

# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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503.231.3853

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[www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)

## February 25, 2018

### Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman



### Next Sunday

#### *The Parable of the Prodigal Son*

2Cor 13:5-13 (Final Warnings and Appeals)

Lk 15:11-32 (The Parable of the Lost Son)

## Your Gifts To God

### Offering Report for February 11th - 16th

Online.....\$420.00

Collection.....\$890.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,310.00

YTD Total.....\$10,722.43

YTD Goal.....\$12,922.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,199.57**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 25th, 10:30 am

*Jen Watson*

Monday, February 26th

*Amanda Marie Dennis*

Tuesday, February 27th

*Jacob Gyllenhaal*

Wednesday, February 28th

*Patrik, Marek, Boris, Richard*

Thursday, March 1st

*Jason and Travis Warner*

Friday, March 2nd

*Available*

Saturday, March 3rd

*Available*

Sunday, March 4th

*+Yvette Ghossen*

***Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 9:30 am before the morning Liturgy.***

***Confession every Sunday at 9:45 am before the morning Liturgy.***

***Also join us to pray the Rosary on Sundays at 10:00 am before the Liturgy begins.***

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, February 25th

*Available*

Sunday, March 4th

*Available*

# Events

## Lenten Schedule

Stations of the Cross in English and Arabic — **Fridays during Lent, 7:00pm**  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament — **Sundays during Lent, 9:00am**  
**Holy Week Schedule available at [stsharbel.org](http://stsharbel.org)**

### Parish Council

+Bruce Ashford  
(Treasurer)

Charlie Ashou

Gus Bekahi

Nick El Hajj

Agopos Ghossein

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Anne Marentette  
(Secretary)

Doug Raab

+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Mitch Siekmann

Laif Waldron

Ex Officio  
+Deacon Tony  
+Deacon Wadih

Please make your gift to the Annual Appeal through your local parish. You may make it in a special envelope noted "Bishop's Appeal", or by noting it on your check. You may also make your donation online at [www.eparchy.org](http://www.eparchy.org).

### Other Maronite Institutions Serving You



The Eparchy publishes a monthly magazine, the Maronite Voice, which contains spiritual readings and news from parishes across the country. If you do not receive it by mail, you can read it online or via the Eparchy's app!

#### Website and App

Like the rest of the world, the Eparchy is going increasingly digital! The Eparchy's website is [www.eparchy.org](http://www.eparchy.org), and there is an app for the iPhone and Android. Both contain lots of interesting information.

The Order of Saint Sharbel is an association dedicated to supporting seminarians and retired priests, financially and spiritually. See [www.orderstsharbel.org](http://www.orderstsharbel.org) for details.



The National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) is a lay apostolate that supports the Church and works closely with the Eparchy and Bishop. See [www.namnews.org](http://www.namnews.org).

If you are receiving this publication by mail, enclosed you will find a special booklet of Maronite prayers dedicated to the Blessed Mother. Use this in honor of the Blessed Mother, and it will help bring you peace and mercy. If you did not receive a booklet, ask your parish priest and he will gladly give you one.



#### Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

1021 S. 10th St.  
St. Louis, MO 63104  
314-231-1021

[admin@eparchy.org](mailto:admin@eparchy.org) [www.eparchy.org](http://www.eparchy.org)

## EPARCHY OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON OF LOS ANGELES 2018 LENTEN APPEAL



### We've Come a Long Way in 24 Years

When the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon was founded in 1994 by Pope Saint John Paul II, it contained 26 parishes, was served by 30 priests and had 4 seminarians. Today, the Eparchy has 44 parishes and missions, over 50 priests and 10 seminarians.

Still, the Eparchy has a long way to go to fulfill its mission. What is the mission of the Eparchy? It comes from Jesus Christ himself: "Feed my sheep" – that means "Serve all of the Maronite Catholic faithful so that each one has personal relationship with Jesus." And "Go and teach all nations" – that means "Bring the Gospel message to everyone!"

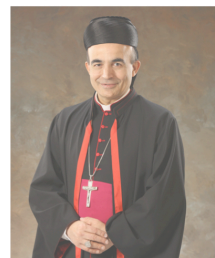
There are 34 states in the Eparchy. In 15 states, there is not a single Maronite parish or mission. There are an estimated 1 million Maronites in the Eparchy who do not belong to a Maronite parish simply because there is no parish nearby. Many communities are asking Bishop A. Elias Zaidan to send a priest and start a parish to serve the Maronites – places such as Albuquerque, Omaha, Lansing, Seattle, Green Bay, San Jose and others. In the 19 states where there is a Maronite presence, some people have to drive over two hours each way to attend a Maronite Liturgy on Sundays. That's too far.



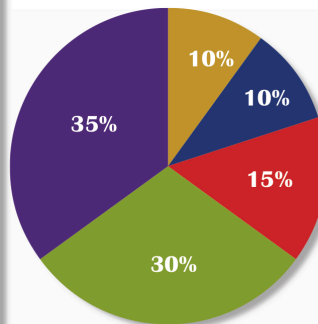
### The Need to do More

Bishop Zaidan is committed to extending the Eparchy's services to all Maronites throughout the Eparchy, so that they and their children have the opportunity to be raised in the faith of their ancestors. Under his leadership, the Eparchy is moving swiftly to address these needs. New missions have been opened or staffed by priests in places like Milwaukee (WI), El Paso (TX) and Riverside (CA). The Eparchy now has 10 seminarians who are receiving the finest education at seminaries and universities such as Catholic University of America. And many of the Eparchy's priests are making heroic efforts to travel to serve Maronites in far-flung areas and build parishes.

But we need to do more. And to do more, we need your help.



### The pie chart below shows how your gifts for this year's Annual Appeal will be allocated.



Each year, the Eparchy makes an appeal during Lent for the most critical needs of the Eparchy. For 2018, these needs are:

#### Seminarians and Retired Priests

A man must undergo a rigorous education and formation program for at least five years to become a priest. During this time he is called a "seminarian". The Eparchy needs seminarians to ensure that there will be enough priests in the future. The Eparchy currently has 10 seminarians. Two of them are deacons and two will be subdeacons soon. The average cost of educating and supporting a seminarian is \$40,000 per year (\$400,000 in total this year).

At the other end of the spectrum, the Eparchy has four retired priests who faithfully served for over 150 years (on a collective basis) in parishes. These priests receive a modest pension each month and supplemental health insurance. The total cost of this is \$111,000 in 2018. 35% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will go to assist the needs of Seminarians and Retired Priests.



#### Missions and Small Parishes.

Opening new parishes is essential to the survival of the Maronite Church in America. The Eparchy has sent priests to new areas to gather Maronites and minister to them, such as Milwaukee, Riverside and El Paso. These new missions need support for basic expenses such as insurance, utilities and the priest's living costs, in their early days to grow. 30% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will go to support Missions and Small Parishes.



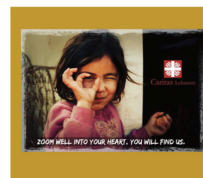
#### Ministries

The Eparchy has multiple ministries to better serve Maronites which need to grow because they do not reach as many people as they should. Among these ministries are: Religious Education, Youth Ministry, New Evangelization, and Family and Sanctity of Life. The Eparchy wants to increase the size and scope of its ministries so that they reach more people in more places throughout the Eparchy. 15% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will go to assist the Eparchy's Ministries.



#### Charity to Others

Just as you are generous to the Eparchy, the Eparchy generously supports those in need here in the United States, and abroad in places like Lebanon and Syria. Many worthy causes are helped with this assistance. 10% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will go to charity.



#### National Maronite Shrine

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon located in North Jackson, Ohio, was founded over 50 years ago to invoke Our Lady's protection over all Maronites in the United States. The Shrine is a place of pilgrimage for all Maronites and is open 365 days a year. 10% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will go to assist the National Shrine.





join us  
**SATURDAY, MAY 12TH**  
 for a *Mother's Day Haftli*  
**FEATURING SUPER STAR**  
**REMON MAMARI**



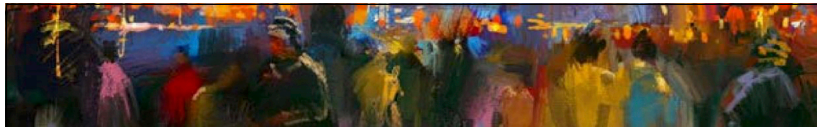
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## Lenten Action for Dreamers: Congressional Call-In Campaign

Please participate in the Call-in Day to Congress on **Monday, February 26, 2018!** Your advocacy is critical to help the nearly 1.8 million Dreamers, young people who were brought into the United States by their parents as children. They may face deportation as soon as March 6, unless Congress reaches a bi-partisan deal to protect them. Please follow these easy steps to help:

1. Please call 855-589-5698 to reach the Capitol switchboard, and **press 1 to connect to your Senators**. Once you are connected to each Senator's office, please ask the person on the phone to **deliver this simple message:**  
*"I urge you to support a bipartisan, common-sense, and humane solution for Dreamers:*
  - *Protect Dreamers from deportation and provide them with a path to citizenship.*
  - *Reject proposals that undermine family immigration or protections for unaccompanied children.*
  - *As a Catholic, I know that families are not "chains," but a blessing to be protected.*
  - *Act now to protect Dreamers, our immigrant brothers and sisters."*
2. Please call 855-589-5698 a second time to reach the Capitol switchboard again, and **press 2 to connect to your Representative**. Once you are connected to the Representative's office, please ask the person on the phone to **deliver the same message as above**.

After completing your call, please go to <http://www.justiceformigrants.org> to learn more about Dreamers and find other ways to voice your support.



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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# Reflection

## *Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman*

*Lk 8:40-56*

It is part of common human experience to be excluded from something. Perhaps you are excluded by fellow students or coworkers from a group for an old grudge or family members might keep you at a distance because of your faith. However it manifests, social exclusion is an unfortunate inevitability of human relationships and hurtful. In the today's reading from the Gospel the hemorrhaging woman is exactly that – a social reject. According to Jewish purity laws, she is dirty because of her illness. If any other Jew deemed pure by the Law were to touch her that person would become ritually impure, defiled and in need of being ritually purified else they make others impure as well. This poor woman was suffering, and her suffering was increased by her rejection from others. So she tried all earthly doctors' remedies, but none helped (Luke 8:43). Only Christ can help her, and so we see in this miracle, just like in the healing of the blind man, Christ's place as the Good Physician when He allows her to touch Him and be healed.

Christ knew rejection as He was the cornerstone that the builders had rejected (Ps. 118:22). Though without need, our all-powerful God descended to enter the trials of humanity and defeat them – rejection being one of them. Each time Christ heals someone or helps He is attacked by His enemies until the point where they kill Him. But He does so knowing He will die so that He can save humanity from the death of sin. The hemorrhaging woman, rejected by all, tries all human means of getting better. But, as King David says, “trust not in princes” (Ps. 146:3) for “our help is in the name of the Lord” (Ps. 124:8). Sin is a battle we cannot win by ourselves. Adam lost in the Garden, and if we try to be pure of sin on our own we will always fail. But, like the hemorrhaging woman who was discouraged by others, if we spiritually reach out and grab the Pure One, Jesus Christ, we shall be healed. Those who thought themselves pure laughed at the Pure One for their self-conceit blinded them from the truth of whose presence they were in (Luke 8:53). But that day, it was the hemorrhaging woman, the impure one, who was truly made pure because of her daring faith to grab the Pure One (Luke 8:48), and the “pure” who reviled her are truly the impure.

The sickness of sin is an epidemic in humanity, but the Good Physician has already come and prepared the cure in His love. Those who think they are healthy will not take the medicine – though in reality no one living is righteous before God (Ps. 143:2). We must look to the hemorrhaging woman as our inspiration for boldness, and our faith must overcome both our sense of self-sufficiency and fear. We will neither seek the medicine of our sin if we think we are well nor will we approach Him who gives it if we are too afraid. But let us not fear if we truly love Christ for He gives us every opportunity for our salvation. Let us receive the Good Physician's prescription, Lent, which He has written to prepare us to receive the ultimate Medicine of Life, His Eucharist made possible by His sacrifice on the cross. In keeping with this Lenten prescription, let us fast from food and negative deeds, as well as let us give alms to the poor and pray.

All the sick and sinful Christ heals and accepts are an example calling us to repent – the tax collector, the thief who was crucified with Him, Mary Magdalene, and the hemorrhaging woman. Though the Mass is the source and summit of our worship as Christians, and the Eucharist is receiving Christ Himself, we should constantly pray asking for His mercy. Our Syriac tradition stresses the power of the cross, the symbol that stands in place of all the life-saving actions of Christ. We might not have the highest medicine of the Good Physician available to us all the time, but every hour of the day we have His cross available to us. Let us make this holy sign, a holy means of access to Him, throughout our day, approaching Him in strong faith, and asking to be healed of all that sickens us for He wishes us to be well.

— Article Credit: St Rafqa Parish





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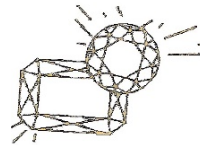
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