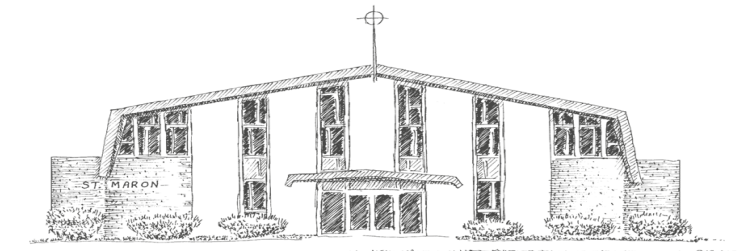


Saint Maron Catholic Church

Third Sunday After the Holy Cross September 29, 2024

This text is situated within the eschatological discourse, aptly named as it contemplates the end and ultimate realities. It is the final of the five significant discourses delivered by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Its purpose is to respond to a question that is not solely for believers; it is a question for everyone. As we begin to understand our existence, we inevitably wonder where we will ultimately end up. This inquiry extends beyond merely asking about the fate of the world or what will happen at the end of time; it invites us to reflect on the direction of our individual experiences. What will become of those moments where we invest our entire selves? What of the endeavors we painstakingly strive to build each day, nurturing goodness for ourselves and others?

The apocalyptic genre to which today's Gospel belongs serves as a source of consolation. It comforts us by reminding us that history does not merely have an end but



rather a purpose. History moves toward fulfillment, and in that fulfillment, everything will find its meaning. This is why these discourses are embedded within the Gospel—they embody Good News that deserve to be embraced.

The text conveys a striking image: “The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken” (Mt 24:29). This upheaval primarily concerns celestial bodies, which hold profound significance. In ancient cultures, the sun, moon, and stars were revered as deities; their fall represents the collapse of idols and the decline of all forms of idolatry. This paves the way for something—indeed, someone—greater: the Son of Man, who comes with immense power and glory (Mt 24:30). The triumph of the Kingdom of God unfolds through humanity, for it is within us that God has chosen to be present and manifest Himself, saving and uniting all people. Secondly, the sun, moon, and stars symbolize the forces that provide stability to our lives. We recognize that our existence is part of a much larger cosmos, whose delicate balances grant us stability, alternating day and night. The disturbance of these celestial realities indicates a disruption of what we often consider stable, urging us to cling ever more closely to God, the true source of stability and strength in our lives!

Let's ask ourselves, along with Pope Francis: “What is the idol in our hearts? What is really my God? Is it the One and Triune Love, or is it my own image, my personal success, even within the Church?”

In great faith and profound hope, we cry out today and every day: “Maranatha! Come, Lord!”



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LITURGY INTENTIONS

Sun Sept 29: 3rd Sunday After the Holy Cross

(Dan 7:9-14; Phil 3:17-4:1; Mt 24:23-31 Lit p 480)

- 9:30 am

Liturgy for Charlotte Khalil, by family

Liturgy for Wanda Ejbeh, by Dinah Agby

Liturgy for priestly and religious vocations in the world

Liturgy for all donors and benefactors to our Church

Liturgy for peace and stability in Lebanon

- 11:30 am

Liturgy for Marie Jabbour, by Asmar/Anderson Families

Liturgy for priestly and religious vocations in the world

Liturgy for all donors and benefactors to our Church

Liturgy for peace and stability in Lebanon

NEXT WEEK

Sun Oct 6: 4th Sunday After the Holy Cross

(Gen 41:38-44; 1 Thes 5:1-11; Mt 24:45-51 Lit p 570)

- 9:30 am

Liturgy for Boulos & Margaret Helou, by Cesar & Diane Helou

Liturgy for Charbel, Victoria and Katrine Fares, by Cesar & Diane Helou

Liturgy for all children who have died from abortion

Liturgy for peace and stability in Lebanon

- 11:30 am

Liturgy for all children who have died from abortion

Liturgy for peace and stability in Lebanon

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS

Two participations in the one priesthood of Christ

Christ, high priest and unique mediator, has made of the Church "a kingdom, priests for his God and Father." The whole community of believers is, as such, priestly. The faithful exercise their baptismal priesthood through their participation, each according to his own vocation, in Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and king. Through the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation the faithful are "consecrated to be . . . a holy priesthood."

The ministerial or hierarchical priesthood of bishops and priests, and the common priesthood of all the faithful participate, "each in its own proper way, in the one priesthood of Christ." While being "ordered one to another," they differ essentially. In what sense? While the common priesthood of the faithful is exercised by the unfolding of baptismal grace - a life of faith, hope, and charity, a life according to the Spirit -, the ministerial priesthood is at the service of the common priesthood. It is directed at the unfolding of the baptismal grace of all Christians. The ministerial priesthood is a means by which Christ unceasingly builds up and leads his Church. For this reason it is transmitted by its own sacrament, the sacrament of Holy Orders.

In the person of Christ the Head . . .

In the ecclesial service of the ordained minister, it is Christ himself who is present to his Church as Head of his Body, Shepherd of his flock, high priest of the redemptive sacrifice, Teacher of Truth. This is what the Church means by saying that the priest, by virtue of the sacrament of Holy Orders, acts in persona Christi Capitis:

It is the same priest, Christ Jesus, whose sacred person his minister truly represents. Now the minister, by reason of the sacerdotal consecration which he has received, is truly made like to the high priest and possesses the authority to act in the power and place of the person of Christ himself (virtute ac persona ipsius Christi). Christ is the source of all priesthood: the priest of the old law was a figure of Christ, and the priest of the new law acts in the person of Christ.

Through the ordained ministry, especially that of bishops and priests, the presence of Christ as head of the Church is made visible in the midst of the community of believers.²⁶ In the beautiful expression of St. Ignatius of Antioch, the bishop is typos tou Patros: he is like the living image of God the Father.

Collection September 22, 2024

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,683
Online Donations	\$ 110
Donation by mail	\$ 0
Coffee & Donuts	\$ 61

You can support the Church by mail or through our website donating online
www.saintmarondetroit.org/donate-online

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to
Mrs. Madeline Foster
for generously covering all the expenses related to the gardening around the church.
May God bless her abundantly for her kindness and support.

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 September 2024, in loving memory of **Elias Ajini**, by Zako & Tony Basil
- Bread and Wine for the month of September 2024, in loving memory of all **Deceased Members of the Ahee Family**, by Family.
- Bread and Wine for the month of September 2024, in loving memory of **Dr. Daher Rahi**, by Christi Rahi Kassab and Family

We extend our deepest Condolences to
Mirna Joseph Douaihy
on the passing of her father
Salim Georges Chibani.
May his soul rest in peace.

ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL

Join us to support
The Education of Maronite Seminarians
and help build the Future of the Maronite Church



ENROLL NOW ONLINE AT
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For more information about the Order,
please contact your Parish Priest or the Order of Saint Sharbel Office at info@orderstsharbel.org
or call the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles at (818) 626 9193.

If you are interested in becoming a Priest or Religious Sister,
contact Vocations Director, Chorbishop Donald J. Sawyer, D. Min, at (512) 458 3693 or

St Maron Church
Catechism Classes
2024 - 2025

Classes Begin
Sunday, October 13th
10:30 AM - 11:20 AM



Please fill out the forms in the church vestibule.

St Maron Church

LADIES NIGHT



Friday, October 25th

7 PM Rosary - 7:30 PM Dinner



The Maronite Seminary presents

A WEEKEND OF

Discernment

Wondering if the Lord is calling you to the priesthood in the Maronite Church? Men aged 18-40 are invited for a weekend of fellowship, prayer, discussion and discernment.

Come and See on

NOVEMBER 1-3, 2024

at Our Lady of Lebanon
Maronite Seminary
7164 Alaska Avenue, NW,
Washington, DC 20012

Overnight accommodations provided.

Please RSVP (202) 723-8831 or
maroniteseminary@comcast.net

