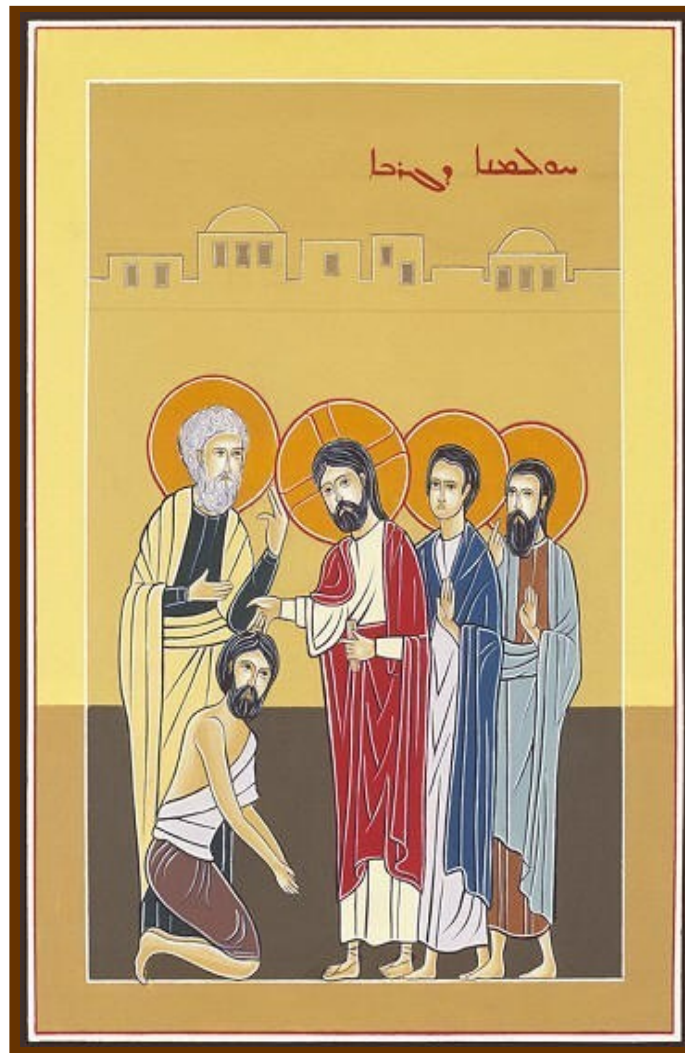


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The Most Reverend Gregory J. Mansour, Eparchial Bishop  
The Very Reverend Dominique Hanna, Rector  
Deacon Peter Frangie  
Subdeacon Norbert Vogl  
Subdeacon Adonis El-Asmar



***Sunday of the Healing of the Blind Man***

# ***Sunday of the Healing of the Blind Man***

## ***March 29, 2020***

<b>Sun. March 29</b>	<b>Sunday of the Healing of the Blind Man</b> Private Divine Liturgy livestreamed at 10:00 am	<b>St. Cyril of Baalbek</b>
Mon. March 30	NO LITURGY	St. John Climacus
Tues. March 31	Private Divine Liturgy For those who died from the coronavirus	
Wed. April 1	Private Divine Liturgy For those who contracted the coronavirus	St. Mary the Egyptian
Thurs. April 2	Private Divine Liturgy For the families of those who contracted and died from the coronavirus	
Fri. April 3	Private Divine Liturgy of the Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness For the nurses and doctors who are working with the sick	
Sat. April 4	Private Divine Liturgy of the Saturday of the Raising of Lazarus For the medical researchers to find a cure for the coronavirus	
<b>Sun. April 5</b>	<b>Hosanna Sunday (Palm Sunday)</b> Private Divine Liturgy livestreamed at 10:00 am	

### **Financial Standing February 2020**

#### **Ordinary Income**

Sundays & Holy Days Collections: **\$10,472.00**

Cathedral Stipends from Marriages & Funerals, Lower Hall Rent, Candles, Breakfast, Luncheon, Bake Sale, Dues, Religious Education, flowers, ...: **\$21,795.70**

**Total Ordinary Income: \$32,267.70**

#### **Ordinary Expense**

Payroll, Gas, Electricity, Building Insurance and Medical Insurance, Leasing Equipment, TV, Phone, Internet, Church, Hall & Office Supplies, Postage, Regular Maintenance, Charity, Eparchial Appeal, Insurance,...

**Total Ordinary Expense: \$30,325.38**

**Total Ordinary Income vs Expense: \$1,942.32**

**We also brought in some extraordinary income in the amount of: \$42,036.67** (which included Library Rent, Donations for specific projects, and the Capital Campaign)

**Thank you for your contribution  
in helping maintain the Church**

### **Zero Divorce rate!!??**

As we live in a culture that promotes separation over reconciliation, selfishness and self centeredness over compromise and sacrifice in married love, the divorce rate is skyrocketing except in the town of Siroki-Brijeg in Herzegovina where **not one single divorce** has been recorded among its 13,000 inhabitants. Check out [our videos section about marriage under resources](#) to find out the secret to this great success.

For more information about our ministry  
Check [here and watch the video.](#)

### **Dear Beloved Parishioners:**

A week and a half ago schools and colleges were closed and last Friday all non-essential businesses in New York were asked to stop operation. People were advised to stay home and not go out unless it was necessary for them to do so. The streets and sidewalks that used to buzz with people rushing here and there are empty. The entire City of New York is slowing down and the lifestyle of its people is changing drastically as they try to combat the coronavirus. Terms like quarantine, self-isolation, shelter-in-place, state of emergency and lockdown are now common words and becoming part of our daily vocabulary. All these measures are extremely disturbing to interactions with others and they jeopardize the social networking upon which communities, neighborhoods and countries are founded.

However, what is most troubling to me personally is the interruption of worship, especially on Sundays. At first, it started with refraining from giving the sign of peace in an attempt to minimize the spread of the virus. And then, from Monday of the current week until further notice, the Divine Liturgy and devotions at churches can now no longer be attended by the faithful, so no Communion is being distributed.

The greeting of peace at the beginning of the Anaphora goes from the Altar to the priest and then to the people. It represents the peace of God that we receive in our hearts and we are making it into a visible sign and passing it on to others. When the congregation two weeks ago was asked to stop giving the sign of peace, it made me think that we have probably been exchanging a visible sign that does not really testify to what should be in our hearts, the real peace of Christ. Today might be an opportunity to mediate on whether we are at peace with one another and with God before going back to visibly sharing the sign again with joined hands.

In addition, this disruption of the liturgical life of the Church resembles what has been happening in the Middle East for years and most recently during the rise of ISIS. Instead of most of the churches being closed, churches in Syria and Iraq were destroyed. The Church in the West supported and stood by them as much as it could, but now our solidarity with them is taking a different form because we are getting to know what it means to be deprived of the Eucharist and the upcoming Easter season celebrations.

My Friends, God does not want us to only get through this crisis, he wants to use us during this crisis. Let us deeply reflect on our relationship with one another and benefit from this time of isolation and make the necessary changes in our attitude before going back to true worship.



### **The 2020 Eparchial Annual Lenten Appeal**

A second collection for the Eparchial Charities Appeal will be taken every Sunday during the Season of Great Lent starting on Sunday March 10th. We are asked to raise \$5,500 to participate in this awesome mission of the Eparchy. Please read the Bishop's letter inside. We have collected \$1,902 so far. Thanks for your generosity.

### **Postponement of the Greece Pilgrimage**

Due to the coronavirus, the planned Greece Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Paul was postponed to October 11. It will be the same itinerary as before, but we will be joining another group and hopefully by then this situation will be under control.

### **Catholic Relief Services Lenten RICE BOWL**

Join our faith community—and more than 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl at the end of the Divine Liturgy. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on the challenge of global hunger and how it affects our human family. [Read more here.](#)

### **High & Elementary School Scholarship**

Students, currently enrolled or about to start attending high school or graduating from high school to college, are eligible to apply for either the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception, Knights of St. Maron, or the Joulwan Family scholarships. Students may also apply for the SALAM Club Scholarship. All forms will be available in the next few weeks.

### **Vocations Awareness Poster-Essay**

Students grades K to 12 are encouraged to participate in the [Vocations Awareness Poster-Essay](#) Multimedia Contest through NAM. [Click here for guidelines](#) and information. Also you can see Adonis El-Asmar or Marian Ciaccia for more information. This year let us have more students take part in the contest.

### **Free Online NFP Session**

In order to make sure that couples gain proper understanding of Natural Family Planning, per the Statutes of the Eparchy (No. 71), a free online session is offered to learn an overview of NFP methods and the introductory session to the Creighton Model FertilityCare System presenting the theology and the scientific aspect of NFP. The following are the dates and times: Thursday April 30, Tuesday May 19, Monday June 8 at 7:30pm. To sign up for one of the sessions please contact Marise Frangie at 914-393-8907 or [sanctityoflife@live.com](mailto:sanctityoflife@live.com)

### **Bulletin Advertisement**

Business owners who would like to advertise their businesses in the Church bulletin that reaches over 600 households via email. For more information [click here](#) and call the rectory at 718-624-7228.

### **Project Roots**

Bishop Gregory is asking to redouble the efforts to register American citizens of Lebanese descent who would like to regain their Lebanese citizenship. Parishioners are encouraged to register their births and marriages in Lebanon. Please check Project Root's [new website](#) and contact [Zahia Abi Habib](#) for more information

### **Recommendation of the Finance Council**

The Finance Council recommends that parishioners set the Church up for automatic bill pay. This is the best way to keep supporting your spiritual home while on vacation or out-of-town.





# *Save the Date*

*Thursday, October 1, 2020*

Join us for the  
*Eleventh Annual Benefit Dinner for  
The Eparchy of Saint Maron*

At The Water Club, New York

Details to follow

## Order of Saint Sharbel Matching Grant

Good news: Catholic Extension Society recently announced that it will make a \$25,000 grant to our Eparchy in 2020 for our Seminarian Endowments – if certain conditions are met!

Each Eparchy can earn the \$25,000 grant if they enroll at least 15 new Perpetual Members in the Order of Saint Sharbel by December 31. Membership dues and donations must be received by December 31, 2020 to qualify.

This is not the first time that the Eparchies have received matching grants from Catholic Extension. Similar grants were made in 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016 after the Order of Saint Sharbel met similar challenges. The Eparchies were selected after a competitive application process each time.

Order of Saint Sharbel President Jim Abdo of Minneapolis immediately put out a call to Members of the Order to invite their friends, family members and fellow parishioners to join or to recruit new Members or to make a gift of Membership, saying, “We do not want to waste this great opportunity!”

Perpetual Membership in the Order requires a donation of \$5,000. The payment can be made in one lump sum, or in four quarterly installments over the course of a year. Information on enrolling in the Order can be found on the Order of St. Sharbel’s website, [www.orderstsharbel.org](http://www.orderstsharbel.org), or obtained by contacting any of the following people:

- James Abdo, President of the Order ([jabdo@abdobooks.com](mailto:jabdo@abdobooks.com))
- Charlene Hiffa, Vice President, Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn ([mchiffa@bellsouth.net](mailto:mchiffa@bellsouth.net))
- John Kurey, Stewardship Director, Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn and the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon (718-237-9913 / 314-231-1021; or [saintmaron@yahoo.com](mailto:saintmaron@yahoo.com) / [maroniteswest@yahoo.com](mailto:maroniteswest@yahoo.com)).

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AND HELP BUILD THE FUTURE OF THE MARONITE CHURCH**

*Meet this year’s Seminarians for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn*



## Easter Flower Donations

Mrs. Phyllis Simon	In Memory of Simon & Raphael Family
Dr. Elie Chalhoub	In Memory of Maroun, Tacla, Sofia Chalhoub
Mr. & Mrs. Abdallah Safi	In Memory of Mae Safee
Mr. & Mrs. Michel Merhej	In Honor of Merhej Family
Mr. & Mrs. Chaouki El Adem	In Memory George, Margret, Wadiea Allaham & Haneh Eladem
Mrs. Marion Ciaccia	In Memory- Ronald Ciaccia & Joseph & Helen Sahadi
Subdeacon & Mrs. Norbbert Vogl	In Memory of Mr. Rania Nassar
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick O'Sullivan	In Memory of Annette Najjar
Ms. Jeanette Kahaly	In Memory of Joseph Kahaly & Family
Mrs. Salma Vahdat	In Honor of the Family
Mrs. Mary Ann Joulwan	In Honor of The Joulwan Family
Mr. Donald Shakal	In Memory of John & Helen Shakal
Ms. Mary Tremmel	In Honor of Theresia, Joseph, Joseph J. Tremmel; Lilian & Michael Kerr
Mr. & Mrs. John Shaia	In Memory of Philip & Lorraine Shaia



# The 2020 Eparchial Annual Lenten Appeal

A Second Collection for the Eparchial Charities Appeal will be taken every Sunday during the Season of Great Lent starting on Sunday March 10th. We are asked to raise \$5,500 to participate in this awesome mission of the Eparchy. Please read the Bishop's letter.



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Lent 2020

Prot. No. 012 S / 20

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter into the season of preparation through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, I ask you to recall all the ways in which God has blessed you. As you reflect on that, I also ask you to consider supporting the Eparchy of Saint Maron with a donation to our 2020 Lenten Appeal, to further the Eparchy's mission of service to God's faithful people.

Your generosity towards this year's Annual Eparchial Appeal will support:

- **Seminarians:** We currently have five men preparing for the priesthood. Our seminarians are our future priests, and we want them to get the best education and formation possible. We need your help to invest in their education and formation. Each seminarian costs about \$45,000 per year, in the form of tuition, books, room, board, health insurance and other costs. **40% of your contribution to this year's Annual Appeal will go for Seminarians.**
- **Ministries:** Our ministries to young people, the elderly, families, and in defense of life from conception to natural death, help people at the most critical times in their lives. Please help ensure that the Eparchy can help those in need when they need help the most. **20% of your contribution will go to support Ministries.**
- **Retired Priests:** Collectively, the 15 retired priests of the Eparchy served the faithful for over 500 years. Now, we help them with a modest pension of \$2,000 per month. **20% of your contribution will go to support Retired Priests.**
- **Helping in Lebanon and the Middle East:** The Eparchy assists Lebanon and the Middle East in multiple ways, for example: by applying for grants to American foundations and donors, advocating for the persecuted Christians of the Middle East with the U.S. government, and channeling and providing direct financial assistance. **10% of your contribution will go to support Christians in Lebanon and the Middle East.**
- **Endowment:** The Eparchy's Endowment Fund provides a source of income each year for the needs of the Eparchy and ensures that the Eparchy will have resources in the future. It also provides a "rainy day fund" if needed in the future. **10% of your contribution will be deposited into the Eparchy's Endowment.**

I pray that you will open your heart once again and consider giving a gift. Your participation in this Annual Appeal makes a positive difference in the lives of so many people, both inside the Eparchy, and outside of it in the Middle East. Any gift you make will help.

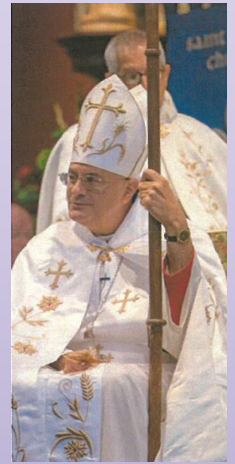
Thank you, and may God bless you for your generosity. I wish you a blessed Lent and Easter.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+ Gregory J. Mansour

PS: Please also consider remembering the Eparchy and your parish in your estate plan, or as the beneficiary of an insurance policy, retirement plan or charitable gift annuity. Thank you.



## Sunday Readings

### قراءات الأحد

#### Sixth Sunday of Lent: The Healing of the Blind Man

##### Second Letter to the Corinthians 10: 1-7

I myself, Paul, appeal to you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold towards you when I am away!

I ask that when I am present I need not show boldness by daring to oppose those who think we are acting according to human standards.

Indeed, we live as human beings, but we do not wage war according to human standards; for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.

We are ready to punish every disobedience when your obedience is complete.

Look at what is before your eyes. If you are confident that you belong to Christ, remind yourself of this, that just as you belong to Christ, so also do we.

##### The Gospel according to Saint Mark 10: 46-52

They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaues, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

#### الأحد السادس من الصوم الكبير : أحد شفاء الأعمى

##### رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل قورنثس 7-

1:10

يَا إِخْوَتِي، أَنَا بُولُسُ نَفْسِي أَنَاشِدُكُمْ بِوَدَاعَةِ الْمَسِيحِ وَجَلَمِهِ، أَنَا الْمُتَوَاضِعُ بَيْنَكُمْ عِنْدَمَا أَكُونُ حَاضِرًا، وَالْجَرِيءُ عَلَيْكُمْ عِنْدَمَا أَكُونُ غَائِبًا. وَأَرْجُو أَلَّا أُجْبَرَ عِنْدَ حُضُورِي أَنْ أَكُونَ جَرِيئًا، بِالْبَقَّةِ الَّتِي لِي بِكُمْ، وَالَّتِي أَنُوبِي أَنْ أَجْرُوَ بِهَا عَلَى الَّذِينَ يَحْسِبُونَ أَنَّنَا نَسْأَلُكَ كَأَنَّا نَسْأَلُ جَسَدِيَّينَ. أَجَلْ، إِنَّنَا نَحْيَا فِي الْجَسَدِ، وَلَكِنَّا لَا نَحَارِبُ كَأَنَّا جَسَدِيَّينَ؛ لِأَنَّ أَسْلِحَةَ جِهَادِنَا لَيْسَتْ جَسَدِيَّةً، بَلْ هِيَ قَادِرَةٌ بِاللَّهِ عَلَى هَذِمِ الْحُصُونِ الْمَنِيعَةِ؛ فَإِنَّا نَهْدِمُ الْأَفْكَارَ الْخَاطِئَةَ، وَكُلَّ شُمُوخَ يَرْتَفِعُ ضِدَّ مَعْرِفَةِ اللَّهِ، وَنَأْسِرُ كُلَّ فِكْرٍ لِبَاعَةِ الْمَسِيحِ. وَنَحْنُ مُسْتَعِدُّونَ أَنْ نُعَاقِبَ كُلَّ عُصْيَانٍ، مَتَى كَمَلْتُ طَاعَتَكُمْ.

إِنَّكُمْ تَحْكُمُونَ عَلَى الْمَظَاهِرِ! إِنْ كَانَ أَحَدٌ وَاثِقًا بِنَفْسِهِ أَنَّهُ لِلْمَسِيحِ، فَلْيَفَكِّرْ فِي نَفْسِهِ أَنَّهُ كَمَا هُوَ لِلْمَسِيحِ كَذَلِكَ نَحْنُ أَيْضًا.

##### إنجيل القديس مرقس 10: 46-52

بَيْنَمَا يَسُوعُ خَارِجٌ مِنْ أَرِيحَا، هُوَ وَتَلَامِيذُهُ وَجَمْعٌ غَفِيرٌ، كَانَ بَرَطِيمَا، أَيْ أَبْنُ طِيمَا، وَهُوَ شَحَادٌ أَعْمَى، جَالِسًا عَلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ. فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ أَنَّهُ يَسُوعُ النَّاصِرِيُّ، بَدَأَ يَصْرُخُ وَيَقُولُ: «يَا يَسُوعُ ابْنُ دَاوُدَ ارْحَمْنِي». «فَأَتَنَهَرَهُ أَنَاسٌ كَثِيرُونَ لَيْسَكُنْتَ، إِلَّا أَنَّهُ كَانَ يَزْدَادُ صَرَاحًا: «يَا ابْنُ دَاوُدَ ارْحَمْنِي». «فَوَقَفَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ: «أَدْعُوهُ!». فَدَعَا الْأَعْمَى قَائِلِينَ لَهُ: «ثِقْ وَانْهَضْ! إِنَّهُ يَدْعُوكَ». «فَطَرَحَ الْأَعْمَى رِدَاءَهُ، وَثَبَّ وَجَاءَ إِلَى يَسُوعَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «مَاذَا تُرِيدُ أَنْ أَصْنَعُ لَكَ؟». «قَالَ لَهُ الْأَعْمَى: «رَابُّونِي، أَنْ أَبْصِرَ!». فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «إِذْهَبْ! إِيمَانُكَ خَلَّصَكَ». «لَلْوَقْتِ عَادَ يُبْصِرُ. وَرَاحَ يَتْبَعُ يَسُوعَ فِي الطَّرِيقِ.



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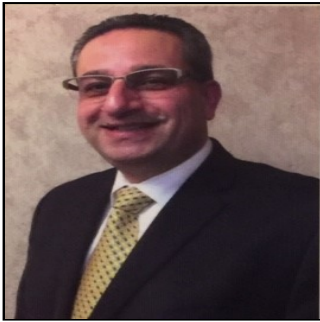
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