



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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

## April 1, 2018

### Sunday of the Glorious Resurrection



#### Next Sunday

*Jesus Appears to the Disciples & Thomas*

2 Cor 5:11-21 (The Ministry of Reconciliation)

Jn 20:26-31 (Thomas / Conclusion)

## Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for March 18th - 24th

Online.....\$655.00

Collection.....\$573.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,228.00

YTD Total.....\$19,294.43

YTD Goal.....\$22,152.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,857.57**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, April 1st, 10:30 am

*Available*

Monday, April 2nd

*Available*

Tuesday, April 3rd

*Available*

Wednesday, April 4th

*Available*

Thursday, April 5th

*Available*

Friday, April 6th

*Available*

Saturday, April 7th

*Available*

Sunday, April 8th

*Available*

*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, April 1st

Anonymous

Sunday, April 8th

Available

# Events

## May You All Have a Blessed Holy Week and Glorious Easter!

### 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

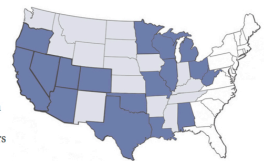


#### We've Come a Long Way in 24 Years

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!"

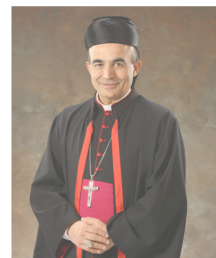
There are 34 states in the Eparchy. In 15 states, there is not a single Maronite parish or mission. There are an estimated 1 million Maronites in the Eparchy who do not belong to a Maronite parish simply because there is no parish nearby. Many communities are asking Bishop A. Elias Zaidan to send a priest 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.



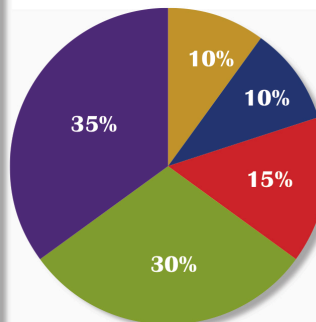
#### The Need to do More

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.





## Altar Sponsorship

We are in need of families or individuals to sponsor the altar. Sponsorship helps with altar bread, communion wine, candles for the celebration of the Holy Offering of the Mass. Your gift will be acknowledged on the website calendar and published in the bulletin. Here are a few points:

- Contact Ann Marentette to schedule **Altar Sponsorships**. Her email is : [abmarentette@gmail.com](mailto:abmarentette@gmail.com)
- Your gift is a love offering, with the minimum gift being \$30. (Somewhere between \$50-60 is my guess about the breakeven point for us,) Again, there is no set amount, everyone has different means, so offer what you will.
- You can make your offering on the website, or you can put a check in collection plate, just note on the check or envelope what it is for (Altar Support).
- The big Sundays are Easter and Christmas, but also Mother's Day, and Feast Days (i.e., St Sharbel Feast, Epiphany, Holy Cross, Immaculate Conception, etc). Those are available on **first come first served basis**. Obviously we spend more on flowers those days, so you could bear that in mind in considering your offering for that week's sponsorship.
- If you want to actually have a florist do the flowers for a big weekend, work with Ann to coordinate that.
- Just like Mass Intentions, there might be weeks where no one signs up. I would be ideal for people to sign up for every Sunday, but we are inviting you to take the initiative to sign up.

Join us  
**SATURDAY, MAY 12TH**  
for a *Mother's Day Hafti*  
**FEATURING SUPER STAR**  
**REMON MAMARI**  
**TICKETS INCLUDE**  
**MIDDLE EASTERN**  
**DINNER**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 6PM**  
DINNER AT 7:30 • MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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## *“Be Not Afraid”*

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) invites you to their Biennial Convention on April 21, 2018 at The Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother (The Grotto), Portland, Oregon. The cost for the day is \$40, which includes lunch. The theme of the event is “Be Not Afraid.” After a brief business meeting there will be a panel “You are not Alone.” Archbishop Alexander K. Sample will preside at a noon Mass followed by lunch and Woman of Achievement. The afternoon panels are “Walking in Hope” and “Journeys to Ministry”.

For more information call Sue Anker  
503-252-2574 or Barb Francescon  
971-386-2144

## CAMPAIGN PLANNING STUDY

You may be aware that we are conducting a comprehensive survey of the entire diocese. The purpose of the survey is to help gauge support for the following projects that constitute our diocese master plan:

- Establishing new Maronite parishes throughout the Eparchy
- Funds to provide for the education of seminarians
- Caring for our retired priests
- Enhancing Eparchy ministries by expanding Youth Ministry and creating a Pro-Family Ministry
- Establishing a permanent Eparchy Communications office
- Creating a family catechesis program to provide religious education to Maronites of all ages
- Enhancing Maronite liturgical life through training for choirs and better translation of liturgical materials into English

Bishop A. Elias Zaidan would like to thank everyone who has already participated in the study. Your thoughts are extremely valuable to him during this planning process. If you have not yet responded to a survey, you are encouraged to do so. Your input will help the diocese make an informed decision regarding the long-range plans for the Eparchy.

We hope to have all surveys completed by April 18, 2018. You may return your survey to the office or place it in the offertory basket at any of the Masses.

You may also complete the survey online by going to [steiergroup.com/survey](http://steiergroup.com/survey), clicking on Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles and entering the password: **Lebanon**.

### Holy Week Schedule:

<b>March 25</b> <i>Palm Sunday</i>	<b>Hosanna Sunday (Shaneenee) – 10:30 a.m.</b> Procession to follow with the distribution of Palms. <i>Confessions will be heard <b>before</b> Mass only</i> <i>**Breakfast and Egg Hunt after Mass.**</i>
<b>March 28</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	<b>Rite of the Lamp, (Mass/ Qurbono) – 7 p.m.</b> <i>Confessions will be heard before/after the Holy Mysteries.</i>
<b>March 29</b> <i>Holy Thursday</i>	<b>Institution of the Eucharist- Mass/ Qurbono – 7 p.m.</b> Washing of the Apostles Feet <i>Confessions will be heard before/after the Holy Mysteries.</i>
<b>March 30</b> <i>Great Friday</i>	<b>Signing of the Chalice – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 10:30 a.m.</b> <i>Confessions available before or after <u>by request</u></i>  <b>Burial Procession (Zeeyeh) – No Eucharist– 7 p.m.</b> Commemoration of the Burial of our Lord. <i>No Confessions available in the evening</i>
<b>March 31</b> <i>Saturday of Holy Week</i>	<b>Morning Service: 10:30 a.m.</b>  <b>Rite of Forgiveness (General Absolution)</b> <i>No individual Confessions available</i>  <b>Night Vigil of Easter:</b> <b>Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord (Mass/ Quorbono)– 9:00 p.m.</b> Followed by Rite of Peace and Procession. <i>No individual Confessions available</i>
<b>April 1</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i>	<b>Sunday of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord – 10:30 am</b> No Procession, Mass only.



# Reflection

## *Sunday of the Glorious Resurrection*

*The mighty voice of the Son descended to Sheol, and its fortresses crumbled and its high citadels were shattered. He called out in a loud voice, "Where are you, Adam?" as He had called to him in the beginning. Adam heard the voice of his Lord and raised his head, saying, "I give thanks to You, Compassionate One, for You have visited me in the House of Perdition."*

(From the Syriac Maronite Morning Prayer for the Great Saturday of Light)

As we heard today, on the greatest feast of the year, St. Paul said, "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:22). Death entered the world through Adam's sin, but life has been given to us today anew. In His love God created humanity in His great image in the beginning. Adam rejected God – Who is life – and therefore chose death instead. But from the very moment Adam chose death and sin God prepared His plan of salvation to give all the chance to choose holiness and life again, including Adam himself.

But this plan of salvation was not fully known before Jesus, the Son of the Father, for His becoming man was the plan of salvation appointed by the Father. Jesus revealed by His prophets throughout the ages glimmers of hope, but hope itself was not known. Before the Son was sacrificed on Golgotha in His crucifixion there was nothing that could forgive the sin of Adam – the Jews had to make daily sacrifices in the Temple in Jerusalem every time they sought forgiveness only to need to make more sacrifices. Similarly, because Adam had the gates of Paradise closed to humanity, heaven was closed to those who died. Instead those faithful who died went to Sheol, the place of the dead. It was neither good nor bad, but a place of nothingness. This is where Adam himself went to as well, since he was a righteous man apart from his original sin.

But God, Who created man in His image and likeness, did not want to see mankind simply languish in darkness. The Good Physician, the Lover of Mankind, Jesus Christ in His love sought to take away the death that entered the world through Adam. Therefore the Immortal One humbled Himself to die so by His death He put to death our death. By descending to death, Christ, Who is Life, brought life to death itself and gave Adam a new chance. In the beginning He called out "Where are you?" (Gen. 3:9) in the Garden to give Adam a chance to repent after His sin but Adam did not repent. So in Christ's patience He suffered a humiliating death in His love to give Adam the second chance so that when He would ask again Adam could rejoice in the option of new life in Christ. Christ has offered us the same life by His death and resurrection, lowering Himself to our fallen state so that He could elevate us to the heights of heaven.

Today we rejoice in the Resurrection of Christ because in Christ's great glory, having destroyed death – that is the perdition of separation from God – He has offered us eternal life. Eternal life is not simply a platitude or consolation, but as Christ promised to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25). We believe because of Jesus's promise that we shall all resurrect on the Last Day. Let us rejoice today for Christ has spared us from death that has loomed over us from Adam, and has given us the means of life that will extend forever with the God Who loves us so greatly that He suffer every insult and die for us so as to destroy even death itself for us.

Christ is risen!

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish

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