

# Saint Stephen Maronite Catholic Church

Administrator: Rev. Rodolph Wakim Tel: (704) 412-1016

Email: [saintstephenmaronitechurch@gmail.com](mailto:saintstephenmaronitechurch@gmail.com)

Deacon Frank Enderle Tel: (704) 458-5661

Church Mailing Address: P.O.BOX 49021, Charlotte, NC 28277

Website: [www.ststephenclt.org](http://www.ststephenclt.org)

**Weekend Liturgy: Sunday 12:30 PM**

Location 4116 Waxhaw-Marvin Rd, Waxhaw, NC 28173

**Daily Liturgy:** At 2951 Brookridge Lane, Charlotte, NC 28211

Monday 6:30 PM (St Sharbel Liturgy & Novena)

Wednesday 6:30 PM (St Rafka Liturgy & Novena)

Thursday & Friday 10:00 AM

**Eucharistic Adoration: Every Thursday @ 11 AM**

## Parable of the Prodigal Son

### March 8th, 2026

*2Corinthians 13:5-13 Luke 15:11-32*

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

**2 AM SUNDAY  
MARCH 8, 2026**

Spring Forward

### PARISH MISSION

*The Mission of Saint Stephen Maronite Catholic Church, is to be anchored in the Lord Jesus Christ & the Teachings of the Catholic Church. United in Love & Faith, We Welcome with Open Arms and Hearts all Our Brothers and Sisters to join Our Family, God's Family.*

**BAPTISM & CHRISMATIONS:** Please contact Fr. Rodolph for the proper preparation.

**MARRIAGES:** Preparations are needed at least 6 (six) months in advance.

**CONFESSIONS:** Available before and after the Divine Liturgy and anytime upon request.

**SICK CALLS:** If someone is sick, hospitalized, homebound or in a Nursing Home, please contact Fr. Rodolph to let him know.

**MASS INTENTIONS :** Call (704) 412-1016 or email:

[saintstephenmaronitechurch@gmail.com](mailto:saintstephenmaronitechurch@gmail.com)

**NEW COMMERS:** Welcome to your family. Please make yourself at home. When you are with us , you are not a guest, you are one of us.



**Father, I have sinned against Heaven**

**and against You!**



To Offer the Mass for your loved ones  
(Living or Deceased) email:  
[saintstephenmaronitechurch@gmail.com](mailto:saintstephenmaronitechurch@gmail.com)  
Or call: **(704) 412-1016**

Sun. 3.8.2026 @ 12:30PM [4116 Waxhaw-Marvin Rd](#)

**Annual Clergy Retreat Monday to Friday March 9-13**

During this week there will be No Daily Liturgies.  
Fr Rodolph will be joining Bishop Gregory Mansour and all the Priests of Our Eparchy  
for the Annual Clergy Retreat in Florida . Please keep them in your prayers,

Sunday 3.15.2026 @ 12:30PM [4116 Waxhaw-Marvin Rd](#) No Intentions Requested

✦ Thank you ✦



May God bless you for your Generosity

**Collection 3/1/2026**

Church Collection	\$890.00
Online Weekly	\$80.00
Online Monthly	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$970.00</b>

**Church Attendance:**

**Sunday 3/1/2026: 56 People**

Annual Budget (\$7,500 X 12 Months)	<b>\$90,000.00</b>
Weekly Budget (90,000 ÷ 52 weeks)	<b>\$1,730.00</b>
<b>Last week's Income</b>	<b>\$970.00</b>
<b>Collected to Date</b>	<b>\$7,619.00</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7.639.00</b>
<b>Needed to meet Budget:</b>	<b>\$82,381.00</b>

**Please keep in your Prayers:**

Deacon Frank Enderle, Pina Habbal, Judge Moossa,  
Mary Shaheen and Aleena Tashjian.

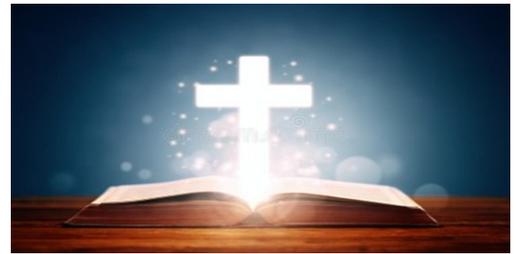
Please let Fr Rodolph know of anyone who is sick, undergoing surgery,  
homebound or in Nursing Home so that we can all pray for them. Fr  
Rodolph would give them the anointing of the Sick and bring them Holy  
Communion. Please Call Fr Rodolph: [704-412-1016](tel:704-412-1016)



Sign up for online giving.

It is easy. Set it up once and you don't  
have to worry about it again!

# Parable of the Prodigal Son



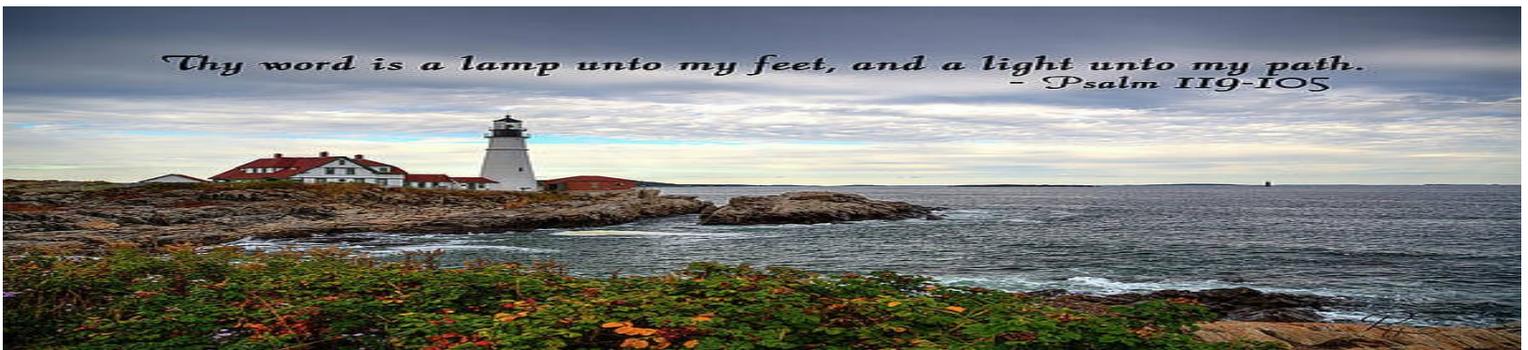
## 2 Corinthians 13: 5-13

Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? unless, indeed, you fail to pass the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed. But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong not that we may appear to have passed the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect. So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come, I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down. Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

## Luke 1:11-32

The Lord Jesus says: 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe the best one and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*  
- Psalm 119-105



# Lenten Observances 2026

The Most Reverend Bishops Gregory J. Mansour and A. Elias Zaidan have issued the following Lenten guidelines for the Maronites of the United States.

## Fasting and Abstinence

+ All Maronites who are physically capable are to **abstain** from meat on **Ash Monday** (16 February 2026) and all **Fridays of Lent**.

+ **Ash Monday** and **Great Friday of the Crucifixion** (3 April 2026) are also days of **fasting**. Fasting in the Maronite Church involves **eating and drinking nothing** at all (except water and medicine) from **midnight until noon**. The rest of the day normal meals can be taken, but without meat. All Maronites who are physically capable should fast on these two days.

## Distribution of Ashes

All parish priests are to bless and distribute ashes on **Ash Monday** during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy as indicated in our liturgical books. This ceremony may **not** be celebrated on the vigil of Ash Monday (Cana Sunday). For the convenience of some faithful of the Latin Church who may come to the Divine Liturgy at a Maronite Church on their Ash Wednesday, ashes that were blessed on Monday may be given to them after the Divine Liturgy. However, ashes are **not** to be blessed again on this day.

## Lenten Services

All parish priests are to celebrate the **Benediction with the Cross** every **Friday of Lent** except for the Great Friday of the Crucifixion. This service may be preceded by **Evening Prayer** (*Ramsho*), **Stations of the Cross**, or even the **Divine Liturgy**. Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament should not take place on the Fridays of Lent.

## Traditional Fasting Discipline

Clergy, religious and laity who wish to observe the more **traditional** Maronite practice of fasting and abstinence are **encouraged** to do so.

That practice is summarized in the following, taken from current **Maronite Particular Law**:

Every weekday of Lent (Monday through Friday) is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products (eggs, butter, milk, etc.). Fasting involves eating and drinking nothing at all (except water and medicine) from midnight until noon. The rest of the day normal meals can be taken, but without meat or dairy products. Dairy products are excluded because they are animal byproducts. Saturdays and Sundays are exempt from fasting and abstaining, as are the following feast days: St. Joseph (19 March) and the Annunciation (25 March).



## Hospitality Sign up

**March 8:** Casaceli Family

**March 15:** Joseph & Bertine Francis

**March 22:** \_\_\_\_\_

**March 29:** \_\_\_\_\_

**April 5:** \_\_\_\_\_

**April 12:** \_\_\_\_\_

**April 19:** \_\_\_\_\_

**April 26:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* Thank You \*\*\***

*Sign up Sheet is on the table in the Lobby.*

**May God bless you for your generosity and support.**

SECOND ANNUAL



# Flourish

Women's Retreat  
April 17 - 19, 2026

*Restored, Refreshed & Renewed in Christ*

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" 2 Cor 3:17

 The St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center, Pittsburgh, PA

 Hotel Block: Double Tree Hilton



Registration fee: \$155

Space is limited, be sure to register by April 3rd.  
Use QR code below!



With Keynote Speaker,

*Johnnette Benkovic Williams*

Join us for this uplifting Retreat with special guest Johnnette Williams, Founder of Women of Grace® & EWTN TV and Radio Host.

For more information Contact:  
Linda DiNardo George (540)520-1679

# HANDS OF CHRIST



## EPARCHIAL MYO LENTEN DAY RETREAT

**FEB 28** **NEW ENGLAND**

OUR LADY OF THE CEDARS CHURCH  
JAMAICA PLAINS, MA

**MAR 14** **MID-ATLANTIC**

OUR LADY OF LEBANON CHURCH  
EASTON, PA

**MAR 21** **SOUTH REGION**

SAINT ELIAS CHURCH  
ROANOKE, VA

COST PER PERSON \$45

GRADES 7-12 REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE

[MYOEPARCHYSTMARON.ORG](http://MYOEPARCHYSTMARON.ORG)