



# Saint George Maronite Catholic Church

رعية مار جرجس المارونية

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## Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

07/24/2022

### Is 42: 1-8

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased. Upon him I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry out, nor shout, nor make his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench. He will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow dim or be bruised until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and its produce, Who gives breath to its people and spirit to those who walk on it: I, the LORD, have called you for justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness. I am the LORD, LORD is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

### Romans 8:1-11

Hence, now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed you from the law of sin and death. For what the law, weakened by the flesh, was powerless to do, this God has done: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for the sake of sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the righteous decree of the law might be fulfilled in us, who live not according to the flesh but according to the spirit. For those who live according to the flesh are concerned with the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the spirit with the things of the spirit. The concern of the flesh is death, but the concern of the spirit is life and peace. For the concern of the flesh is hostility toward God; it does not submit to the law of God, nor can it; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you.

### Matthew 12:14-21

But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against him to put him to death. When Jesus realized this, he withdrew from that place. Many (people) followed him, and he cured them all, but he warned them not to make him known. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in whom I delight; I shall place my spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not contend or cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope."

## Office Hours

By appointment only.  
Please call 401-723 8444

## Liturgical Schedule

**Saturday 4:00 pm**  
(*Maronite rite*)

**Sunday 8:30 am**  
(*Roman rite*)

**10:30 am** (*Maronite rite*)

**Exposition of the Holy  
Eucharist**

Saturday 2:00pm-4:00pm  
(Chapel)

## Meet Your Clergy

**Rev. Tony Saab**

Pastor

**Farid Zaarour**

Deacon

## Sacraments

### Baptism and Confirmation:

Please contact the Priest for  
an appointment.

### Reconciliation:

Before or after Liturgy or by  
appointment.

### Marriage:

Couples must contact the  
Priest six months before the  
wedding.

# ANNUAL LEBANESE FESTIVAL

**Great Food, Music, Dance, Raffle, Hookah  
Weekend of September 16, 17, 18, 2022**

**Saint George Maronite Catholic Church's**

**Looking forward to seeing you all!**



**Games for children and more**

1493 Cranston Street

Cranston, RI 02920

**Weekend of September 16, 17, 18, 2022**

**YF**

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**THE FRUIT OF  
LOVE IS  
SERVICE,  
WHICH IS  
COMPASSION  
IN ACTION.**

- Mother Teresa

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## *Liturgical Intentions*

7/23 4:00pm	Memorial Liturgy for <b>Fred, Eva, and Joseph Simon</b> , requested by their loving family.
7/24 8:30am 10:30am	Memorial liturgy for <b>Elias Saab and the living and deceased members of the Saab family</b> , requested by his wife and his loving children.
7/30 4:00pm	Forty Day Liturgy for <b>Norma Moreid</b> , requested by her loving family.
7/31 8:30am 10:30am	One year Anniversary for <b>James Maron</b> , requested by his wife Gloria and her loving family.
8/6 4:00pm	<b>Feast of the Transfiguration</b> Memorial Liturgy for <b>Raymond and Therese yazbek</b> , requested by their loving children
8/7 8:30am 10:30am	One year anniversary liturgy for <b>Maria Guerra</b> , requested by Anthony and Virginia Thomas and their loving family. Forty day liturgy for <b>Julia Assaf Najm</b> , requested by her son Joseph and his wife Josephine Najm.
8/13 4:00pm	Memorial liturgy for <b>Carmella Abbood</b> , requested by Anthony and Helen Budway.
8/14 8:30am 10:30am	Memorial liturgy for <b>John Moses Thomas and Beatrice Ann Thomas</b> , requested by their loving children.

### *Live Streaming Liturgies and Activities*

[www.facebook.com/stgeorgemaronitecatholicchurchRI/](http://www.facebook.com/stgeorgemaronitecatholicchurchRI/)

We are live streaming for our parishioners who are homebound only. We hope to see you in church in-person.

### **Weekly collections**

Saturday 4:00pm	\$711.00	Sunday 8:30am
Sunday 10:30am	\$892.00	\$500.00

***THANK YOU!!***

### *Announcement corner*

- Please note that a yearly and a quarterly financial reports and a balance sheet are always posted on the church announcement board at the church entrance for those who would like to review them.

**GIVING IS NOT JUST ABOUT MAKING A DONATION. IT IS ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE.**

## *Why does Evil Exist?*

First we must consider the meaning of evil. There are two kinds of evil: moral and physical. Moral evil is willful sin, while physical evil is natural harm. Examples of moral evil are murder, adultery, fornication, theft, sorcery, abortion...(Didache 2:2). Examples of physical evil are famine, illness, natural disasters and death. Now evil is not something in itself, but a lack of something that should be present, e.g. a lie lacks in truth. God does not create evil since it is not a thing to be created. Evil is an imperfection, lack or void in God's creation.

Focusing first on moral evil, the question could be phrased as: "If there is a good God, then why did He create morally evil people?" In considering this question, we must realize that God does not create evil people (Gen. 1:26-31). Being all-knowing, God does knowingly create people who will be sinners, but knowledge and control are different. God created us with the gift of free will - the ability to willfully choose Him or reject Him. We choose to sin - to reject God - through willful disobedience. This rejection is a void in God's plan for us. God wants us to love Him, but without free will, we could not sincerely love Him. We cannot be forced to love someone. If God created us without free will, we would be living machines and not made in His image and likeness. God permits moral evil to the extent that He gives us free will. Thanks to us, the moral evil in the world is the result of our choice.

Focusing next on physical evil, the question can be stated as: "If there is a good God, why are there pain, suffering and death in the world?" Perhaps a harder hitting version is: "If there is a just God, why do good people suffer?" Now suffering does serve a purpose in the material world. Pain retards us from damaging our bodies. I do not put my hand in fire mainly out of fear of pain. The pain of angina can warn us of an impending heart attack. Athletes endure extreme physical hardship and suffering in order to discipline their bodies for better performance in sports, realizing that no pain means no gain. Even for good people such suffering is not totally absurd. Material things operate according to physical laws. For example, fire operates according to the laws of thermodynamics. The same laws which allow us to heat our homes during the winter, can allow our homes to burn to the ground. To prevent the latter evil would require a miracle - a suspension of physical laws. God permits physical evil to the extent that He does not perform one miracle after another in order to stop suffering, thus causing the ordinary to become extraordinary. Physical laws also apply the same to both good and bad people (Matt. 5:45).

Perhaps the real question is not why does God allow for physical evil, but why did God create us in a material world? Some suggest that God created us in an imperfect material world so that we would not rely on ourselves but come to love and rely on the perfect God (2 Cor 1:8-9). We were created with a desire and hunger which can only be satisfied by God. This void of happiness calls us to Him. In the words of St. Augustine: "...for You have made us for Yourself, O God, and our heart is restless until it rests in You." [Confessions I,1,1] St. Irenaeus of Lyons (190 A.D.) has another thought:

...where there is no exertion, there is no appreciation. Sight would not be so desirable if we did not know what a great evil blindness is. Health, too, is made more precious by the experience of sickness; light by comparison with darkness; life with death. In the same way, the heavenly kingdom is more precious to those who have known the earthly one. But the more precious it is, the more we love it; and the more we love it, the more glorious shall we be in the presence of God. God, therefore, permitted all these things, so that we, instructed by them all, might in future be prudent in all things, and, wisely taught to love God, might abide in that perfect love. [Against Heresies IV,37,7]

As more thoughts, suffering and sacrifice can help us overcome our selfishness. Also God is Holy, so His creation is separated from Him and thus imperfect.

The Book of Job in the Bible deals with this problem in a beautifully poetic manner. Job is a righteous, God-fearing man (Job 1:1); however, God allows Satan to inflict Job with horrible disasters and disease to test his loyalty. Satan wants to show God that Job's faith is false (Job 2:3-7). Under intense suffering Job argues with "friends" about the suffering of the innocent. Towards the end God enters the debate and responds:

Who is this that obscures divine plans with words of ignorance? Gird up your loins now, like a man; I will question you, and you tell me the answer! Where were you when I founded the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding... [Job 38:2-4; NAB]

Will we have arguing with the Almighty by the critic? Let him who would correct God give answer! [Job 40:2] God responds by telling Job that His wisdom and power are beyond man's ability to understand. Also man is not in control of the universe: his virtues alone do not ensure earthly happiness. Job humbly closes the debate with the words:

I have dealt with great things that I do not understand; things too wonderful for me, which I cannot know...Therefore I disown what I have said, and repent in dust and ashes. [Job 42:2-6]

The Bible here suggests that we should accept suffering and trust in God. Later in the Bible, Jesus Christ responds this way on the Cross.