

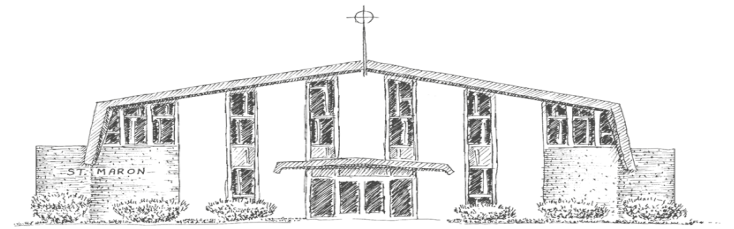
Saint Maron Catholic Church

The Prodigal Son

March 23, 2025

I believe we are all familiar with the parable of the Prodigal Son. It is a remarkable revelation of a father who, in the face of human mistakes, and we all make mistakes in life, sets aside the Judge's robe and instead puts on the extraordinary garment of a loving father.

How much effort we still need to make to transition from the idea of God that we carry in our hearts to the true face of God revealed by Jesus! The essence of Luke's Gospel is found in this parable, which speaks both of man and of God. It portrays a man who sees God as a competitor, an adversary, one who seeks to subjugate him. This man demands an inheritance that is not rightfully his, distances himself from the father, and squanders his wealth on meaningless pursuits, losing his dignity in the process. It also depicts another man, the elder son, who experiences his relationship



with the father not as a source of joy but as a burdensome obligation, a kind of servitude devoid of passion and meaning.

Yet, God is a Father, though not a paternalist. He protects man but does not exert a suffocating, possessive control, nor does He count every step he takes. While God urges man to discern between good and evil and confronts him with his mistakes, He ultimately grants him the freedom to choose. Free will is the defining attribute that sets humanity apart, elevating man above all other creatures. It is through this gift that man is recognized as rational, capable of making decisions and shaping his own life. Unlike those governed by fate or instinct, man is a being who constructs himself, continually planning, evolving, and exercising his innate freedom and will.

This, then, is the true face of God, the face we are called to rediscover during this season of Lent. A face of mercy, of compassion, not the harsh visage of one who seeks vengeance. Jesus reveals a God who is vastly different from the distorted image we have often imposed upon Him. He is a Father who allows us the freedom even to make mistakes. He is a Father who patiently explains His reasons, correcting the rigid and self-righteous perspective of the elder son. And He is a Father who gazes into the distance, longing for the return of His child, the same child who once wished him dead by demanding an inheritance that was not rightfully his.

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LITURGY INTENTIONS

Sun. March 23: The Prodigal Son

(Zec 3:1-7; 2 Cor 13:5-13; Lk 15:11-32 Lit. p 217)

• 9:30 am

Liturgy for Marie Michaels, 100 birthday, by Family

Liturgy for Charles and Charlotte Khalil, by Christine Khalil and Family

Liturgy for all people who died without confession and receiving the last sacrament

• 11:30 am

Liturgy for Jeanette Elkassouf, 1 year Anniversary, by Said ElKassouf and Family

Liturgy for Randy Abud, 26 year Anniversary, by Gary & Paulette Abud

Liturgy for Mary Cherfan, 4 years remembrance, by Family

Liturgy for all people who died without confession and receiving the last sacrament

NEXT WEEK

Sun. March 30: The Healing of the Paralytic

(Is 35:1-10; 1 Tm 5:24-6:5; Mk 2:1-12 Lit. p 237)

• 9:30 am

Liturgy for Elias And Joe Tannous, by Christine Khalil and Family

Liturgy for Paul & Isabel Saigh

Liturgy for all the donors and supporters of Saint Maron Church

• 11:30 am

Liturgy for Clemence Christo Salameh, 40 day Mass, by Family

Liturgy for all the donors and supporters of Saint Maron Church

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

Sacramentals

"Holy Mother Church has, moreover, instituted sacramentals. These are sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments. They signify effects, particularly of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the Church. By them men are disposed to receive the chief effect of the sacraments, and various occasions in life are rendered holy."

The characteristics of sacramentals

Sacramentals are instituted for the sanctification of certain ministries of the Church, certain states of life, a great variety of circumstances in Christian life, and the use of many things helpful to man. In accordance with bishops' pastoral decisions, they can also respond to the needs, culture, and special history of the Christian people of a particular region or time. They always include a prayer, often accompanied by a specific sign, such as the laying on of hands, the sign of the cross, or the sprinkling of holy water (which recalls Baptism).

Sacramentals derive from the baptismal priesthood: every baptized person is called to be a "blessing," and to bless. Hence lay people may preside at certain blessings; the more a blessing concerns ecclesial and sacramental life, the more is its administration reserved to the ordained ministry (bishops, priests, or deacons).

Sacramentals do not confer the grace of the Holy Spirit in the way that the sacraments do, but by the Church's prayer, they prepare us to receive grace and dispose us to cooperate with it. "For well-disposed members of the faithful, the liturgy of the sacraments and sacramentals sanctifies almost every event of their lives with the divine grace which flows from the Paschal mystery of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ. From this source all sacraments and sacramentals draw their power. There is scarcely any proper use of material things which cannot be thus directed toward the sanctification of men and the praise of God

Collection March 16, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,647
Online Donations	\$ 100
Donation by mail	\$ 510
Coffee & Donuts	\$ 73
<p>You can support the Church by mail or through our website donating online www.saintmarondetroit.org/donate-online</p>	

BREAD AND WINE

Please contact the Rectory to donate the Host and Wine for \$50.00/month, we will be accepting donations from three different families each month.

- Bread and Wine for the month of March 2025, in loving memory of **Reem Safadi**, by George & Janet Safadi.
- Bread and Wine for the month of March 2025, in loving memory of **Living and Deceased Members of the Tabet and Fleifel Families**, by Nuha & Family.
- Bread and Wine for the month of March 2025, in loving memory of **Living and Deceased Members of the Mabarak Family**, by Robert L. Mabarak.

"Lent is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism." -*Pope Benedict XVI*



ST. MARON MYO
SPRING AND SUMMER SCHEDULE

MARCH
SUNDAY, MARCH 23
 MYO LITURGY & LENTEN CHARITY ACTIVITY (after 11:30 Mass)

APRIL
SATURDAY, APRIL 19
 Easter Egg Decorating and Games 11 AM-1 PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 27
 MYO + MYA BREAKFAST

MAY
SATURDAY, MAY 17
 MYO BOWLING NIGHT & DINNER

JUNE
SATURDAY, JUNE 14
 MYO DAY RETREAT 11 AM-3 PM
MYO NATIONAL CONFERENCE June 23-28

JULY
FRIDAY, JULY 25
 HOLY S'MORES Adoration, Barbecue, and Outdoor Game Night



Saint Maron Church
 Friday, March 28th, 2025

Adoration Day

Liturgy at 10am
 Adoration: 11am to 6pm

The time you spend with Jesus in adoration is the best time you will spend on earth!




SAINT MARON CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON



**Sunday April 13
after 11:30am Liturgy**

Adults \$30 - Kids \$20

RSVP By April 1st to 313-824-0196

Easter Lily Plants and Spring Bulbs 2025

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY (\$30 each)

In Memory of:

In Thanksgiving:

For:

Donated By:

Return with payment to the office OR put in collection basket by **March 31, 2025**

