Annual Lenten Appeal – Eparchy of Saint Maron

During this season of sacrifice, please consider making a sacrificial gift to this year's Annual Lenten Appeal for the Eparchy of Saint Maron. Many people are suffering—both here and around the world, especially in Lebanon—and our prayers, fasting, and almsgiving can bring real hope. Supporting the Eparchy is a meaningful way to include charity in your Lenten journey, as your generosity helps serve the faithful in our communities and throughout the Middle East.

How Your Gift Makes a Difference

Seminarians – 40%

We currently have three dedicated men preparing for the priesthood. They are the future of our Church, and it is essential that we provide them with strong formation. Operating Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary costs approximately $450,000 per year. Your support helps ensure these men are well-prepared to serve as priests.

Ministries – 20%

Your contribution supports ministries that serve youth, families, the elderly, and those in need at life's most critical moments. These ministries also uphold the dignity of life from conception to natural death.

Retired Priests – 20%

The Eparchy's 17 retired priests have devoted their lives to serving the faithful. A portion of your gift provides them with a modest monthly pension in gratitude for their years of ministry.

Help for Lebanon & the Middle East – 10%

The Eparchy continues to offer significant assistance to Lebanon and the Middle East. We remain committed to supporting the homeland of our Maronite Church and the Christians who live there.

Endowment – 10%

A portion of your gift is added to the Eparchy's Endowment Fund, supporting today's needs while ensuring long-term stability for the future.

Please open your heart once again and make a gift. Your participation in this Appeal touches the lives of countless people—within our Eparchy and throughout the Middle East. Every contribution, no matter the amount, is deeply appreciated. Donations may be made using your blue Lenten Appeal envelopes, through Venmo, or via the Vanco portal on our website: www.ololeaston.org.

MYO MEETING

The next MYO meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 1st at 6:00 PM in the church hall. Please make every effort to attend as plans for the Lenten Retreat will be discussed.

COMMUNION HOST & WINE

The Communion Host and Wine offering for February is donated in loving honor of
MARLENE BEDWAY
by Nick and Ronnie Ciambrone

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Sanctuary candle for February is donated in loving memory of **PETER AND LILLIAN KARAM**
by Jacqueline Nehme

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Saturday, Feb 7 -	$486.00
Sunday, Feb 8 -	$1,026.00
Total -	$1,512.00

PASTOR CONTACT

In case of any needed pastoral assistance, we ask that only the family contact Fr. Kamil on his cell phone at **610-739-8586.**
Fr. Kamil's email is **clergy95@gmail.com**

OUR LADY OF LEBANON MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

55 South 4th Street
Easton, PA 18042
610-252-5275

Week 7 - Week 9 Email: ololchurch@yahoo.com Website: ololeaston.org Feb 14, 2026 - Mar 1, 2026

Sunday of the Entrance into Lent
Miracle of Cana in Galilee

The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

CLERGY:

Fr. Kamil Al-Chouefati, Pastor
Deacon Adonis El-Asmar

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Thursday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Closed on Fridays.

RECTORY & MAILING ADDRESS:

54 South 4th Street
Easton, PA 18042
Phone: 610-252-5275
Email: ololchurch@yahoo.com
Website: ololeaston.org

LITURGIES:

Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 10:00 AM
Tuesday - Friday: 6:30 PM
Holy Days of Obligation: 7:00 PM

Confession is available 30 minutes before each Mass or by appointment.

LENTEN GUIDELINES

Fasting - All the faithful who are physically capable are to fast everyday during Lent. Fasting involves no eating and drinking at all, (except water and medicine) from 12 Midnight until 12 Noon. We urge those who are not physically capable to make an effort on Ash Monday and Good Friday.

Abstinence of meat is encouraged on Ash Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent and everyday during Holy Week.

CRS Rice Bowl is one way Catholics can enhance their Lenten fasting practice by giving up meals and donating the cost of those meal to Catholic Relief Services in order to help those who do not have enough to eat. Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl packets are available for pick-up at both entrances to the church.

***Sunday of the Entrance into Lent / Miracle at Cana in Galilee ***

Saturday, Feb 14 - 5:00 PM - MILO ELIAS (Birthday Remembrance) by Lisa & Paul Murphy

Sunday, Feb 15 - 10:00 AM - GEORGE KORKOMAZ by Mr. & Mrs. Elias Korkomaz & Family

Monday	**Ash Monday**	**9:00 AM**	**DEACON ANTHONY KOURY** by Marybeth & Mark Okula
		7:00 PM	**ANTHONY "TONY" KARAM** by Marlene Bedway
Tuesday	**Feb 17**	**6:30 PM**	**SAMI AND MILAD HAYEK** by Rafih Hayek & Family
Wednesday	**Feb 18**	**6:30 PM**	**AOUTELE ELIAS** by Rosemary Canone
Thursday	**Feb 19**	**6:30 PM**	**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION** **SANNA BAURKOT** by Kay Avianentos Petros
Friday	**Feb 20**	**9:00 AM**	**LILA HAYEK** by Jody and Greg Piagesi
		7:00 PM	**STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND BENEDICTION**

***Healing of the Leper ***

Saturday, Feb 21 - 5:00 PM - LOIS BURKOT (40 Day Mass) by Anthony Burkot and Family

Sunday, Feb 22 - 10:00 AM - FRANGIEH BOULOS ZAIDAN DOUEHY and **KARIM MICHAEL, WIFE, SUSAN AND SON, PAUL** by Mr.& Mrs. Saadeh Boulos and Family

Tuesday	**Feb 24**	**6:30 PM**	**SPECIAL INTENTION** by Anonymous Donor
Wednesday	**Feb 25**	**6:30 PM**	**EVA FARHAT** by Labebe Buesing
Thursday	**Feb 26**	**6:30 PM**	**BILLY JOSEPH** by Joe and Suzanne Jabbour
Friday	**Feb 27**	**9:00 AM**	**PETER KASSIS** by Dr. & Mrs. George Nassoor
		7:00 PM	**STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND BENEDICTION**

***Healing of the Leper ***

Saturday, Feb 28 - 5:00 PM - ANTHONY (TONY} SIMONETTA (1st Anniversary) by Tara Simonetta & Family

Sunday, Mar 1 - 10:00 AM - CHORBISHOP FRANCIS DOUMIT by Maryann Isaac

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday of the Entrance into Lent
Is 55:1, 6-13/ Rom14:14-23/ Jn 2:1-11

Healing of the Leper
2 Kings 5:1-3, 9-14/Rom 6:12-23/ Mk 1:35-45

Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman
Num 15:37-41 / 2 Cor 7:4-11 / Lk 8:40-56

ProJeCt
Helping People Help Themselves

FOOD PANTRY

This month's collection of food items will take place on the weekend of February 21st and 22nd. The pantry is requesting the following items:

- Shelf stable milk (available at Walmart and Giant)
- Grape or strawberry jelly (squeeze bottles preferred)
- Fruit cocktail

They are especially in urgent need of the shelf stable milk. If you are able to make an immediate donation, please bring the milk directly to the rectory, and we will ensure it is delivered without delay. Thank you for your continued generosity and for always responding with such kindness to those in need.

Tradition with a twist: the observance of Lent in the Maronite Catholic Church

When Father Peter Raad recalls growing up in Beirut, Lebanon, his favorite memories center around faith, family, and the liturgies that prepared him for Easter. "There were a lot of beautiful processions," explained the priest who was ordained for the Maronite Catholic Church last May at Our Lady of Lebanon Church in Lewisville, Texas. "On Hosanna [Palm] Sunday, we dressed in white — our Sunday best — and every child carried a big candle decorated with ribbons. We would walk with the priests and deacons along the streets and the bells would ring." The blessed palms people received were often weaved into wreaths to hang on the front door. "It marked the start of what we call Great Week [Holy Week] because it's the greatest week that ever happened," he added.

The Maronite Church Fr. Raad serves is an Eastern Catholic Church in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. It takes its name from St. Maron, a Syrian hermit who lived in the fourth century. Certain prayers in the Maronite liturgy are said in Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus Christ.

Maronites affirm the teachings of Roman Catholicism and recognize the Pope as head of the Church but have their own liturgy, spiritual heritage, and ecclesiastical structure. Some Lenten practices highlight those differences. For Maronites, the "Entrance into Great Lent" starts on Cana Sunday with the Gospel reading of Jesus turning water into wine at the Wedding Feast at Cana (John 2:1–11). The biblical story is a reminder that Lent is a time for transformation and change through prayer, penance, and abstinence.

"In our Maronite spirituality, there is not a disconnect between the Incarnation, Crucifixion, and the Resurrection," Fr. Raad explained. "It's Mary who brought Jesus into the world and she takes Him to the wedding to introduce Him to the world again." Mary witnesses her son's first miracle — an event that also foreshadows His passion and death. "Wine is red like blood," said the associate pastor at Our Lady of Lebanon. "Right there Jesus predicts His bleeding on the cross and His crucifixion. He shows us what's ordinary in life will become extraordinary."

The blessing and distribution of ashes is a Latin or western rite adopted by the Maronites. "But we observe Ash Monday [following Cana Sunday] instead of Ash Wednesday because there are two feast days we celebrate during Lent — St. Joseph on March 19 and the Annunciation on March 25. On those days we don't fast," Raad continued.

Maronites fast and abstain from meat on Ash Monday and Good Friday, and they abstain from meat on all Fridays. Many Maronites will not eat food or drink from midnight until noon except for water and medicine each day during Lent. Until the 1920s when the practice was largely discontinued, they also abstained from oil, wine, eggs, milk, and cheese.

Too many people look at abstaining and fasting during Lent from a "Woe is me, I'm a sinner" mindset, said the priest, a long-time engineering professor at Southern Methodist University. He encourages parishioners to look at Lent as an opportunity for change. "We're walking with Jesus, and we want to focus less and less on earthly things and more and more on the spiritual," he advised. "As St. Paul would say, we're moving our gaze from downward to upward — from an earthly to a heavenly perspective."

In the Maronite lectionary, the Sunday Gospel passages throughout Lent focus on the healing and forgiving powers of Jesus — a reminder that Lent is a time to transform one's life, just as the water was changed to wine at the Wedding Feast at Cana.

"Increase your prayer life and spirituality by reading the Gospels and other books," Fr. Raad recommended. "Increase your attention to the amazing work of the Lord God coming into our life and dying for us."

Joan Kurkowski-Gillen