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

**FIRST SUNDAY**

**AFTER HOLY CROSSES**



# ***First Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross September 19th, 2021***

<b>Sun., September 19</b>	<b>1st Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b> <b>9 am for the Intentions of the Parishioners</b> <b>11:30 am for President Bachir Gemayel &amp; his companions</b>	<b>St. Januarius</b> <b>Req. by the Lebanese Forces of NY</b>
<b>Mon., September 20</b>	<b>NO LITURGY</b> <b>St. Eustace &amp; his wife &amp; children</b>	
<b>Tues., September 21</b>	<b>10 am Divine Liturgy</b> <b>St. Quadratus, Bishop of Athens</b>	
<b>Wed., September 22</b>	<b>10 am Divine Liturgy</b> <b>St. Phocas &amp; his Companions</b>	
<b>Thurs., September 23</b>	<b>10 am Divine Liturgy</b> <b>Jonah the Prophet</b>	
<b>Fri., September 24</b>	<b>10 am Divine Liturgy for Evelyn Azizi</b> <b>St. Thecla, first woman Martyr</b>	<b>Req. by Mrs. Salma Vahdat</b>
<b>Sat., September 25</b>	<b>10 am Divine Liturgy for Richard Mallouk</b> <b>for Eva Karam Aziz</b> <b>St. Paphnutius the Confessor</b>	<b>Req. by the family</b> <b>Req. by Mrs. Salma Vahdat</b>
<b>Sun., September 26</b>	<b>2nd Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b> <b>9 am for the Intentions of the Parishioners</b> <b>11:30 am for the Intentions of the Parishioners</b>	<b>St. John the Evangelist</b>

## **August 2021 Financial Standing**

### **Ordinary Income**

- ♦ Collections on Sundays & Holy Days: **\$7,646.80**
- ♦ Cathedral Stipends from Marriages & Funerals, Hall Rent, Candles, Breakfast, Luncheon, Raffle, Dues, Religious Education, Flowers .... **\$10,017.00**

**Total Ordinary Income: \$17,663.80**

### **Ordinary Expenses**

- ♦ 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 Expenses: \$14,792.65**

**Total Ordinary Income vs Expenses: \$2,871.15**

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Do you know? A couple of basic monthly expenses:**

**Cathedral monthly building insurance: \$3,484.00**

**Monthly Eparchial Assessment & Bishop's Appeal: \$2,125.00**

**The Library is no longer renting the hall. The space was vacated at the end of October 2020.**

**Thank you for your contribution  
in helping maintain the Church  
and in planning different activities**

## **HELP LEBANON!**

**PRAY FOR  
LEBANON**



### **BY CHECK:**

Make your donation to Lebanon by sending a check to the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn and in the memo designate your charity either to Caritas, Lebanon, Saint Vincent de Paul or The Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Cross.

### **ONLINE:**

You may also donate online by clicking [here](#).

### **FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HELP THROUGH CARITAS LEBANON**

In coordination with Caritas Lebanon, a family in the United States is now able to sponsor a family in Lebanon. The sponsorship varies from \$50 to \$100 per month depending on the size and the need of the family.

Please click [here](#) to sponsor a family and for additional information.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

“The cross is a fortress of protection for the Church and her children” is an expression that is repeated more than a few times in the Divine Liturgy during the Season of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on weekdays and Sundays. In the same line of thought, but occurring less often than the previous expression, is “your cross is our refuge.”

Last week, I reflected on a verse from the powerful passage of the Sunday epistle from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. And I concluded saying that the Season of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is an invitation not only to carry the cross but to be carried by it with a gracious anticipation of the second coming of Jesus. From the same reading of last Sunday comes another inspirational verse. “For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength” (1 Corinthians 1: 25). If it were not for the cross, people would be even more depressed at how the world is turning out. We cannot deny the existence of evil in the world and the cross reminds us of that. But also upon seeing the cross, we rejoice that we have been saved by Jesus who died on it.

Last week the Catholic News Agency ran a story about Tom Colucci, a lieutenant with the New York City Fire Department, who after he finished his late shift in lower Manhattan on the early morning of September 11th went home only to return back to the Twin Towers less than an hour later. The South Tower was on the verge of collapse and came down just as Colucci arrived. There was debris everywhere and injured people covered with dust barely able to move. That day 3000 people died by the time the second tower fell. “Everybody asks, ‘where was Christ that day? Couldn't he stop the planes?’ But you saw the body of Christ. Everybody that came in to help that day...You saw the country pulled together. That was the body of Christ,” Colucci commented. Colucci saw the cross of God's salvation in the midst of evil while many around him did not, since God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Thus, the cross becomes a fortress of protection from modern-day society.

Colucci retired from the New York City Fire Department in 2005 after twenty years of service, and later on he discerned a vocation to the priesthood. In 2012, he entered Saint Joseph's Seminary and College in Yonkers, New York. He was ordained in 2016 at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, the first retired firefighter ever to become a priest. Colucci saw in the cross a transformative refuge. And instead of dwelling on the elements of suffering and evil that society obsesses over, the future priest carried his cross with his eyes fixed beyond the here and now.



## Knights Meeting

On Sunday September 19th, the Knights of St. Maron will have a meeting at the Church after the 11:30 am Liturgy.

## New MYO Board

The Maronite Youth Organization of the Cathedral has a new board: Jenna Abi Habib, president; Lorian Eladem, vice president; Christelle Diab, secretary. We thank last year's board for all their hard work during the pandemic.

## Maronite Catholic Formation (Sunday School)

Registration for Sunday School is underway. It is of extreme importance to hand down the faith to our children (1st to 12th Grades) and our Sunday Formation is one small way to do so. Thus, everyone is encouraged to register their children and not wait until the last minute. Classes begin on Sunday, September 26th at 10 am. The program will run until the end of May with two or three in-person classes and one on Zoom monthly. Please [print the registration form online](#) and email it to [Lily Elhaje](#)

## Maronite Catholic Formation (Sunday School)

Any parishioner who would like to help with Maronite Catholic Formation (Sunday School) as a teacher or substitute, please contact Norma Haddad on her [email](#).

## Interested in Joining the Choir?

The choir of the Cathedral would like to welcome anyone interested in joining them to praise the Lord in a more dedicated way. We are also looking for someone who knows the Maronite music to play the organ. Please make sure to see Christiane Merhej after the 11:30 Divine Liturgy.

## Arabic Class Registration

Adult Arabic Class registration has begun. Please see Leila Vogl if you are interested.

## The Yearly Benefit Eparchial Dinner

Each October, the Eparchy has a Benefit Dinner to raise funds for educating seminarians, expanding ministries, and supporting parishes and missions in need in the Eparchy. Also, 10% of the proceeds are given to help in Lebanon and the Middle East. This year's Benefit Event will be held by Zoom on **Thursday, October 7th, 2021 at 7:00 pm Eastern Time**, and will also honor the many dedicated people and organizations who are helping alleviate the suffering in Lebanon during these difficult times. Please visit <http://www.stmaron.org/eparchial-benefit> to register and make a donation. Please support this important event – the Church needs your support this year more than ever. For more information, please email [saintmaron@yahoo.com](mailto:saintmaron@yahoo.com) or call 718-237-9913. Thank you.

## Cathedral Cedar Remembrance Tree

Parishioners and friends can now remember their deceased and honor the living with their names on the commemorative tree located in our Cathedral Chapel vestibule. Please click [here](#) for more details.

## Finance Council Recommendation

The Finance Council has recommended that parishioners set up their Church donation as an automatic payment. This is the best way to keep supporting your spiritual home while on vacation or out of town. You may also make your contribution online by clicking [here](#). During the last meeting, it was determined that \$125.00 per household a month will help meet the Church's budget.



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# 2021

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As you recall, last year's Fall Benefit Dinner for the Eparchy was a Virtual Event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to lingering health concerns and restrictions, we believe a virtual event again this year is in everyone's best interest. While I am disappointed that we cannot have an in-person event this year, I hope you will join us for this very special celebration on **Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 7:00pm Eastern Time.**

Each year, our Fall Benefit Event provides important financial support to educate seminarians, help parishes and missions, assist retired priests, and foster a variety of ministries of the Eparchy. As in past years, a portion of this year's proceeds will be dedicated to help the Church in Lebanon and the Middle East – which is now needed more than ever. Out of respect for the serious conditions in Lebanon, this year's Benefit Event will honor those organizations and individuals who have been dedicating their time and resources to help the people of Lebanon during these various crises.

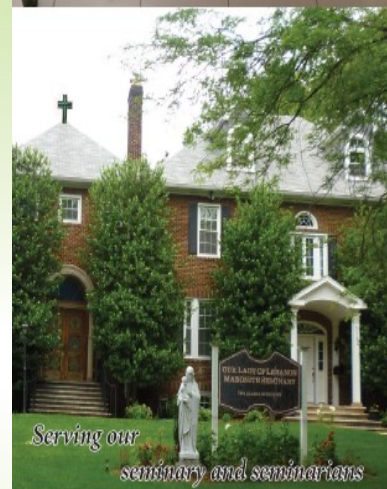
Your participation in this year's Benefit Event will help strengthen our Eparchy in her service to our faithful here, and for the vulnerable in Lebanon. I hope you will consider supporting the Eparchy with a donation in any amount. Or perhaps you might consider joining the Order of Saint Sharbel, if you are not already a member. Please visit [www.stmaron.org/eparchial-benefit](http://www.stmaron.org/eparchial-benefit) to make a gift and/or register for this special online Benefit Event, or return the enclosed reply card in the envelope provided.

Thank you for helping us make a difference in the Maronite Church both at home and abroad. I hope to "see" you on October 7. May God bless you for your generosity!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+ Gregory John Mansour  
Bishop of the Eparchy of Saint Maron



WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
OF THIS VIRTUAL BENEFIT EVENT

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\_\_\_\_ I am pleased to participate in this Virtual Benefit Event for 2021  
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- \_\_\_\_ **Patron** (\$2,500-\$3,499)
- \_\_\_\_ **Supporter** (\$1,000-\$2,499)
- \_\_\_\_ **Donor** (\$500-\$999)
- \_\_\_\_ **Contributor** (\$200-\$499)
- \_\_\_\_ **Friend** (up to \$199)
- \_\_\_\_ In lieu of a regular ticket I would like to donate \$350.

All Supporters will be acknowledged at the virtual event  
and in our post event report.

Please make checks payable to "Eparchy of Saint Maron"  
and return in the enclosed envelope.

Or make a donation online with a credit card at  
[www.stmaron.org/eparchial-benefit](http://www.stmaron.org/eparchial-benefit)

For questions,  
please email [saintmaron@yahoo.com](mailto:saintmaron@yahoo.com) or call  
718-237-9913.



## Sunday Readings

### قراءات الأحد

#### First Sunday after Holy Cross

##### The Second Letter to 2 Timothy 2: 1-10

Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well.

Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules.

It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops.

Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

##### The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark 10: 35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?'

And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.'

But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?'

They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John.

So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

#### الأحد الأول بعد عيد الصليب

##### رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى طيموتاوس 2: 1-10

يا إخواني، وأنت، يا أبنائي، تشدد بالنعمة التي في المسيح يسوع.

وما سمعته مني بحضور شهود كثيرين، استودعه أناساً أمناً، جديرين هم أيضاً بأن يعلموا غيرهم.

شاركني في احتمال المشقات كجندِّي صالح للمسيح يسوع. وما من جندِّي ينهمك في الأمور المعيشية، إذا أراد أن يرضي من جندة.

ومن يصارع لا ينال إكليل إلا إذا صارع بحسب الأصول. والحارث الذي يتعب له الحق بالنصيب الأول من الثمر.

تأمل في ما أقول: والرب سيعطيك فهماً في كل شيء!

تذكر يسوع المسيح الذي قام من بين الأموات، وهو من نسل داود، بحسب إنجيلي،

الذي فيه احتمل المشقات حتى القيود كمجرم، لكن كلمة الله لا تقيد.

لذلك أصبر على كل شيء من أجل المختارين، ليحصلوا هم أيضاً على الخلاص في المسيح يسوع مع المجد الأبدي.

##### إنجيل القديس مرقس 10: 35-45

دنا من يسوع يعقوب ويوحنا، أبناء ربدي، وقالوا له: «يا معلم، نريد أن تصنع لنا كل ما نسألك.»

فقال لهم: «ماذا تريدان أن أصنع لكما؟»

قالا له: «أعطنا أن نجلس في مجدك، واحد عن يمينك،

وواحد عن يسارك.»

فقال لهم يسوع: «إنكما لا تعلمان ما تطلبان: هل تستطيعان

أن تشربا الكأس التي أشربها أنا؟ أو أن تتعمدا بالمعمودية

التي أتعمد بها أنا؟»

قالا له: «نستطيع.» فقال لهم يسوع: «الكأس التي أنا أشربها

ستشربانها، والمعمودية التي أنا أتعمد بها ستتعمدان بها.

أما الجلوس عن يميني أو عن يساري، فليس لي أن أمنحه إلا

للذين أعد لهم.»

ولما سمع العشرة الآخرون، بدأوا يغتاطون من يعقوب

ويوحنا.

فدعاهم يسوع إليه وقال لهم: «تعلمون أن الذين يعتبرون

رؤساء الأمم يسودونهم، وعظماءهم يتسلطون عليهم.

أما أنتم فليس الأمر بينكم هكذا، بل من أراد أن يكون فيكم

عظيماً، فليكن لكم خادماً.

ومن أراد أن يكون الأول بينكم، فليكن عبداً للجميع؛

لأن ابن الإنسان أيضاً لم يات ليخدم، بل ليخدم، ويبدل نفسه

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