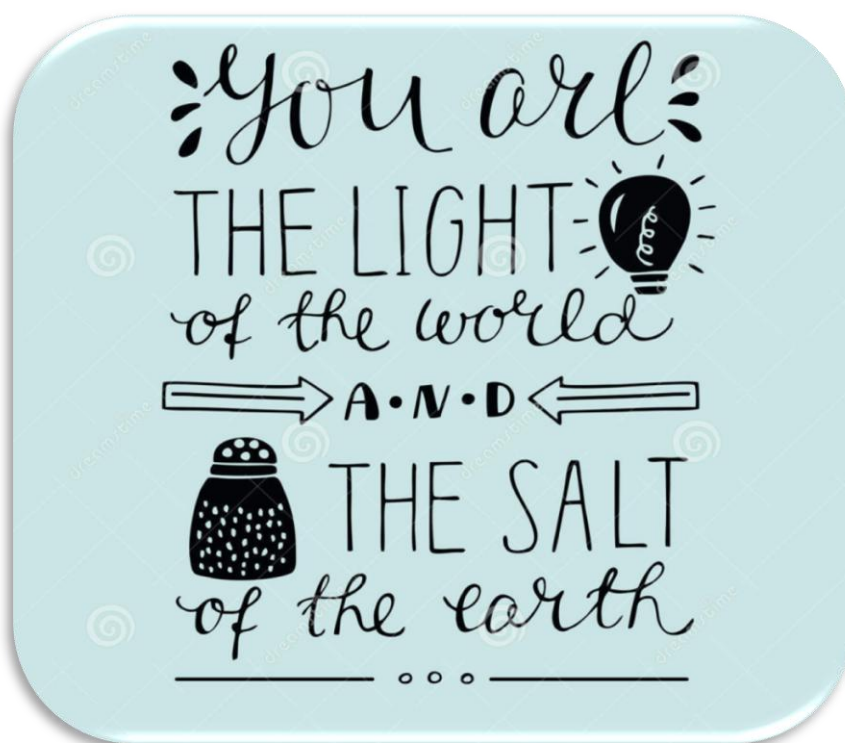
- Pope Francis



## LET OUR LIGHT SHINE!

On this 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus challenges us to be “the light of the world.” If we want to be real disciples of Him who is, “the Light of the world,” our consciences have to be clear and transparent; our behavior must have the refulgence of love, honesty, purity, respect, and sincerity . . . Our life then will become bright and meaningful as we become ever-more Christ-like. Let us ask the Lord to enable us to let our light shine in this world darkened by sin, by proclaiming the Gospel with our words and deeds.

Let us remember that February is “PRO-LIFE MONTH.” We are all called to appreciate and protect life. In this Eucharistic celebration, let us remember with admiration and gratitude all those who are involved in the “Pro-Life Movement” which bravely opposes the numerous assaults against life.



## The Call to Be Salt of the Earth and Light of the World

To be “a light to the nations” was an essential aspect of the mission of the Messiah. (See *Is 42:6 and 49:6*.) Jesus Christ came as “the real light which enlightens every man” (*Jn 1:9*). ***His thoughts, words, attitudes, and actions were such that in all truth he could claim: “I am the light of the world” (Jn 8:12 and 9:5).***

We understand and gratefully accept all this. When we hear Jesus himself say to his disciples: “*You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world,*” we know that he was not stating a fact, for he knew that the behavior of his disciples was far from being exemplary.

Rather, *Jesus was throwing a challenge at them. He was giving them a mission. He was describing what all His disciples – in all times and places – should strive to become.*

St. Paul understood this perfectly. That is why he reminded his converts that, since they were “children of light and of the day,” they should behave accordingly. (See *1 Thes 5:5, 12-22*.)

***The mission entrusted by Jesus to His disciples and the exhortation of St. Paul are as valid today as they were two thousand years ago.*** If we want to be real disciples of Christ, “the Light of the world,” our consciences have to be clear and transparent; our behavior must have the refulgence of love, honesty, purity, respect, sincerity . . . Our life then will become bright and meaningful, for the simple reason that we will be becoming ever more *Christ-like*.

Then even other people’s lives will take on meaning and brightness too, because our authentic Christian life will become an inspiration for all those who live in a world darkened by sin in its many forms.

***Becoming the light of the world is a challenge worth accepting and living up to.*** If we persevere in this effort, at the end of our life, the Lord himself will tell us in all truth: “You have done your best to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world!”

That will be a wonderful synthesis of a life well spent.

***The challenge to be (become) “salt of the earth” and “light of the world”*** is addressed to all the baptized and not just the members of the clergy and the religious. The Second Vatican Council Decree “*Apostolicam Actuositatem*” (**On the Apostolate of the Laity**) has reminded all believers about this very important truth.

The Gospel foundation and practical implications of this truth were discussed during the Synod of Bishops held on 1-30 October 1987, and were masterfully presented by Pope John Paul II in his Apostolic Exhortation “*Christi fideles Laici*” (**The Lay Faithful**). The Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (**PCP II**) picked up the Pope’s appeal to have the laity fully involved in the life and mission of the Church and ***listed the lay faithful as the first “workers of renewal”*** (See *Acts & Decrees of PCP II*, pp. 139-154.)

Since then, much has been done by bishops and priests to enable the laity to get a better appreciation of their role in the Church. They have also done much to empower them to be more involved in the life of the parish, as well as in promoting Christians values in society, but ***much more still remains to be done.***



*The Statue of  
Saint Maroun  
at the columns  
of St. Peter's  
Square in  
Vatican City,  
Rome*



**Background**

Saint Maroun, born in the middle of the 4th century was a priest who latter became a hermit, retiring to a mountain of Taurus near Antioch. His holiness and miracles attracted many followers, and drew attention throughout the empire. St John of Chrysostom sent him a letter around 405 AD expressing his great love and respect asking St. Maroun to pray for him.

**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, realized 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, both monks and laity, always remained faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

**FEAST OF SAINT MAROUN:**  
**Patron Father of the Maronites**  
**February 9**

**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 and God was connected to all. He did not separate the physical and spiritual world and actually used the physical world to deepen his faith and spiritual experience with God.

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

**Mission**

St. Maroun was a mystic who started this new ascetic-spiritual method that 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.

This missionary work came to fruition when in the mountains of Syria, 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.





## *Lent Guidelines*

Our Lent begins this year with Ash Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
or Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and concludes  
on Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>

### **Below are the Lent regulations.**

All those who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Monday or Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent, and to fast and abstain on Ash Monday or Ash Wednesday and Great Friday. Fasting should be from midnight until noon. Of course you are all encouraged to also fast & do other acts of penance on the other days during Lent, especially Fridays. There are plenty works of charity & You can help by showing your share of compassion & mercy. Most important do good things instead of just giving up some food.

**Have a blessed Lent.**

### **Confession during Lent**

You are encouraged to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this season of Lent. Catholics must go to confession at least once a year and as often as they need it in order to cleanse themselves of sins and be in a state of grace.

**Lent is about repentance and reconciling ourselves with God and our neighbor**

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### **Lenten Question**

**Q:** Why are the forty days called Lent?

**A:** They are called Lent because that is the Old English word for spring, the season of the year during which they fall. This is something unique to English. In almost all other languages its name is a derivative of the Latin term, or "the forty days."

### **Lenten Action.**

Think of a person with whom you have a strained relationship and make some gesture toward improving that relationship.



### **Prayer**

Direct our actions, Lord, by your holy inspiration  
and carry them forward by your gracious help,  
that all our works may begin in you and by you be happily  
ended.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son, who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

**Amen.**

# THREE SUNDAYS OF COMMEMORATION

“There are three special Sunday commemorations which are made at the end of Epiphany time: **Deceased Priests, Righteous and Just** (All Saints), and the **Faithful Departed** (All souls) in general.

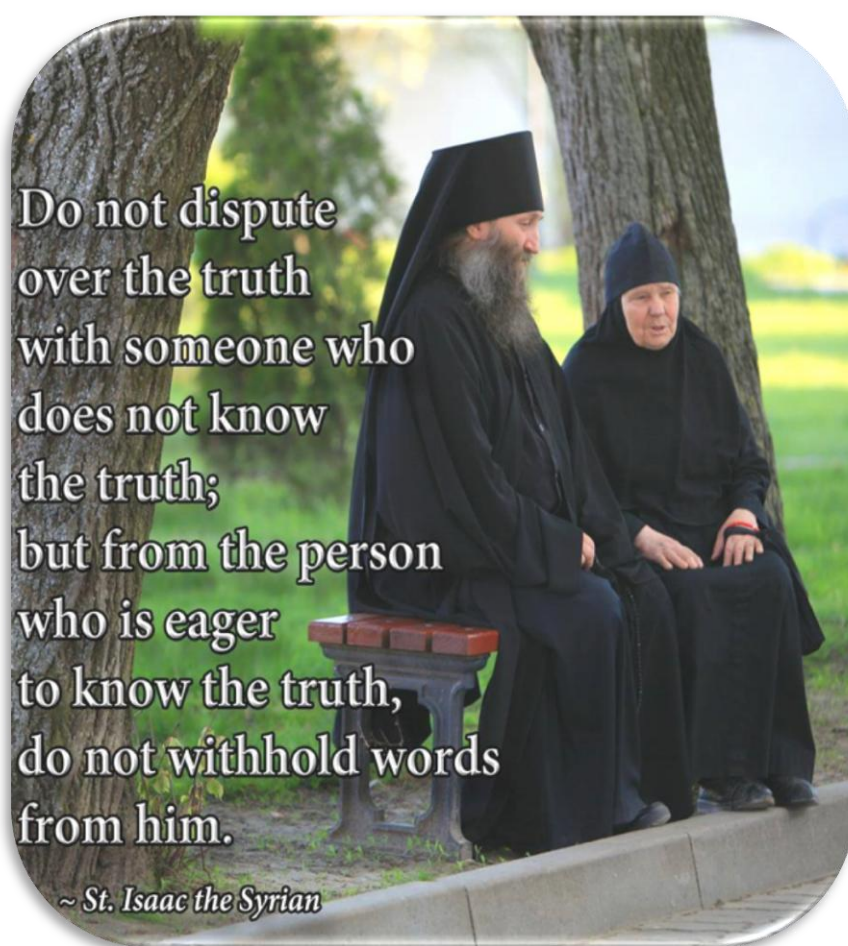
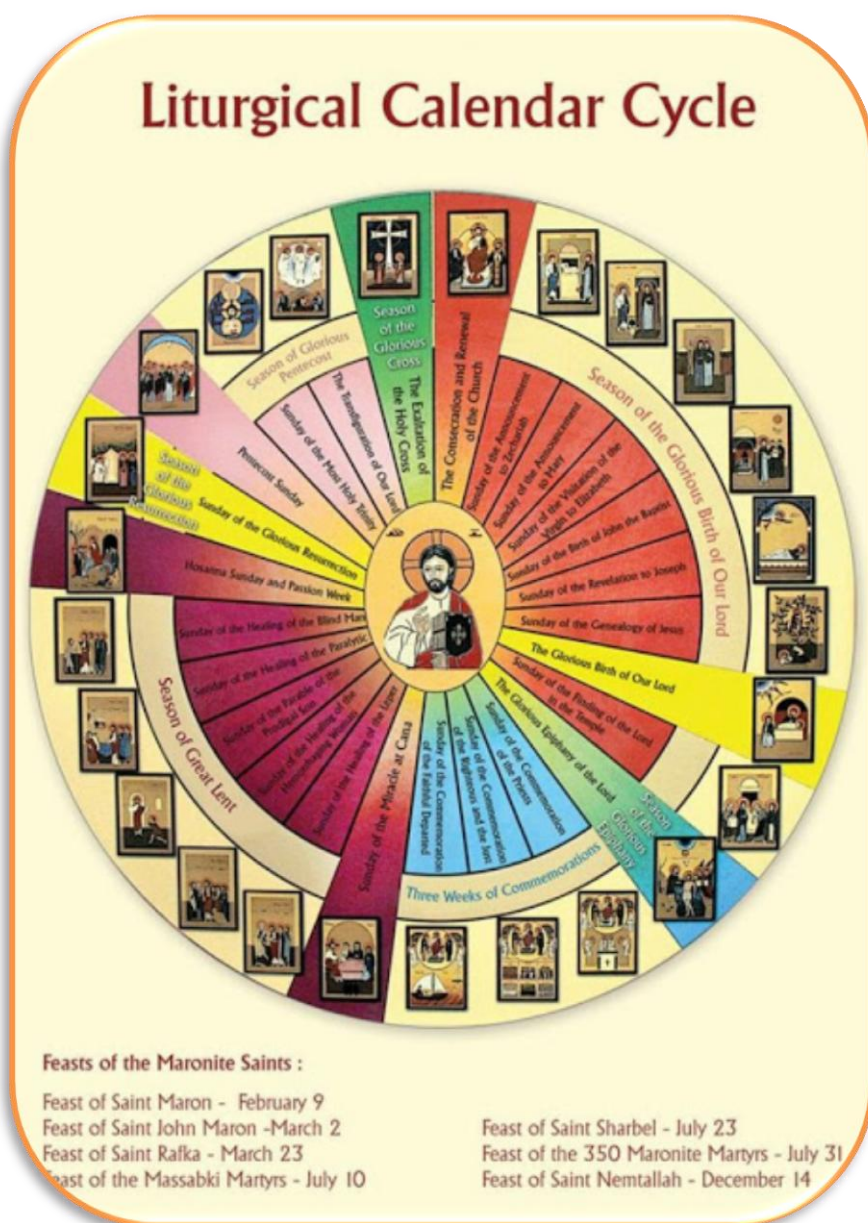
These commemorations of the Departed are to be seen in the context of the Epiphany emphasis on the charismatic mission of all Christians, and on the destiny of those faithful to their baptismal calling. Those who have died to this life are on the next stage of their journey to the Kingdom. If they have died faithful to the Gospel commandment to love, they will one day be called to the Eternal Light by Christ, the “True Hope who never fails’.”

*(The above are excerpts from “Captivated By Your Teachings: A Resource Book for Adult Maronite Catholics” written by Rev. Anthony J. Salim).*

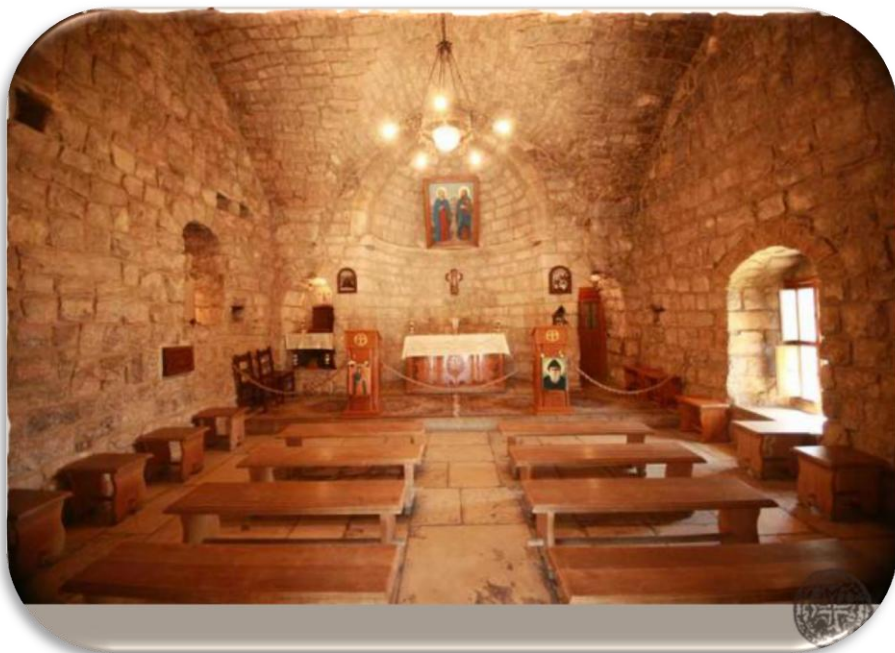
*(From Prayer of the Faithful According to the Maronite Liturgical Year)*

In the Maronite Church, this year, **January 24<sup>th</sup> is the Sunday of the Righteous and Just**. This is actually the traditional Maronite feast in honor of all saints. Whereas the Latin Church celebrates the feast of All Saints November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Maronite Church, following its ancient tradition dedicates this Sunday to their memory.

On this day we call to mind all the men and women, children of the Church, who have followed the path of justice and righteousness. We remember the prophets, apostles and martyrs, the hermits, ascetics, men and women religious, as well as all Christians who have led holy lives. As our liturgy so often reminds us, they are just in the sight of God because they have patterned their lives on Jesus Christ, the Just One. The saints are our models; their prayers and fasting have taught us to fight against sin and temptation and so gain the reward of righteousness. The saints are our intercessors; by their prayers we obtain the pardon of our sins and are strengthened in the Christian virtues. They were the salt of the earth and the light of the world, they call us to follow their path. Through their intercession may we one day merit eternal life with God.





**MIRACLE OF SAINT SHARBEL: EMILIA BOU DIB**

*The Monastery of Saints Peter & Paul where Saint Sharbel celebrates Mass everyday*

After suffering from a disease in her neck and back, Emilia had reached the point of not being able to get up without someone's help. The doctor decided to perform a surgery to prevent a total paralysis. She implored Saint Charbel to heal her because she lived alone and had no one to take care of her. One night, she got up to go to the bathroom, and there was no electricity, she looked for the cane that she always left near the bed, but did not find it. She used a lighter to help her get to the bathroom. It happened three times in a row, and in the morning she rose from her bed, perfectly cured; the cane was under the foot of the bed that she couldn't even find. When she was sure of her recovery, she went to the monastery with her medical record and registered her healing on 4/11/2012.

**SAINT CHARBEL'S MODERN-DAY MIRACLE**

"A hermit of Mount Lebanon is enrolled in the number of the blessed... a new eminent member of monastic sanctity has by his example and his intercession enriched the entire Christian people ... may he make us understand, in a world largely fascinated by wealth and comfort, the paramount value of poverty, penance and asceticism, to liberate the soul in its ascent to God," enough said by Pope Paul VI about Saint Charbel.

MTV website has learned that a patient who works in St-Joseph Hospital has been diagnosed with cancer at late stage and she is now nearing death.

The patient reportedly had had a vision of the saint and left oil fingerprints as his own portrait on her white sheet.



Reports say that she is now cured and she is undergoing necessary medical tests to approve her healing.

Although the woman insisted on keeping the incident as secret, but the news were spread swiftly and believers started to pour into the patient's room either to pray and obtain blessings from oozing oil or to take photos.

The sudden healing of the woman without medical intervention requires medical and church procedures in order to approve the St. Charbel's new miracle to be added later to the great number of miracles which have been already attributed to him since his death.





## Eucharistic Adoration

- Do you want some peace & quiet?
- Do you want to have a date?
- Do you want to be loved?
- Sign up for a date with Jesus!

*Then Eucharistic Adoration is for You!*

Eucharistic Adoration is a privilege and gift to us here at St. Sharbel from 6 AM – 6 PM DAILY

- Sign up forms are available on the table in the Adoration Chapel
- Check the hours that are available on the picture frame on the table or in the white binder

•If you have already sign up, it is your responsibility to make sure you show up or call someone to cover your hour. Names and telephone numbers are in the white binder.

Questions: Contact the Parish Office or Mylynn Lim at 702 769-2382



St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Raffle Ticket

**\$5.00 Donation**



1<sup>st</sup> Prize



2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

**Limited Time**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Silver St. Jude (Value \$2,000)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Holy Family Statue (Value \$500)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Agronomical Chair (Value \$200)

4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Car Roof Bag (Value \$200)

5<sup>th</sup> Prize: Foot Spa (Value \$60)

Drawing Sunday March 5, 2023



❖ **Ash Monday**

February 20 @ 8 am & 6 pm

❖ **Ash Wednesday**

February 22 @ 8 am & 6 pm





**NUESTRO NOTICIAS DE LA COMUNIDAD ESPAÑOLA**

El Grupo Guadalupano de la Iglesia de San Charbel

Te invita a que asistas a la Misa y El Rosario que se celebran el primer domingo cada mes comenzado,

**DIA: Domingo 5 de Febrero del 2023**

**HORA: Rosario 4:30 pm Misa 5 pm**

**DONDE: Iglesia Catolica de San Charbel  
10325 Rancho Destino Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89183**

Despues de la Misa te invitamos a que nos acompañes a una pequeña recepcion donde compartiremos: café, postres, y bocadillos con todos los asistentes.

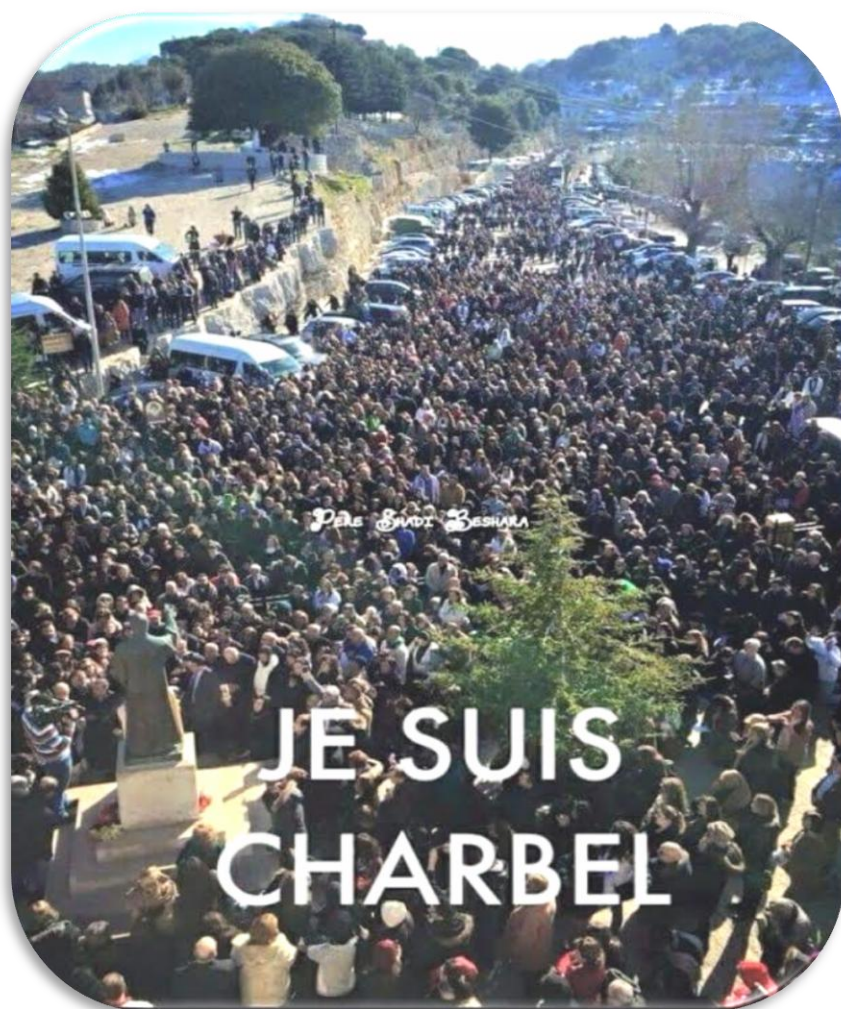
Si tienes alguna duda communicate con:  
Oficina de la Iglesia 702-619-6902



*Ruega por nosotros*

**MILAGROS DE SAN CHARBEL: RANA ABOU ZEID**

Rana sufrió de un quiste ovárico de 8 cm, la cirugía fue necesaria para eliminar el quiste. Según las recomendaciones de su Doctor, había una gran probabilidad, en este caso, que este quiste fuera un quiste con cáncer. Entonces, Rana se dirigió al tumbo de San Charbel para implorar la gracia de la curación. Luego, fue hospitalizada, y antes de la cirugía el médico pidió una nueva ecografía y descubrió que el quiste había desaparecido et que la cirugía no era necesaria. Rana vistió el tumbo de san Charbel en el monasterio de San Maron – Annaya, para agradecer a Dios por sus dones e inscribió su curación en el 22/01/2012.



*Incredible pilgrim visiting  
Saint Sharbel Anaya,  
May God be glorified in His Saints*





# Filipino News



## THE STORY OF THE 26 YEAR-OLD FILIPINO JESUIT ON THE ROAD TO SAINTHOOD

Brother Richie Fernando was a 26 year-old Jesuit seminarian from the Philippines when in 1996 he died protecting his Cambodian students from a hand grenade.

He is now on the road to sainthood, thanks to a norm issued by Pope Francis this summer that opens the door to canonization for those who have "voluntarily and freely offered their lives for others and have persevered until death in this regard."

Father Antonio Moreno, head of the Jesuits in the Philippines, told Rappler July 30 that the order had received permission to begin the initial work of opening Brother Fernando's cause for canonization.

Brother Richard (Richie) Fernando, S.J., arrived in Cambodia in 1995 to serve at a Jesuit mission which served people who had been disabled by polio, landmines, or other accidents.

According to the Jesuits of the Asia Pacific Conference, Richie quickly earned the trust of his young students as he learned their native language and took the time to listen to their stories of suffering.

One of his students was an orphan named Sarom, who became a soldier at 16 and was maimed by a landmine. Even while some at the mission found Sarom's attitude troublesome, Richie wrote in letters to friends that Sarom still had a place in his heart.

On October 17, 1996, Sarom came to the mission school for a meeting with the school director and staff. While he had finished classes, he had asked to continue at the school, though his request was denied because school officials found him disruptive.

Angered, Sarom suddenly reached into his bag and pulled out a grenade, and moved towards a classroom full of students. The windows of the classroom were barred, so the students were trapped.

Brother Richie stepped behind Sarom and grabbed him to prevent him from throwing the grenade.

"Let me go, teacher; I do not want to kill you," Sarom pleaded. But he dropped the grenade, and it fell behind him and Brother Richie, exploding and killing the Jesuit, who fell over Sarom, protecting him and everyone else in the school from the blast.

Just four days before he died, Riche had written a long letter to his friend and fellow Jesuit, Totet Banaynal SJ: "I know where my heart is. It is with Jesus Christ, who gave all for the poor, the sick, the orphan ... I am confident that God never forgets his people: our disabled brothers and sisters. And I am glad that God has been using me to make sure that our brothers and sisters know this fact. I am convinced that this is my vocation."

He had also once written about death in a retreat diary, in which he said: "I wish, when I die, people remember not how great, powerful, or talented I was, but that I served and spoke for the truth, I gave witness to what is right, I was sincere in all my works and actions, in other words, I loved and followed Christ,"

In 1997, Richie's parents wrote to King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia, asking pardon for Sarom. Again, Sarom said he had never wanted to kill Richie, who he considered a friend.

While the Philippines is a Catholic-majority country, the island nation only claims two canonized saints thus far, both of whom died in the 17th century: St. Lorenzo Ruiz, a martyr of Nagasaki, and St. Pedro Calungsod, a martyr of Guam.



However, numerous causes have been opened in recent years, with many people in the various steps of the process of canonization.

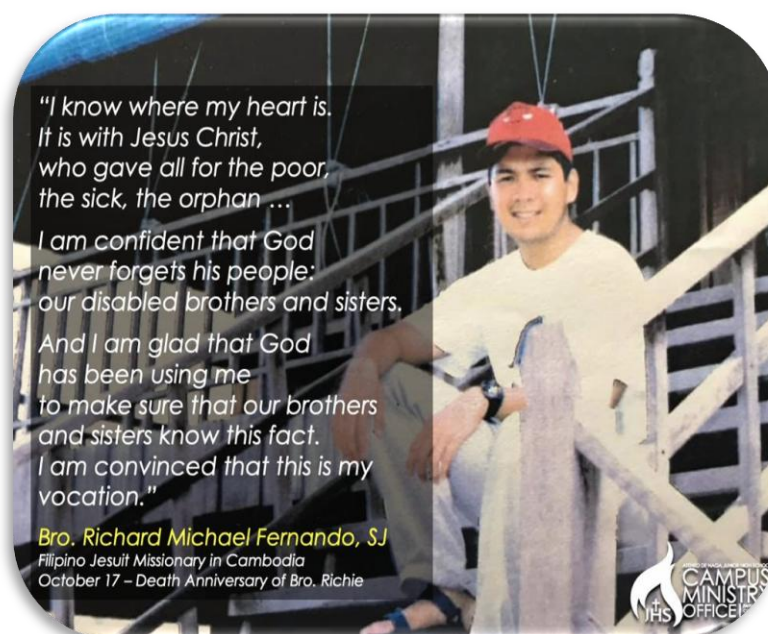
On July 31, the feast of Jesuit founder St. Ignatius of Loyola, Fr. Moreno said Richie is among many Jesuits who have imitated Saint Ignatius, "offering themselves in the self-sacrificing service of God and his people."

In his memo to the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Moreno noted that "various expressions of devotion to Richie have sprung up and continued, not just in the Philippines and Cambodia but in other places as well."

This includes a Facebook group in his honor, named: **"Friends of Bro. Richie R. Fernando SJ."**

The next step for Brother Richie's cause involves building a compelling case for his life of virtue through his writings, talks, and interviews with those who knew him, among other things.

"I ask the prayers of all in the Province to beg the Lord's gracious assistance in this process that, if he so wills, it may prosper for the benefit of his people," Fr. Moreno said.



**WEEKEND****Saturday 4:30 pm****Feb 4**

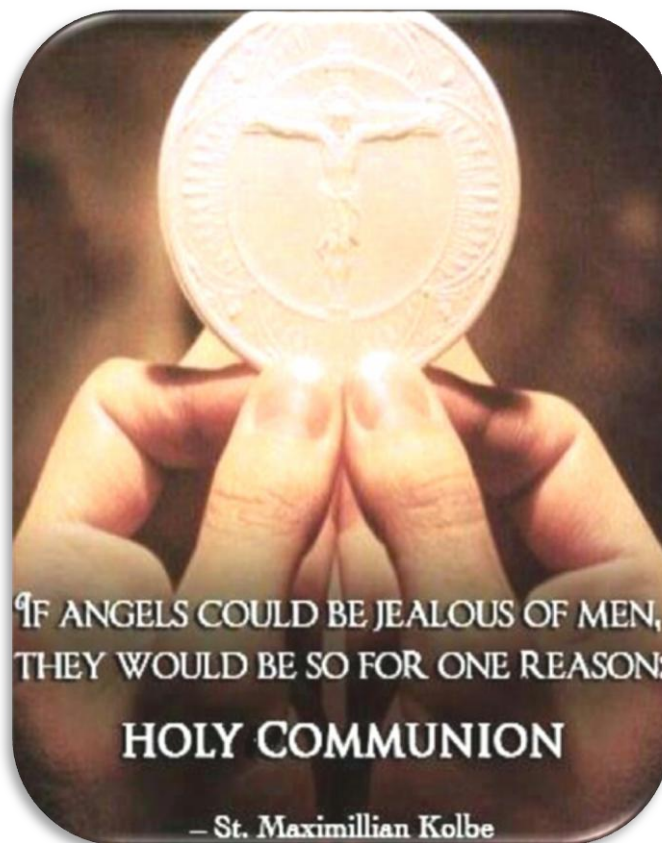
Natalie DiBlasi

\*Margie Koley (80<sup>th</sup>)**Sunday 9:30 am****Feb 5**Thanksgiving to  
all our Saints**Sunday 11:30 am**

Crisis in Lebanon

**Sunday Spanish Mass****4:30 pm**

Conversion de la pecados

***HOLY MASS INTENTIONS****Pray for  
Healing of the Sick***DAILY 8AM****MONDAY Feb 6**

Unity of Families

**TUESDAY Feb 7**

Healing of the Sick

**WEDNESDAY Feb 8**+Dennis Del Rosario  
(40 days)**THURSDAY Feb 9**

Faithful Departed

**FRIDAY Feb 10**

Unborn Babies

**COMMUNITY LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS****1. TUESDAY:** 5:30 P.M. Praise & Worship, Rosary and Benediction and Healing.**2. GOD OUR FATHER DEVOTION:** Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> after the 9:30 am Mass.**3. MONTHLY SPANISH MASS:** Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> 4:30 PM Rosary & Mass.**4. FEBRUARY 11-12** – Feast Day of the Patron of our Church Saint Maroun.**5. MONTHLY TAGALOG MASS:** Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM and Rosary at 4.30 PM.**6. TAX DONATIONS 2022** – Call the Office during the week from 9 AM to 3 PM and provide us with your email and we will send it to you.**7. COVID KITS**– Two kits will be distributed to registered families after Mass.