

## GREAT LENT

### ACCORDING TO OUR MARONITE LITURGY, SAINTS & TRADITION

Maronite Faith Formation Sessions at 8pm, beginning February 19.  
This is hosted by the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light in conjunction with the St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center.

Please see the flyer on our bulletin board in the entrance of the church. Registration link: [saintsharbelcenter.org/zoom-series](https://saintsharbelcenter.org/zoom-series) (You can also register by scanning the QR Code on the flyer)

If you have any questions, please contact our Maronite Sisters at [sister@maroniteservants.org](mailto:sister@maroniteservants.org).

### Letter from Madonna House

Dear friends,

We are writing this today with sadness in our hearts to tell you some difficult news. After serving in this Roanoke for 47 years, we will be closing Madonna House as of July 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. We would have liked to tell each of you in person because you have made your way deeply into our hearts where we will always carry you with gratitude and love.

The directors of our community are having to close some houses. In their words to Bishop Knestout they wrote, “ Though our apostolate in Roanoke is still vital, we just don’t have the staffing right now to keep all of our 12 missions open.”

Bishop Knestout will be coming toward the end of June to celebrate Mass for us and our friends... you! We do have time to get together with you individually. We are reeling right now as I am sure you are reading these words. In the meantime, please pray for us as we start simplifying . You are in our hearts and prayers.

Peace,  
Marie Therese McLaughlin, Beth Ryan and Maureen Denis

### Lenten Fish Fries

The **Ancient Order of Hibernians** and the **Knights of Columbus** are sponsoring **Lenten fish fries** on all **Fridays in Lent at Our Lady of Nazareth: Feb 20, Feb 27, Mar 6, Mar 13, Mar 20 and Mar 27** from **4:00 – 7:00**. **New Pricing:** Cost is \$15 for adults; \$8 children 12-6; children 5 and under free. Proceeds will be used for the charitable purposes of the AOH and the Knights.

**ST. ELIAS MARONITE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**4730 COVE ROAD, NW, ROANOKE, VA 24017**  
**February 8, 2026**



### **Sunday of the Faithful Departed**

**Pastor: Fr. George Zina**

**Emails:** [Fr@steliashurch.org](mailto:Fr@steliashurch.org)  
[secretary@steliashurch.org](mailto:secretary@steliashurch.org)

**Office:** 540-562-0012

**Web Site:** [www.steliashurch.org](http://www.steliashurch.org)

### **Liturgy Schedule**

**Saturday: 4:00 pm**

**Sunday: 10:30 am**

**Weekdays: 9:00 am**

### **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**

Every Friday following the 9:00 am  
Liturgy until 5:00 pm

**Mystery of Reconciliation:** Saturdays from 3:00 PM to 3:40 PM and Sundays from 9:45 AM to 10:15 AM or by appointment

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

### WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 7 & 8, 2026

**Saturday: 4:30 PM-** John Amato, RIP (Rose Farry)

**Sunday: 10:30 AM-** Bette & EJ Thomas, Jr. & EJ Thomas, III, RIP (Mickey Thomas)

**Monday, Feb 9: 9:00 AM- Holy Day of Obligation-St. Maron Souls in Purgatory**  
**6:00 PM-** Souls in Purgatory

**Tuesday, Feb 10: 9:00 AM-**

**Wednesday, Feb 11: 9:00 AM-**

**Thursday, Feb 12: 9:00 AM-**

**Friday, Feb 13: 9:00 AM-**

**Offertory— February 1, 2026- \$1,372.00**



**Second Collection: this weekend,** for the needy

### ALTAR EUCHARIST CELEBRATION February

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



### Daily Scripture Readings Week of February 8, 2026

**Monday:** 2 Timothy 3:10-17 : Jn 12:23-30

**Tuesday:** 2 Thes 1:1-12 : Luke 12:8-12

**Wednesday:** 2 Thes 2:1-12 : Luke 12:13-21

**Thursday:** 2 Thes 2:13-3:5 : Luke 12:22-32

**Friday:** 1 Cor 15:35-44a : Luke 12:33-40

**Saturday:** 1 Cor 15:51-58 : Luke 12:49-59

**Sunday:** Romans 14:14-23 : John 2:1-11

## WHO IS ST. MARON?



Around 350 AD, Maron was born in Cyrrhus, a small town near the ancient city of Antioch (near modern day Aleppo, Syria). He was of Syriac ancestry. When he grew up, Maron heard God's call for holiness and perfection. His heart was burning within him. Maron left the world and ascended to the top of Mount Nabo, near Antioch. He lived in the open air, converted an abandoned pagan temple into a church, and spent his time fasting, working, and praying in solitude. He converted many souls and attracted many disciples. Fascinated by his unwavering faith and his profound holiness, devotees from various parts of the region gathered around St. Maron. God bestowed on him the gift of healing, which made his fame spread further in the entire region. St. Maron healed ailments of the body and those of the soul. Despite his growing popularity, he continued to live an ascetic and monastic life, and devoted his existence to preaching the Good News that the God of All People had become a man. St. Maron died around the year 410 AD. His disciples continued his mission, as we do to this day as Maronite Christians. His feast day is on February 9 and it is a Holy Day of Obligation in the Maronite Church. It is also a public holiday in Lebanon.

### Prayer through the Intercession of St. Maron

O God, who in your kindness called your holy servant Maron to the following of Christ, grant, we pray, through his intercession, that, denying ourselves, we may hold fast to you with all our heart. O Lord, accept the prayers we offer in memory of our Father, St. Maron. Bless and protect the people who bear your name. Make us worthy of his holy legacy that we may carry the message of your Gospel throughout the world. Grant faithfulness to his people and courage to his inheritance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## DONATIONS NEEDED

As Fr. George announced, there is a single mother in Lebanon that has been diagnosed with stomach cancer. She really needs some financial help. If you can donate, we need cash, as it has to be sent by Western Union and they will only take cash. As you all know, it is difficult enough to receive a cancer diagnosis, let alone having to deal with medical costs, as well as family needs. Anything you can donate will be greatly appreciated and God will reward you a hundredfold. Please contact the church secretary at 540-562-0012 if you are able to help.

Thank you and may God bless you.