



Saint George Maronite Catholic Church

رعية مار جرجس المارونية

1493 Cranston Street, Cranston, RI 02920

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Office: 401-723 8444

January 07, 2024

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Meet Your Clergy

Rev. Tony Saab, Pastor
frtonysaab@gmail.com
401-400 1441 (Urgent calls)

Farid Zaarour, Deacon
ffzaarour@yahoo.com

Office Hours

Weds - Friday from 9am-12pm

Liturgical Schedule

Wednesday 7:00pm, Thursday and Friday 10:00am,
Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am (Latin rite) and 10:30 am

Exposition of the Holy Eucharist on Thursday 6:00pm

SACRAMENTS

Baptism & Confirmation: One month in advance with the Pastor.

Suggested Donation: Church: \$200 Priest: Free Will

Matrimony:

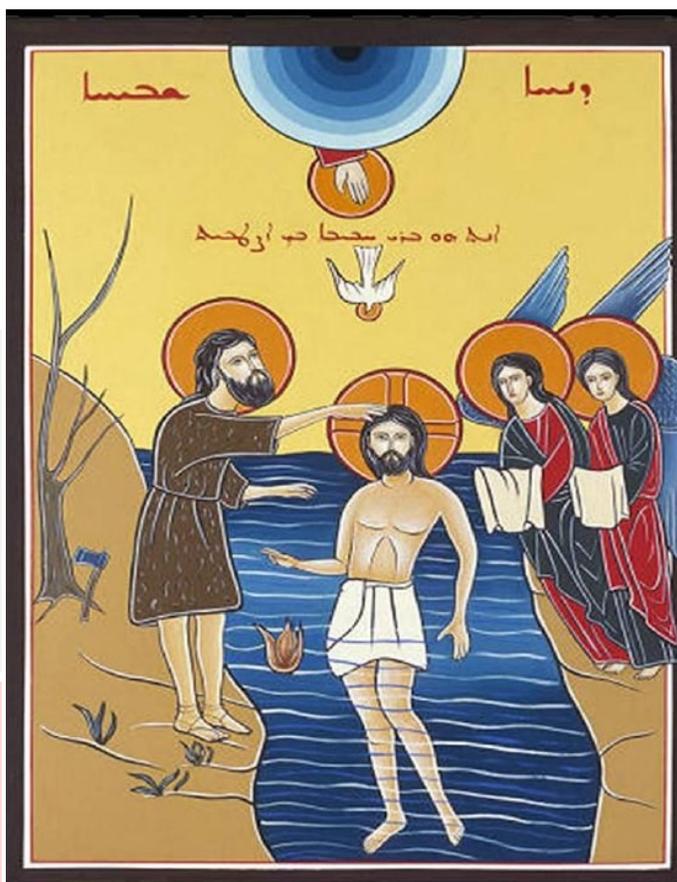
Arrangements should be made by couples six months prior to the wedding date.

Suggested Donation: Church \$500. Priest: Free Will

Reconciliation:

One hour before liturgies, or by appointment

Anointing of the Sick: Please notify the Rectory if a member of your family is ill, hospitalized, or home-bound and would like to receive Holy Communion at home.



Save the Date

Friday February 9: Feast of Saint Maron

Sunday February 11: Entrance into Lent

Monday February 12: Ash Monday

Saturday March 16:
Annual Saint Joseph Hafli

Sunday March 24: Hosana Sunday
followed by Passion Week.

Sunday March 31: The Glorious Resurrection

2 Corinthians 10:1-11 Accusation of Weakness

Brothers and Sisters:

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 toward 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. Now, even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for tearing you down, I will not be ashamed of it. I do not want to seem as though I am trying to frighten you with my letters. For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.” Let such people understand that what we say by letter when absent, we will also do when present. Praise be to God always!



John 1:29-34 John's Testimony to Jesus

The Apostles said: The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

This is the truth.

Peace be with you.

The Holy Rosary Sodality collected the following for Holiday donations:

Caritas Lebanon	\$1000.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$250.00
George J. West Elementary School:	\$470.00

(Walmart Gift Cards)

A heartfelt Thank you to all our parishioners who made this possible.
Patty Viti, President

Weekly collections

Making a generous donation from the hard work of your hands is your opportunity to participate in God's work and support the ministry of His Church.

Saturday 4:00pm \$333.00

Sunday 8:30am \$294.00

Sunday 10:30am \$712.00

Monday 10:30am \$105.00

THANK YOU!



Membership renewals are underway for the Parish family's **200 Club** for year 2024!

We have several numbers available. Become a member and have a chance to win \$1000 during our monthly drawing. The club generates an income of \$12,000 a year to support the church's operating expenses, and gives back members another \$12,000 a year.

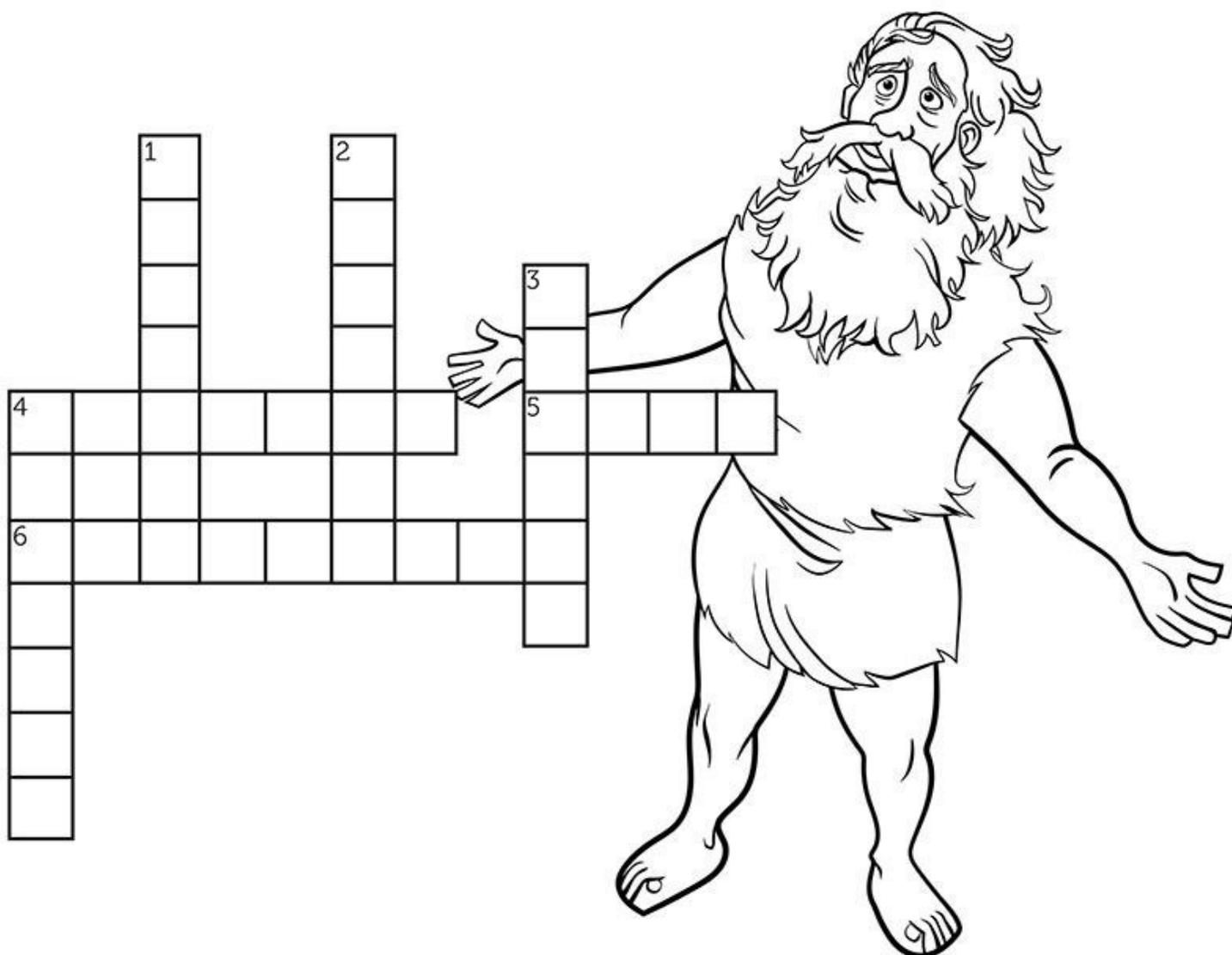
Please contact Tina Saker for more information.
(esaker5128@cox.net)

Liturgical Intentions

1/5/24 7:00PM	EVENING OF THE FEAST OF THE GLORIOUS EPIPHANY Memorial liturgy for Toufic Ayoub , requested by his son Elias and his loving family.
1//6/24 4:00pm	FEAST OF THE GLORIOUS EPIPHANY One Year anniversary for Michael J Michael, Jr. requested by his loving family.
1/7/24 8:30am 10:30am	<p> Birthday remembrance for David Bingham and Michael Bingham, requested by their loving families. </p>
1/13/24 4:00pm	Memorial liturgy for Donald and MaryAnn Solomon , requested by RoseAnn Constantine.
1/14/24 8:30am 10:30am	One year anniversary memorial for Samah Boukarim , requested by her husband and her children Jonathan and Jessy.
1/20 4:00pm	Four year anniversary for Majid Farhat , requested by his loving family.
1/21 8:30am 10:30am	Memorial liturgy for George and Mireille Abounajem , requested by their loving family.
1/27 4:00pm	Fourth anniversary for Alexandria Saker , requested by her loving family.
1/28 8:30am 10:30am	<p> 40 day liturgy and a birthday remembrance for Diane G. Wilborn, requested her loving family. </p> <p> One year anniversary for Adel Shalhoub, requested by his son Tony and Joelle, followed by a mercy meal in the Church hall. </p>
2/3 4:00pm	Memorial liturgy for Donald and Maryann Solomon , requested by Deacon Anthony Kouri and family from Easton, PA.
	ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O' LORD

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Matthew 3:1-17



Across

4. John the Baptist wouldn't be worthy to touch the Messiah's _____.
5. When Jesus _____ from the water, the Holy Spirit descended from Heaven in the form of a dove.
6. Jesus was baptized in _____ to the Father.

Down

1. John the Baptist wore _____ clothing.
2. One day, a man from the town of _____ came to be baptized.
3. John the Baptist _____ the Pharisees that God would not be fooled.
4. John was _____ that Jesus asked him to baptize Him.



Lessons from this week's gospel

1. **Jesus is the Ultimate Sacrifice:** The declaration "Behold, the Lamb of God" emphasizes that Jesus is the ultimate and perfect sacrifice for the sins of humanity. This teaches us about the central role of Jesus in providing atonement for our sins.

2. **The Universality of Salvation:** The phrase "who takes away the sin of the world" underscores the universal nature of Jesus' redemptive work. It reminds us that salvation is available to all people, transcending cultural, geographical, and social boundaries.

3. **Humility in Witnessing:** John the Baptist humbly acknowledges Jesus' superiority, recognizing that Jesus existed before him. This teaches us humility in our own witness, acknowledging the preeminence of Christ in our lives and in the salvation narrative.

4. **The Holy Spirit's Role in Jesus' Mission:** The imagery of the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus like a dove at His baptism highlights the Spirit's role in empowering and anointing Jesus for His earthly ministry. This teaches us the importance of relying on the Holy Spirit in our own lives and mission.



5. **The Importance of Baptism:** The fact that Jesus chose to be baptized by John signifies the importance of baptism. It serves as a public declaration and initiation into a life of discipleship, aligning ourselves with Jesus and His mission.

6. **A Call to Repentance:** John the Baptist's message of repentance before the arrival of Jesus reminds us of the foundational importance of repentance in our spiritual journey. It's a call to turn away from sin and prepare our hearts for the coming of the Savior.

7. **Jesus' Preexistence and Divinity:** John's recognition that Jesus existed before him emphasizes the preexistence and divine nature of Jesus. This teaches us to acknowledge the deity of Christ, understanding that He is the eternal Son of God.

8. **The Role of Witnesses:** John the Baptist serves as a powerful witness to Jesus. This teaches us the responsibility of being witnesses for Christ, sharing our faith with others and testifying to the transformative power of Jesus in our lives.

9. **The Importance of Testimony:** John's explicit statement, "And I have seen and have borne witness," underscores the importance of personal testimony in proclaiming the truth of who Jesus is. Our personal experiences with Christ can be powerful tools for evangelism.

10. **Confession of Jesus as the Son of God:** John's final proclamation, "this is the Son of God," calls us to confess Jesus as the divine Son of God. This confession becomes the foundation of our faith and the basis of our relationship with God through Christ.