



Saint George Maronite Catholic Church

رعية مار جرجس المارونية

1493 Cranston Street, Cranston, RI

Church office: 401-723 8444

Email: stgeorgeri@gmail.com

Website: www.stgeorgeri.com

March 15, 2026

Sunday of the healing of the paralytic

“Rise and walk”

(Mark 2:11)

Isaiah 35: 1-6+8+9b-10

The wilderness and the parched land will exult; the Arabah will rejoice and bloom; Like the crocus it shall bloom abundantly, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; They will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen hands that are feeble, make firm knees that are weak, Say to the fearful of heart: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; With divine recompense he comes to save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall see, and the ears of the deaf be opened; Then the lame shall leap like a stag, and the mute tongue sing for joy. For waters will burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the Arabah. A highway will be there, called the holy way; No one unclean may pass over it, but it will be for his people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray on it. But there the redeemed shall walk, And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; They meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning flee away.

1 Timothy 5:24-6:5

Some people's sins are public, preceding them to judgment; but other people are followed by their sins. Similarly, good works are also public; and even those that are not cannot remain hidden. Those who are under the yoke of slavery must regard their masters as worthy of full respect, so that the name of God and our teaching may not suffer abuse. Those whose masters are believers must not take advantage of them because they are brothers but must give better service because those who will profit from their work are believers and are beloved. Whoever teaches something different and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the religious teaching is conceited, understanding nothing, and has a morbid disposition for arguments and verbal disputes. From these come envy, rivalry, insults, evil suspicions, and mutual friction among people with corrupted minds, who are deprived of the truth, supposing religion to be a means of gain. Praise be to God always.

Mark 2:1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth"-- he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

Liturgical Intentions

3/14 4:00 pm	Thirtieth birthday liturgy for Alexandria M Saker , requested by her loving family.
3/15 8:30 am 10:30 am	Tenth anniversary liturgy for Micheal Bingham , requested by his loving family.
3/21 4:00 pm	Memorial liturgy for Antoine Barkett , requested by his loving wife and family, and a memorial liturgy for Majid and Alice Farhat requested by their loving family.
3/22 8:30 am 10:30 am	Memorial liturgy for Jay Caron , requested by his loving family.
3/28 4:00 pm	Forty-day liturgy for Ranzel Ramos , requested by his loving family.
3/29 8:30 am 10:30 am	Palm Sunday/ Hosanna Sunday
4/4 4:00 pm	The Glorious Resurrection of the Lord
4/5 8:30 am 10:30 am	Feast of the GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
4/11 4:00 pm	
4/12 8:30 am 10:30 am	Memorial liturgy for Laya Yousif , requested by her loving husband Semer and his loving children.

Meet Your Clergy

Fr. Tony Saab, Pastor
frtonysaab@gmail.com

Deacon Farid Zaarour
fzaarour@yahoo.com

Liturgical Schedule

Thursday and Friday

10:00 am

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am (Latin rite)

10:30 am

Exposition of the Holy Eucharist

Thursday 6:00 pm– 8:00 pm

Office Hours:

Mon, Weds, Thurs, and Friday by appointment.

401-7238444

email:

stgeorgeril@gmail.com

Jihane Ayoub

Office assistant

administrator

Meet our parish teams

Finance Team

Elias Ayoub

Bernie DiLullo

Saba Khoury

Nancy Pasquierello

Anthony Rebello

Tony Simon

Christopher Thomas

Pastoral Team

Peter Abashkroun

Jason Gebara

Marie-Line Raheb

Hannah Saleeba

Announcement corner

- ◇ Join the *Knights of Columbus* prayer meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. Next meeting is on 3/19.
- ◇ Join the parish young adults *pray the Holy Rosary* every First Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm.
- ◇ Saturday March 21: *Saint Joseph Hafti*
- ◇ March 30: *Holy Week*
- ◇ Sunday April 5: *The Glorious Resurrection of the Lord*
- ◇ Sunday April 19: *First Communion*
- ◇ Thursday April 23: *Feast of Saint George*

Young Adults Bible Study



Join us every other Thursday

March 26, 2026

7:30 pm

In the Church Hall

All adults are welcome!

Sacraments

Baptism & Confirmation

One month in advance with the Pastor.

Matrimony:

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

Reconciliation:

One hour before liturgies, or by appointment.

Please call the church office or email

frtonysaab@gmail.com

Anointing of the Sick:

Please notify the office if a member of your family is ill, hospitalized, or homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion.

Stations and Benediction of the Holy Cross

درب الصليب

Every Friday 7:00 pm



Weekly Collections

\$2,445.00

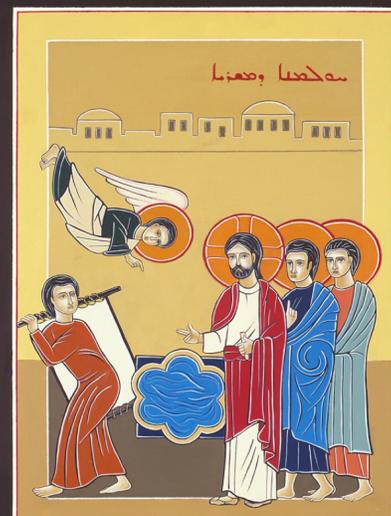
Thank you for your great generosity!



@Saint-George-4



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**“Thank you to those who have already stepped forward.
Your generosity leads the way.”**

Saint Joseph Hafli is one of the most beautiful traditions of our parish. For 77 years, generations before us carried it with pride and sacrifice. This year, we are asking for something simple but powerful: that every family participate at some level. If each household does something, no matter how small, we will not only meet our goal, but we will also strengthen our unity.



Purchase a Grand Raffle
Ticket



Participation is simple:

- Repeat last year’s ad
- Sponsor in memory of loved ones
- Place a family blessing line
- Support as a business

“This Hafli is not about ads. It is about saying: this is my parish.”

ST. GEORGE MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
1493 Cranston Street, Cranston, RI 02920 • 401-723-8444
77th ANNUAL SAINT JOSEPH HAFLI
Program Book Form 2026
Saturday, March 21, 2026, St. Sharbel Maronite Center, Fall River, MA

Specifications: 8½ × 11

Type of Ad & Cost:
Benefactor (Gold Border, Color) – \$250.00
Patron (Silver Border, Black & White) – \$100.00

Premium Placements:
Back Cover – \$1,000.00 **Inside Front Cover** – \$600.00 **Inside Back Cover** – \$600.00

Please attach ad text or business card. Memorial ads: email or mail photo and prepared text.

Contacts:
 Elizabeth Saldana, lizdilullo@gmail.com
 Alexa Stufano, alexa.stufano@gmail.com

Repeat same ad as last year

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Type of Ad: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Circle: VISA MasterCard AMEX 

Name on Card: _____ Card #: _____

Exp: ____ / ____ CVV: _____

Checks payable to: St. George Maronite Catholic Church
DEADLINE: Monday, March 16, 2026

The story of the conversion of **Saint Augustine** is one of the most powerful examples of repentance and transformation in Christian history. Augustine was born in the year 354 in the town of Tagaste in North Africa, in what is today Algeria. His father was a pagan, but his mother, Monica of Hippo, was a deeply faithful Christian woman who prayed constantly for her son. From a young age Augustine showed extraordinary intelligence. He excelled in his studies and became a brilliant student of rhetoric, the art of speaking and persuasion. His talent opened many doors for him, and he dreamed of fame, success, and recognition in the Roman world.

Yet Augustine's early life was far from holy. As a young man he pursued pleasure and worldly ambition. He lived with a woman outside of marriage and had a son. Augustine later admitted in his writings that he was deeply attached to sensual pleasures and struggled to control his desires. In his famous spiritual autobiography, *Confessions*,

Augustine honestly described the restlessness of his heart and his search for happiness in the wrong places. He once prayed a famous prayer that reveals his struggle: "Lord, give me chastity and self-control... but not yet."

For many years Augustine searched for truth in philosophy and different religious ideas.

Eventually Augustine moved to

Milan in Italy, where he worked as a teacher of rhetoric. There he encountered a remarkable Christian leader, Ambrose of Milan. Augustine first listened to Ambrose simply because he admired his eloquent preaching. But as he listened more closely, he began to discover that Christianity was not only spiritually rich but also intellectually profound. Ambrose explained the Scriptures in a way that opened Augustine's mind and heart. Slowly Augustine began to realize that the Christian faith might actually be true.

Still, Augustine struggled internally. He felt drawn toward God, yet he felt trapped by his habits and attachments to his old way of life. In the summer of the year 386, this inner struggle reached a dramatic moment. Augustine was in a garden in Milan, overwhelmed with emotion and deeply troubled by his inability to change his life. He began to cry and poured out his heart to God. At that moment he suddenly heard the voice of a child from a nearby house repeating the words, "Take and read, take and read."

Augustine believed this might be a sign from God. He picked up a copy of the Scriptures that was nearby and opened it randomly to a passage from the Epistle to the Romans. The words he read struck him like a light entering his heart: "Not in drunkenness and immorality... but put on the Lord Jesus Christ." Augustine later wrote that at that instant all the darkness of doubt and confusion disappeared from his mind. He knew that God was calling him to leave his old life behind and follow Christ completely.

After this moment Augustine made a radical decision. He gave up his career ambitions and dedicated himself to a life of faith and study. In the year 387 he was baptized during the Easter Vigil by Bishop Ambrose. His mother Monica was present, and her joy was immense, because her years of prayer for her son had finally been answered. Augustine later became a priest and eventually the bishop of Hippo. Through his preaching and writing he became one of the most influential Christian thinkers in history.

