



The Story of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The September 8 date helped determine the date for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8. Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal *Protoevangelium of James* fills in the gap. This work has no historical

value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child who will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story, like many biblical counterparts, stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning. Saint Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation, and asks for an increase of peace. **Reflection** We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The love of two human beings has joined with God in his creative work. The loving parents have shown hope in a world filled with travail. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world. This is all true in a magnificent way in Mary. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary is the foreshadowing of that love. If Jesus has brought the fullness of salvation, Mary is its dawning. Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth, We can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large.

SAVE THE DATE – OCTOBER 22, 2025 –

Please join Bishop Gregory Mansour and friends for the **16th Annual Benefit dinner for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn**. The event will be at the Metropolitan Club in NY. Details to follow.

ROANOKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Roanoke Catholic School is looking for a part time varsity baseball coach for the spring season of 2025-2026 and beyond. Interested candidates should direct questions and/or send a resume, cover letter and **diocesan application** to Shawn Good, Athletic Director, at sgood@roanokecatholic.com.

**ST. ELIAS MARONITE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
4730 COVE ROAD, NW, ROANOKE, VA 24017**

September 7, 2025



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 10:30 am
Weekdays: 9:00 am

Emails: Fr@steliashurch.org
secretary@steliashurch.org
Office: 540-562-0012
Web Site: www.steliashurch.org

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
Every Friday following the 9:00 am
Liturgy until 5:00 pm

Mystery of Reconciliation: Saturdays from 4:00 PM to 4:40 PM and Sundays from 9:45 AM to 10:15 AM or by appointment

LITURGY INTENTIONS

WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 6 & 7, 2025

Saturday: 5:00 PM: Elsie Huffman, RIP (Michele Thomas)

Sunday: 10:30 AM: Dorothy Marshall, RIP

Monday, Sept 8: 9 AM- The Kirn Family, conversion (Craig Turner)
The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, Sept 9 : 9 AM- The souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, Sept 10: 9 AM- The souls in Purgatory

Thursday, Sept 11: 9 AM- The souls in Purgatory

Friday, Sept 12: 9 AM- In honor of St. Michael the Archangel

Every Tuesday we will be praying the Novena to St. Anthony after the 9AM Liturgy.

Offertory– August 31, 2025 - \$2,498.00



SECOND COLLECTION– this weekend, September 6 & 7 for Catholic University and Maronite Seminary.

ALTAR EUCHARIST CELEBRATION September

The bread, wine & candles are being offered in memory of
Hanna Moses by Joe Moses & Mandy Tolano



Daily Scripture Readings

Week of September 7, 2025

Monday: 2 Cor 4:1-6 : Luke 8:16-21

Tuesday: 1 John 4:7-21: Luke 15:8-10

Wednesday: 1 John 5:1-12 : Luke 16:1-8

Thursday: 1 John 5:13-21 : Luke 16:9-12

Friday: 2 John 1-13 : Luke 16:13-17

Saturday: 3 John 1-15 : Luke 17:1-4

Sunday: 1 Cor 1:18-25 : John 12:20-32



WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to John Meise and family on the death of his beloved wife, Debbie. May God grant eternal rest to the soul of His beloved servant and consolation and peace to her family.



REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There will be a sign-up sheet available in the back of the church, this weekend to register your children for Religious Education classes. Please do so as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly .

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS NEEDED

Sign up sheet in the lobby

CORRECTION... Meeting date changed

Teachers plan to meet on Sunday, **September 28th after the Liturgy.**
If you have a calling to this vocation, please let Fr. George know that you are interested.

SECURITY

It is with great sadness of the times we live in that we now need security at our weekend liturgies.

Going forward, we will have security personnel at each mass; Saturday vigil and Sunday.

This is an extra expense for our church, but unfortunately needed.

Anyone wishing to contribute to help offset the cost, please let the office or me know.

I thank you in advance. May God protect us and reward your generosity.

Fr. George