



# SAINT MARON CHURCH

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## THE WONDERS OF CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas has come around once more. It is a season of great rejoicing for it commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. However, if we are to make the occasion complete, it must be a season of self-reflection and meditation also. We must remember the cause for which Jesus was born and for which He sacrificed His life, and remembering it, we must live by it ourselves for if we love Him, we must follow His Commandments.

Let this day be a day of stocktaking. Let us turn within, recognize our weaknesses and try to over-come them. Let us sink down all differences and sit together in all loving devotion for the Master. Let us purge our souls and cleanse our hearts, for unless we are pure, we cannot see the Kingdom of God, much less enter into it.

If you can love your God with all your heart, with all your strength and with all your soul and love your neighbors as yourselves; if you can forget your prejudices and differences, your hatreds and petty jealousies; if you can love even your enemies as Jesus did, who died uncomplaining on the Cross, then all things shall be added unto you and you will achieve spiritual peace here and hereafter.

The love of Jesus Christ for you is boundless. The path is difficult, but He is always with you to guide you. Live by what He says, turn within and do daily meditation, and as sure as the sun rises every day, you shall become the seers and the hearers of the Word.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and bright and happy New Year full of new aspirations and new resolves, on the way to God and His Kingdom.

Merry Christmas

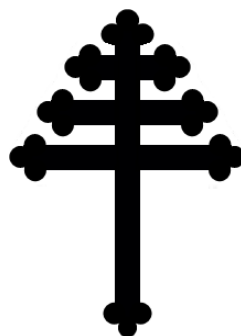
Father Elias Yazbeck

### Clergy

Rev. Fr. Elias Yazbeck: Administrator  
Subdeacon Lattouf Lattouf  
Subdeacon Ghazi Faddoul  
Subdeacon Yamen Saada

### Chapel & Mailing Address



7800 Brookside Road  
Independence, Ohio 44131  
216-520-5081      Emergency 612-501-6383  
[www.saintmaron-clev.org](http://www.saintmaron-clev.org)  
Email: [saintmaroncleveland@gmail.com](mailto:saintmaroncleveland@gmail.com)



### Liturgy Schedule

**Tues & Thurs:** Chapel  
6:00 p.m.: English/Arabic  
**Saturday:** Chapel  
5:00 p.m.: English

Church: 1245 Carnegie Ave  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

 Saint Maron Church in Cleveland  
[saintmaronchurch](http://saintmaronchurch.org) 

## Church Organizations

### Parish Council

President– Jèan Yaacoub

2nd Wed. of the month at 7:00 pm

### Finance Council

President- Rick Ganim:

3rd Wed of the month at 7:00 pm

### Immaculate Conception Sodality (ICS)

President– Claire Naoum

1st Mon. of every month at 7:00pm

### Maronite Christian Formation Program (MCFP)

Director– Elias Kanaan:

Sundays (except Holy Days) 12:00-1:00 pm

### MaronKnights Dabke Group

Tanya Elasmarr

### Maronite Youth Organization (MYO)

Coordinator– Peter Harb:

### Maronite Young Adults (MYA)

President– Anessa Kleem

Follow MYA page for updates

### Maronite Mothers Club (MMC)

Coordinator- Tina Chamoun

### Arabic School: Coordinator: Jihad Kawkabani

Classes Sat. Oct-April (except Holy Days) 10 am -12noon

### 50+ Social Club Mary Ann Watson

1st Friday of each month. Liturgy: 10:00 am

### Book & Cine Club Katia Abboud

### Rosary Prayer Group Daad Chamoun

### Social Committee

Souheil Farah, Rita Lattouf, Claire Naoum

### St. Maron Health Committee Dr. Paul Farah

Social Media Coordinator Jessica Khoury

### Order of Saint Sharbel

Samir Farah and Daad Chamoun

## CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

### Vigil of Christmas Liturgy

Sunday Dec. 24th 5:00 PM

Chapel

### Midnight Christmas Liturgy

Sunday/Monday Dec. 24th

12:00 AM Downtown

### Christmas Day Liturgies

Monday Dec. 25th

9:30 AM & 11:00 AM Downtown

*Cora-Ruth Wong Abboud received the Sacraments of  
Baptism and Chrismation on  
Saturday, December 16, 2023*

Daughter of Fayez-Michel and Shuo Wang Abboud

*Charles Elie Bako received the Sacrament of Baptism  
and Chrismation on  
Saturday, December 16, 2023*

Son of Jacob Edward Bako & Patricia Annette Abboud Bako

## Liturgy Intentions

### Genealogy of Jesus

#### Saturday December 23

**5:00 pm: One Year Mem Lit for George Iskandar Assaf**  
(Jeanne d'arc & Maroun Kattar)

#### Sunday December 24 Christmas Eve

**9:30 am: Parishioners Intentions**

**11:00 am: Mem. Lit for Angel Naim Azzi**

(Her daughter Diana Azzi Rached and her husband Rached Rached and their family)

### Glorious Birth of Our Lord

#### Sunday December 24 Vigil of Christmas Liturgy

**5:00 pm CHAPEL**

#### Monday December 25 Christmas Liturgies

**DOWNTOWN**

**12:00 am Midnight**

**9:30 am**

**11:00 am**

## Next Week

### Finding Of The Lord In The Temple

#### Saturday December 30

**5:00 pm: Parishioners Intentions**

#### Sunday December 31

**9:30 am: Parishioners Intentions**

**11:00 am: Parishioners Intentions**

## IN SYMPATHY

Our deepest condolences to our parishioner Lara Jehi, wife of Charbel Nemer on the passing of her beloved father **Emile Badih Jehi** in Lebanon on Dec. 12, 2023 at the age of 80 years old. Emile is survived by his wife Henriette and his 3 children, Fadi, Lara, & Sanaa. A 40 day Memorial Liturgy will be celebrated on Sunday, February 4th, 2024 at Saint Maron Church Downtown at 11:00 a.m.

Our deepest condolences to our parishioner **Mae Joseph, age 97**, who passed away on December 21st. Wife of the late Joseph and mother of Karen Arshinkoff (Alex, deceased), Jeffery (Susan), and Gary (Leslie). Grandmother and great-grandmother. Prayers of Christian Burial scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 23rd at 11am, DeJohn Funeral Home.

Our deepest condolences to the family of **Florence Chbeir (nee Nader)**, who passed away on December 21st. Loving wife of parishioner Emile and mother of Georgette, Elias (Moirra) and Elena. Christian Burial is on Thursday December 28th at 10:30 am at St. Maron Church. Prayers of Incense on Wednesday, Dec. 27th at 7:30 pm Ripepi Funeral Home.

*May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of  
God, rest in peace. Amen*

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل رومة

1:1-12

From the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

يا إخوتاي،  
 من بولس عبد المسيح يسوع، الذي دعي ليكون رسولاً، وفرز لإنجيل الله، هذا الإنجيل الذي وعد به الله من قبل، بأبنايه في الكتب المقدسة، في شأن ابنه الذي ولد بحسب الجسد من نسل داود، وجعل بحسب روح القداسة ابن الله بقوة أي بالقيامة من بين الأموات، وهو يسوع المسيح ربنا، به تلقنا النعمة والرسالة لكي نهدي إلى طاعة الإيمان جميع الأمم، لمجد اسمه، ومن بينهم أنتم أيضاً مدعوون لتكونوا لبسوع المسيح؛ إلى جميع الذين في روما، إلى أحبائه الله، المدعوين ليكونوا قديسين: أليعمه لكم والسلام من الله أبينا والرب يسوع المسيح! قيل كل شيء، أشكر إلهي بيسوع المسيح من أجلكم جميعاً، لأن إيمانكم ينأى به في العالم كله. يشهد علي الله، الذي أعيدته بروحي، بحسب إنجيل ابنه، أي أذكركم بغير انقطاع، ضارعا في صلواتي على الدوام أن يتيسر لي يوماً، بمشيئة الله، أن آتي إليكم. فإني أشوق أن أراكم، لأشرككم في مؤهبة زوجية وأشدتكم، أي لا تغزى معكم وبينكم بإيماني وإيمانكم المشترك.

والتسبيخ لله دائماً.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you — or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. **Praise be to God always!**

From the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew

1:1-17

إنجيل القديس متى

قال متى الرسول  
 «كتاب ميلاد يسوع المسيح، ابن داود، ابن إبراهيم: إبراهيم ولد إسحق، إسحق ولد يعقوب، يعقوب ولد يهوذا وإخوته، يهوذا ولد فارص وزارح من تمار، فارص ولد خصزون، خصزون ولد آرام، آرام ولد عميناداب، عميناداب ولد نحشون، نحشون ولد سلمون، سلمون ولد بوغر من راحاب، بوغر ولد غوبيد من راغوت، غوبيد ولد بسى، بسى ولد داود الملك.  
 داود ولد سليمان من امرأة أوريا، سليمان ولد رحبعام، رحبعام ولد أبيا، أبيا ولد آسا، آسا ولد يوشافاط، يوشافاط ولد يورام، يورام ولد عزوريا، عزوريا ولد يوثام، يوثام ولد آحاز، آحاز ولد حزقيا، حزقيا ولد منسى، منسى ولد أمون، أمون ولد يوشيا، يوشيا ولد يوكنايا وإخوته، وكان السبي إلى بابل.  
 بعد السبي إلى بابل، يوكنايا ولد شالينيل، شالينيل ولد زرتابل، زرتابل ولد أبيهود، أبيهود ولد الناقيم، الناقيم ولد غازور، غازور ولد صادوق، صادوق ولد آحيم، آحيم ولد إليهود، إليهود ولد إيعازر، إيعازر ولد متان، متان ولد يعقوب، يعقوب ولد يوسف رجل مريم، التي منها ولد يسوع، وهو الذي يدعى المسيح.  
 فجميع الأجيال من إبراهيم إلى داود أربعة عشر جيلاً، ومن داود إلى سبي بابل أربعة عشر جيلاً، ومن سبي بابل إلى المسيح أربعة عشر جيلاً.  
 حقاً والأمان لجميعكم

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Heron, and Heron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations. **This is the truth! Peace be with you.**

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. **Isaiah 11:1-9**

But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, But he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide fairly for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat; The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall graze, together their young shall lie down; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the viper's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. They shall not harm or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the



**Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation**

If you are a new parent and wish to have your child baptized at Saint Maron Church or Chapel you must call the office at least two months in advance. We try very hard to have only one baptism per Saturday and Sunday. Times are after the 5pm Saturday liturgy (Chapel) or following the 11am Sunday liturgy (Church).



**Mystery of Crowning (Sacrament of Matrimony)**

**MANDATORY** you contact and meet with Fr. Elias **at least 8 months** in advance of your desired date.

Couples are required to participate in our pre-Cana classes. **Once a couple has met with Father Elias their date will be secured. Call the office to schedule an appointment.: 216.520.5081**



**House Blessing**

Please call the office if you would like your home blessed  
216-520-5081



**Communion and Anointing of the Sick**

Clergy is available to administer Communion or for anointing of the sick to those homebound or hospitalized. Call the office if you or a family member is in need.

**For emergency only call: 612-501-6383**

***FREEDOM TO MARRY LETTER***

Regardless of the situation, all necessary forms for couples living in the United States or abroad **MUST** be done. This may take weeks or months so call to schedule an appointment with Fr. Elias as soon as possible.  
216-520-5081



***Confession***

Confession is available prior to all liturgies. Please let the priest know you are interested.

**Christmas A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah 8:23, 9:1-6**

There is no gloom where there had been distress. Where once he degraded the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, now he has glorified the way of the Sea, the land across the Jordan, Galilee of the Nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing; They rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest, as they exult when dividing the spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, The rod of their taskmaster, you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for fire. For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, Upon David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains By judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

**Praise be to God always.**

**50+ SOCIAL CLUB**

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Maronite brothers and sisters a Blessed Christmas.

Our group would also like to extend an invitation to those 50 and over to join us whenever you see an activity that may interest you in the bulletin. This club has no dues to pay.

Join us on Friday, January 5- the "Feast of the Three Kings" for 10:00 Liturgy at the Chapel followed by a pot luck lunch as we make plans for 2024.

Mary Ann Watson ([mapw47@yahoo.com](mailto:mapw47@yahoo.com))

يا إِخْوَتِي،  
 إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَلَّمَ الْآبَاءَ قَدِيمًا فِي الْأَنْبِيَاءِ، مَرَّاتٍ كَثِيرَةً، وَبَأَنْوَاعٍ شَتَّى، وَفِي آخِرِ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ، كَلَّمَنَا فِي الْإِبْنِ، الَّذِي جَعَلَهُ وَارثًا لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ. وَبِهِ  
 أَنْشَأَ الْعَالَمِينَ. وَهُوَ شِعَاعٌ مَجْدِهِ وَصُورَةٌ جَوْهَرِهِ، وَضَائِبُ الْكُلِّ بِكَلِمَةِ قُدْرَتِهِ. فَبَعْدَمَا أَنْتُمْ تَطْهِيرُونَ الْخَطَايَا، جَلَسَ عَنْ يَمِينِ الْجَلَالَةِ فِي  
 الْأَعَالِي، فَصَارَ أَعْظَمَ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ، بِمُقَدَّارِ مَا الْأَسْمُ الَّذِي وَرَثَهُ أَفْضَلَ مِنْ أَسْمَائِهِمْ.  
 فَلَمَنْ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَوْمًا: «أَنْتَ ابْنِي، أَنَا الْيَوْمَ وَلَدْتُكَ؟» وَقَالَ أَيْضًا: «أَنَا أَكُونُ لَهُ أَبًا، وَهُوَ يَكُونُ لِي أَبْنًا؟» أَمَا عِنْدَمَا يُدْخِلُ ابْنَهُ  
 الْبِكْرَ إِلَى الْعَالَمِ فَيَقُولُ: «فَلتَسْجُدْ لَهُ جَمِيعُ مَلَائِكَةِ اللَّهِ.»! وَعَنِ الْمَلَائِكَةِ يَقُولُ: «الصَّانِعُ مَلَائِكَتَهُ أَرْوَاحًا، وَخُدَّامَهُ لِيُحِبِّبَ نَارَ.» أَمَا عَنِ  
 الْإِبْنِ فَيَقُولُ: «عَرَسْتُكَ يَا اللَّهُ، لِدَهْرِ الدَّهْرِ، وَصَوْلَجَانِ الْأَسْتِقَامَةِ صَوْلَجَانِ مُلْكِكَ. أَحْبَبْتِ الْبِرَّ وَأَبْغَضْتِ الْإِثْمَ. لِذَلِكَ مَسَحَكَ الْهُكَّ، يَا اللَّهُ،  
 بِدُهْنِ الْبَهْجَةِ أَفْضَلَ مِنْ سُرْكَانِكَ.» وَيَقُولُ أَيْضًا: «أَنْتِ، يَا رَبِّ، فِي الْبَدْءِ أَسَسْتِ الْأَرْضَ، وَالسَّمَاوَاتِ صَنَعْتَ يَدَيْكَ. هِيَ تَزُولُ وَأَنْتِ تَبْقَى،  
 وَكُلُّهَا كَالثُّوبِ تَبْلَى، وَتَطْوِيهَا كَالرِّدَاءِ، وَكَالثُّوبِ تَتَبَدَّلُ، وَأَنْتِ أَنْتِ وَسُنُوكَ لَنْ تَفْنَى.»  
 والتسبيخ لله دائماً.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the world's. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end. **Praise be to God always!**

قال لوقا البشير،  
 فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ، صَدَرَ أَمْرٌ مِنْ أَعُوْسُطُسَ قَيْصَرَ بِإِحْصَاءِ كُلِّ الْمَعْمُورَةِ. جَرَى هَذَا الْإِحْصَاءُ الْأَوَّلُ، عِنْدَمَا كَانَ كِيرِينْيُوسُ وَالْيَا عَلَى  
 سُورِيَا. وَكَانَ الْجَمِيعُ يَذْهَبُونَ، كُلٌّ وَاحِدٌ إِلَى مَدِينَتِهِ، لِيَكْتَتَبُوا فِيهَا.  
 وَصَعِدَ يُوسُفُ أَيْضًا مِنَ الْجَلِيلِ، مِنْ مَدِينَةِ النَّاصِرَةِ، إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ دَاوُدَ الَّتِي تُدْعَى بَيْتَ لَحْمَ، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ مِنْ بَيْتِ دَاوُدَ وَعَشِيرَتِهِ،  
 لِيَكْتَتَبَ مَعَ مَرْيَمَ حَبِيبَتِهِ، وَهِيَ حَامِلٌ. وَفِيمَا كَانَا هُنَاكَ، تَمَّتْ أَيَّامُهَا لِتَلِدَ، فَوَلَدَتْ ابْنَهَا الْبِكْرَ، وَقَمَطَتْهُ، وَأَضْجَعَتْهُ فِي مَنُودٍ، لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ  
 لَهُمَا مَوْضِعٌ فِي قَاعَةِ الصُّيُوفِ. وَكَانَ فِي تِلْكَ النَّاحِيَةِ رُعَاةٌ يُقِيمُونَ فِي الْحُقُولِ، وَيَسْهَرُونَ فِي هَجَعَاتِ اللَّيْلِ عَلَى قَطْعَانِهِمْ. فَإِذَا بِمَلَائِكِ  
 الرَّبِّ قَدْ وَقَفَ بِهِمْ، وَمَجَّدَ الرَّبَّ أَشْرَقَ حَوْلَهُمْ، فَخَافُوا خَوْفًا عَظِيمًا. فَقَالَ لَهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ: «لَا تَخَافُوا! فَهِيَ أَنَا أَبَشَرُكُمْ بِفَرَحٍ عَظِيمٍ يَكُونُ  
 لِلشَّعْبِ كُلِّهِ، لِأَنَّهُ وُلِدَ لَكُمْ الْيَوْمَ مَخْلُصٌ، هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ الرَّبُّ، فِي مَدِينَةِ دَاوُدَ. وَهَذِهِ عَلَامَةٌ لَكُمْ: تَجِدُونَ طِفْلًا مَقْمَطًا، مُضْجَعًا فِي مَنُودٍ.»!  
 وَأَنْضَمَّ فَجَاءَهُ إِلَى الْمَلَائِكَةِ الْجُمْهُورُ مِنَ الْجُنْدِ السَّمَاوِيِّ يُسَبِّحُونَ اللَّهَ وَيَقُولُونَ: الْمَجْدُ لِلَّهِ فِي الْعُلَى، وَعَلَى الْأَرْضِ السَّلَامُ، وَالرَّجَاءُ الصَّالِحُ  
 لِابْنِي الْبَشَرِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْصَرَفَ الْمَلَائِكَةُ عَنْهُمْ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ، قَالَ الرَّعَاةُ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ: «هِيََا بِنَا، إِلَى بَيْتِ لَحْمَ، لِنَرَى هَذَا الْأَمْرَ الَّذِي حَدَّثَ،  
 وَقَدْ أَعْلَمْنَا بِهِ الرَّبُّ.» وَجَاؤُوا مُسْرِعِينَ، فَوَجَدُوا مَرْيَمَ وَيُوسُفَ، وَالطِّفْلَ مُضْجَعًا فِي الْمَنُودِ. وَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُ أَخْبَرُوا بِالْكَلَامِ الَّذِي قِيلَ لَهُمْ فِي  
 شَأْنِ هَذَا الصَّبِيِّ. وَجَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ سَمِعُوا، تَعَجَّبُوا مِمَّا قَالَهُ لَهُمُ الرَّعَاةُ. أَمَا مَرْيَمُ فَكَانَتْ تَحْفَظُ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورَ كُلَّهَا، وَتَتَأَمَّلُهَا فِي قَلْبِهَا. ثُمَّ عَادَ  
 الرَّعَاةُ وَهُمْ يَمْجِدُونَ اللَّهَ وَيُسَبِّحُونَهُ عَلَى كُلِّ مَا سَمِعُوا وَرَأَوْا، حَسَبَمَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ.

حقاً والأمان لجميعكم

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. **This is the truth! Peace be with you.**

## Gifts of the Altar: December 2023

### BREAD in Memory of:

Deceased members of the Richards & Nofel families (Edward P. Richards, Jr.)

Elias Said Sarrouh & Rachid Elias Sarrouh (Martha Sarrouh & family)

Nabil Daher (Lina Daher & family)

### WINE in Memory of:

Deceased members of the Richards & Nofel families (Edward P. Richards, Jr.)

Elias Said Sarrouh & Rachid Elias Sarrouh (Martha Sarrouh & family)

Nabil Daher (Lina Daher & family)

### CANDLES in Memory of:

Deceased members of the Richards & Nofel families (Edward P. Richards, Jr.)

George & Roma Sessin (Their children & their families)

Jacob & Juliette Saad & the deceased members of the Saad and Elzeer families (Thomas Saad & family)

Elias Said Sarrouh & Rachid Elias Sarrouh (Martha Sarrouh & family)

Nabil Daher (Lina Daher & family)

### In Thanksgiving

William & Denise Bishilany & family  
Declan Gordon



December 18, 2023

<b>GENERAL DEPOSIT</b>	\$	<b>4,470.00</b>
Saturday 5:00 pm	\$	1,600.00
Sunday 9:30 am	\$	686.00
Sunday 11:00 am	\$	1,584.00
Online	\$	600.00

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this finds you well.

The month of December is one where we celebrate the Birth of Our Lord, gather with family, and look forward to the coming of the New Year. It is a busy time for us, but it is also a time to give thanks for all the blessings we received during the year and also think about charitable giving.

This year, three new priests were ordained with one more being ordained this weekend. We also have five seminarians and five married men preparing for the priesthood which is a wonderful sign of the growth of our community, but it is also an expensive endeavor.

Our missions also continue to grow, and we have opened two new missions in two new states. We are happy to be able to serve our people across the country and help many people live and raise their families in the faith.

Our ministries also continue to serve the different areas of our Eparchy including our youth, young adults, family ministry, religious education, and much more.

We also support our brothers and sisters in need here, at home, and in Lebanon, Syria, and the Middle East.

The Eparchy is here to serve you, but we cannot continue our efforts without your support. I ask you to pray and reflect and if you, your family, or your friends would like to make a gift this year to the Eparchy, please follow the instructions below on how to donate online or mail a donation:

[Eparchy Donation Page](#)

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Thank you for supporting us as we continue our ministry of service and care.

With sincere best wishes and prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ,

+A. Elias Zaidan  
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