

Saint George Maronite Catholic Church

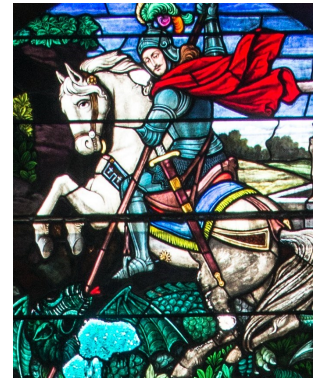
رعية مار جرجس المارونية

1493 Cranston Street, Cranston, RI 02920

Email: stgeorgeri1@gmail.com

Website: www.stgeorgeri.com

Office: 401-723 8444



October 15, 2023 Fifth Sunday after Holy Cross

Philippians 2:12-18

So then, my beloved, obedient as you have always been, not only when I am present but all the more now when I am absent, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For God is the one who, for his good purpose, works in you both to desire and to work. Do everything without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine like lights in the world, as you hold on to the word of life, so that my boast for the day of Christ may be that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. But, even if I am poured out as a libation upon the sacrificial service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with all of you. In the same way you also should rejoice and share your joy with me.

Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.



Meet Your Clergy

Rev. Tony Saab, Pastor

frtonysaab@gmail.com

Farid Zaarour, Deacon

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*)

10:30 am

Exposition of the Holy

Eucharist

on Thursday 6:00pm

The Church Hall

is available for

rent

for all types of events.

Please contact the Church

office for more details

stgeorgeri1@gmail.com

Liturgical Intentions

Saturday 10/14

4:00pm Memorial liturgy for **Solomon A. Solomon and Lillian Solomon**, requested by their loving family.

Sunday 10/15

8:00am Memorial liturgy for **Joseph Simon** and his aunt **Hilda Simon**, requested by Theodora Barkett.

10:30am Forty Day liturgy for **May Akl Hoyek**, requested by her son Gaby Hoyek, followed by a mercy meal.

Saturday 10/21

4:00pm Forty Day liturgy for **Gail Khoury**, requested by her daughter Melissa and her loving family.

Sunday 10/22

8:30am One year anniversary for **Lillian Biccari George**, requested by her son Kevin and his loving family.

10:30am Memorial liturgy for **Vasilios Giovanis Sr.**, requested by his loving family.

Saturday 10/28

4:00pm Memorial liturgy for **Denise Solomon**, requested by the Holy Rosary Sodality.

Sunday 10/29

8:30am Three-year memorial mass for **Jean Caouette**, requested by his wife Carolyn and her children.

10:30am

Saturday 11/04

4:00pm

Sunday 11/05

8:30am Birthday remembrance for **Robin Bingham**, requested by Robert Bingham.

10:30am Forty day liturgy for **Mona Akkaoui**, requested by her sons Richard and Romeo Akkaoui and their loving family.

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 homebound and would like to receive communion at home.

Weekly collections

Saturday 04:00pm
\$208.00

Sunday
08:30am
\$331.00

10.30am
\$739.00

“Discipline your children while they are young enough to learn. If you don't, you are helping them destroy themselves.” (Proverbs 19:18)

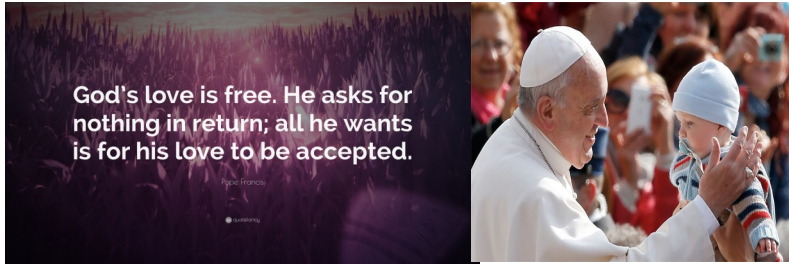
RELIGION EDUCATION CLASSES REGISTRATION: Please register your child by filling out a registration form at the church entrance for **grades 1-7**.

Classes are on Sundays from 9:15am to 10:15am followed by the 10:30am liturgy.

First communion classes have begun on Sunday October 1st at 9:15am.

The **knights of Mary** (Firsan el Adra) are also accepting registration. Ages are from 5 to 12.

Please fill out registration form after liturgies or contact the church office.



Cute Joke corner

Once upon a time at a church meeting a wealthy member of the church rose to tell the rest of those present about his Christian faith.

"I'm a millionaire," he said, "and I attribute my wealth to the blessings of God in my life." He went on to recall the turning point in his relationship with God. As a young man, he had just earned his first dollar and he went to a church meeting that night. The speaker at that meeting was a missionary who told about his work in the mission field. Before the offering plate was passed around, the preacher told everyone that everything that was collected that night would be given to this missionary to help fund his work on behalf of the church. The wealthy man wanted to give to support mission work, but he knew he couldn't make change from the offering plate. He knew he either had to give all he had or nothing at all. At that moment, he decided to give all that he had to God. Looking back, he said he knew that God had blessed that decision and had made him wealthy.

When he finished, there was silence in the room. As he returned to the pew and sat down, an elderly lady seated behind him leaned forward and said, "I dare you to do it again."



Subscribe to our Parish **You Tube** Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/@saintgeorge7066/streams>

Like our Parish **facebook** page

<https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgemaronitecatholicchurchRI>

New!! Follow us on **Instagram** @stgeorgecranston

Parish Committees and organizations

Finance Committee:

Bernie DiLullo, Chris Thomas,
Saba Khoury, Elias Ayoub,
Joan Badway, Nancy Pasquariello,
Anthony Rebello.

Building /Grounds: Semer Youssif,
Charbel Kosseifi.

Pastoral Committee: Suzanne Cannon,
Joseph Checrallah JR., Derek Iacobucci,
Debra Thomas, Michael Saker,
representative members from the Sodality,
MYO, Choir, and Knights of Mary.

Holy Rosary Sodality president:
Patricia Viti.

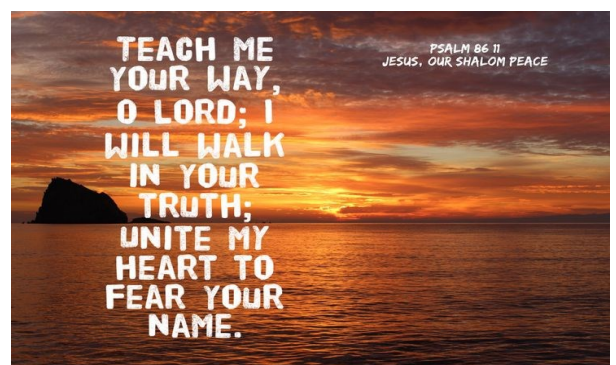
MYO advisor: Jihane Ayoub.

Knights of Mary advisor:
Joelle Chalhoub.

Religious Education: Geraldine Fiyod.

200 Club

Choirs



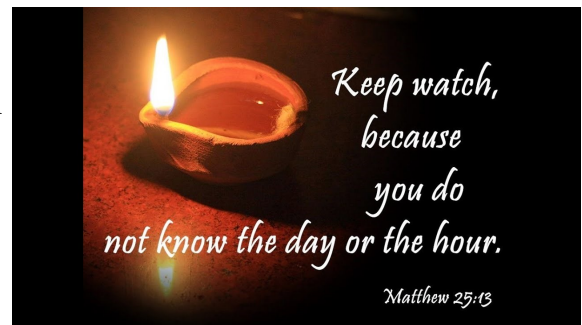
Reflection on Matthew 25:1-13

In this parable, Jesus uses a wedding ceremony to convey a deeper spiritual truth. The bridegroom symbolizes *Christ*, and the virgins represent *believers* awaiting His return. The lamps they carry signify their *faith* and readiness for the anticipated event—the wedding feast, which symbolizes *the culmination of the believers' union with Christ* in the kingdom of heaven.

The distinction between the wise and foolish virgins lies in their level of *preparedness*. The wise virgins took extra oil for their lamps, signifying their foresight, wisdom, and readiness for a delay in the bridegroom's arrival. On the other hand, the foolish virgins lacked this foresight and were ill-prepared for the delay, leading to their exclusion from the wedding feast.

This parable underscores the importance of a proactive and vigilant faith. The extra oil carried by the wise virgins signifies the depth of their spiritual preparedness and their commitment to maintaining their faith and spiritual vitality over time. It reflects the necessity of a continual, sustained relationship with Christ, one that is nurtured through prayer, study, and a life rooted in His teachings.

The delay of the bridegroom's arrival is a crucial element of this parable, reminding us that we, as believers, do not know the exact timing of Christ's return. It highlights the need to live in a state of perpetual readiness, for we do not know when our faith will be truly tested or when Christ will return. The uncertainty of the bridegroom's arrival serves as a metaphor for the unpredictability of life and the unexpected challenges that may confront us.



The tragic fate of the foolish virgins who were left outside the wedding feast underscores the seriousness of being spiritually unprepared. Their lack of foresight and vigilance resulted in their exclusion from the joyous celebration. Similarly, in our spiritual lives, procrastination, complacency, or a lack of spiritual discipline can lead to missed opportunities and, ultimately, spiritual loss.

The parable emphasizes the individual responsibility of believers to maintain their faith and spiritual readiness. No one can borrow or share their faith; each person must cultivate and nurture their own relationship with Christ. It stresses the importance of personal accountability and the consequences of relying on the spiritual preparedness of others.

Furthermore, the cry of the bridegroom and the subsequent exclusion of the foolish virgins demonstrate that there will come a time when it is too late to rectify one's lack of preparedness. This serves as a powerful reminder that salvation is a personal choice and action, and it cannot be delayed indefinitely. The urgency to act now and live a life of spiritual vigilance is paramount.

In summary, this parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 provides profound lessons about ***the importance of spiritual preparedness, vigilance, and the consequences of unpreparedness in the journey of faith***. It challenges believers to *examine their lives, strengthen their faith, and live in a state of perpetual readiness for the coming of Christ*. It calls us to be wise, proactive, and intentional in our spiritual journey, always mindful of the unpredictability of life and the necessity to be spiritually prepared for the unknown. May we, like the wise virgins, carry the extra oil of faith, maintaining a burning and enduring light until we unite with our Bridegroom in the heavenly wedding feast.



Maronite Bishops of the United States of America



October 10, 2023

Dear Friends,

We hope this letter finds you enjoying the best of health, happiness, and success.

Over the last several years, Lebanon has been suffering through economic hardships, government instability, and social unrest which has left many people having a hard time obtaining the most basic needs. Throughout these hard times, Caritas Lebanon has been at the forefront and worked diligently to provide those in need with critical assistance and support. Despite their best efforts, the demand for assistance continues to rise and Caritas Lebanon is struggling.

In order to raise awareness and continue their much-needed work, Caritas Lebanon has made the decision to hold a fundraising **Telethon Event on Sunday, October 22, 2023 from 10 AM to 11 PM Lebanese Time** on MTV Lebanon. While we understand that times are difficult for many, we would like to ask for your assistance in helping our brothers and sisters in desperate need. Every little bit counts and goes a long way.

You can participate in the Telethon event or you can also donate to Caritas Lebanon USA which will ensure the funds reach the needy and less fortunate through the following ways:

1. You can go to www.CaritasLebanon.org and donate
2. Make a check to the order of "Caritas Lebanon- USA" and mail to: St Raymond Cathedral. 931 Lebanon Dr, St Louis, MO 63104
3. You can wire transfer to Bank of America (For acc. number call 314 621 0056)
4. For Stock donations, contact your financial advisor to donate stock to "St. Raymond's Church" account number 5887-3955 DTC# 0141 @ Wells Fargo. The stocks will be cashed out and the money forwarded to Caritas Lebanon.

All your donations are tax-deductible. Caritas Lebanon USA is a non-profit entity 501(c)(3), EIN# 84-1616659.

Your names will be published or remain anonymous depending on your wishes.

Thank you for considering this request and please keep our people of Lebanon in your prayers that our beloved homeland may return to prosperity and stability.

With sincere best wishes and prayers, we remain

Yours in Christ,

+ Gregory Mansour
Bishop of the Eparchy of Saint Maron
of Brooklyn

+ A. Elias Zaidan
Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon
of Los Angeles

Eparchy of St. Maron Brooklyn, 109 Remsen St, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Tel: (718) 237-9913 chancerystmaron@verizon.net www.stmaron.org
Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon, 1021 St. 10th Street, St. Louis, MO 63104
Tel (314) 231-1021 info@eparchy.org www.eparchy.org



THE MARONITE SEMINARY PRESENTS

A WEEKEND OF DISCERNMENT

ADULT MEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO
ATTEND TO DISCERN GOD'S CALL
TO THE PRIESTHOOD

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2023

OUR LADY OF LEBANON MARONITE SEMINARY
7164 ALASKA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20012

FREE TO ATTEND

TO RSVP, CONTACT THE MARONITE SEMINARY:

202-723-8831 / MARONITSEMINARY@COMCAST.NET

MARONITE FAITH FORMATION
ONLINE SERIES — FALL 2023



THE SEVEN MYSTERIES (SACRAMENTS)

HOSTED BY THE MARONITE
SERVANTS OF CHRIST THE LIGHT

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

OCT. 12: BAPTISM &
CHRISMATION - CHORBISHOP
SEELY BEGGIANI

OCT 19: CONFESSION &
ANOINTING OF THE SICK -
FR. CLAUDE FRANKLIN

OCT. 26: HOLY EUCHARIST -
FR. GARY GEORGE

NOV. 2: MARRIAGE &
ORDINATION - CHORBISHOP
MICHAEL THOMAS



Via Zoom on Thursdays 8:00-9:30PM EST
To register Scan QR Code

TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION VISIT
[MARONITSEVANTS.ORG](https://maroniteservants.org) OR VENMO
[@MARONITESERVANTS](https://www.venmo.com/maroniteservants)

ST. THERESA CHURCH PRESENTS

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17TH , 2023



PIERRE CHAMMASSIAN

SPECIAL GUEST

DJ GABRIEL
MASSIH

INCLUDING

MEZZE & CASH BAR

DOORS OPEN AT 8 PM
SHOW STARTS AT 9 PM



TO PURCHASE TICKETS CONTACT

MIRNA ISSA
508-725-4786

GEORGE MATTA
774-365-1934



343 North Main Street Brockton, MA
www.sttheresabrockton.org

RAFCA FARES

Lebanese Nights

OCT 21

8PM

LAWRENCE, MA

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT
SAINT JOSEPH
MONASTERY
&
TOMB OF SAINT RAFQA
IN LEBANON

RESERVATION & PAYMENT

WISSAM

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RAGHIDA

+1 (978) 397-6720

MOUNIRA

+1 (603) 235-0801



St. Joseph Monastery st rafqa@ strafqa



Strafqamonastery@gmail.com

By Check: Saint Joseph Monastery
Tomb of Saint Rafqa

St. Anthony Maronite Church | 145 Amesbury Street, Lawrence, MA 01841