



Saint George Maronite Catholic Church

رعية مار جرجس المارونية

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May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday after the Resurrection

Fifth Sunday of Resurrection Season Peter is Chosen to Guide the Flock

Ez 34: 11-16 + 23-25a

For thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I myself will search for my sheep and examine them. As a shepherd examines his flock while he himself is among his scattered sheep, so will I examine my sheep. I will deliver them from every place where they were scattered on the day of dark clouds. I will lead them out from among the peoples and gather them from the lands; I will bring them back to their own country and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and every inhabited place in the land. In good pastures I will pasture them; on the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down on good grazing ground; in rich pastures they will be pastured on the mountains of Israel. I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest—oracle of the Lord GOD. The lost I will search out, the strays I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, and the sick I will heal; but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd them in judgment. I will appoint one shepherd over them to pasture them, my servant David; he shall pasture them and be their shepherd. I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David will be prince in their midst. I, the LORD, have spoken. I will make a covenant of peace with them.

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead in your transgressions and sins in which you once lived following the age of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the desires of our flesh, following the wishes of the flesh and the impulses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ (by grace you have been saved), raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them. Praise be to God always.

John 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." (Jesus) said to him, "Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He



Liturgical Schedule

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
10:00am

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am (Latin rite) and
10:30 am

Meet Your Clergy

Fr. Tony Saab, Pastor
frtonysaab@gmail.com

Deacon Farid Zaarour
fzaarour@yahoo.com

Weekly collections

\$1,254.00



Office Hours

Mon, Weds, Thurs, and Friday
By appointment. 401-7238444
email stgeorgeri1@gmail.com
Administrative assistant: Jihane Ayoub

Exposition of the Holy Eucharist
Thursday at 6:00pm

Baptism & Confirmation:
One month in advance with the Pastor.

Matrimony:
Arrangements should be made by
couples six months prior to the wedding date.

Reconciliation:
One hour before liturgies,
or by appointment.
Please call the office or email
frtonysaab@gmail.com

Anointing of the Sick:
Please notify the office if a member of
your family is ill,
hospitalized, or homebound and would
like to receive Holy Communion at
home.

Liturgical Intentions

5/17 4:00pm	Forty day liturgy for Anthony G. Mardo, Jr. , requested by his loving family. One year anniversary for Rodney P. Thomas Jr. , requested by his loving families.
5/18 8:30am 10:30am	Third anniversary liturgy for Dolly BouAkar , requested by her loving family. Memorial liturgy for George Felefle , requested by his brother Elias and his loving family.
5/24 4:00pm	Forty day liturgy for Jean George Chakra , by his daughter Nancy and Elie Assi and their loving family.
5/25 8:30am 10:30am	One year anniversary for Saad Habchi , requested by his loving family.
5/28 7:00pm 5/29 10:00am	Feast of the Ascension of our Lord
5/31 4:00	Memorial liturgy for Gerald Tallo , requested by Lydia Tanguay
6/1 8:30am 10:30am	Two year anniversary for John Vitulli , requested by his loving family.
6/7 4:00pm	Memorial liturgy for Constantine and Margaret Simon , requested by their loving families.
6/8 8:30am 10:30am	

Seven practical lessons drawn from John 21:15–19, where Jesus restores Peter and commissions him to “feed my sheep”:

Love Is Shown in Service

Textual basis: Each time Peter affirms his love, Jesus replies by calling him to action: “Feed my lambs...Tend my sheep... Feed my sheep” (Jn 21:15-17).

Lesson: Genuine love for Christ naturally overflows into caring for others. It’s not enough to say we love Jesus; we demonstrate that love by serving His people—whether in small acts of kindness or in formal ministry roles.

Restoration Follows Failure

Textual basis: Peter had denied Jesus three times (Jn 18:15–27), and now Jesus asks him three times, “Do you love me?” (Jn 21:15–17).

Lesson: Christ doesn’t hold our past sins over us; instead, He offers full restoration. No failure is final when we repent—Jesus re-entrusts Peter with the mission He’d previously given him.

Obedience Measures Our Love

Textual basis: Jesus links Peter’s profession of love directly to obedience: “Feed my sheep” follows immediately after “Do you love me?”

Lesson: True love for Jesus is proven, not by words alone, but by our willingness to obey His commands—even when they stretch us beyond comfort or convenience.

Repetition Deepens Commitment

Textual basis: The threefold question echoes Peter’s threefold denial, amplifying the weight of his restoration.

Lesson: Sometimes God uses repeated invitations or confirmations to draw us deeper. repetition in our walk—daily prayer, regular service, ongoing Bible study—helps solidify our commitment.

Pastoral Care Is a Priority

Textual basis: Jesus’ charge is specifically to “shepherd” His flock—lambs and sheep.

Lesson: In any community, spiritual health depends on people who are willing to guide, protect, and nourish others. Whether you lead a small group, mentor a friend, or simply reach out to a neighbor, pastoral care is at the heart of Christian discipleship.

Following Christ May Involve Suffering

Textual basis: Jesus foretells Peter’s martyrdom: “When you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go” (Jn 21:18).

Lesson: Serving Jesus can come with a cost. True discipleship sometimes requires us to embrace discomfort or persecution, trusting that the Shepherd knows our path and ultimate goal.

Daily “Follow Me”

Textual basis: After speaking of Peter’s death, Jesus simply says, “Follow me” (Jn 21:19).

Lesson: Regardless of our past failures or future challenges, the call remains the same: to follow Christ continually. Each day we choose to walk in His steps—learning from Him, relying on Him, and being shaped by His example.





Join us this Sunday 5/18 for a
complimentary

Breakfast

in the church hall.

After the 10:30am liturgy.

Thank you to all volunteers and donors
who participated in making this event a
success!

How do we show respect and honor to God's house whenever we gather in church?

Arrive with Intention. Try to get there a few minutes early. That extra time lets you settle your thoughts, greet fellow worshipers, and prepare your heart for what's ahead—just like you wouldn't barge into a friend's home without knocking first.

Maintain a Prayerful Quiet. Lower your voice in the building and save conversations for outside or the fellowship hall. That soft hush helps everyone feel the sacredness of the space—and keeps distractions to a minimum during prayer and worship.

Observe Reverent Postures. Simple gestures—standing at the Gospel, bowing before the altar, kneeling at key moments—are outward signs of our inward attitude. They remind us that we're standing on holy ground.

Respect the Space. Keep the pews tidy: fold hymnals neatly, stack missalettes, pick up any papers or debris. If there's a special offering or votive candles, handle them carefully. Treat the furniture, décor, and sacred vessels as precious, because they're meant to lead us closer to God.

Silence Your Devices. Phones off or on airplane mode—no vibrations, please! Even a subtle ding can pull us (and those around us) out of prayer. If you need to check a message, step outside briefly.

Dress Thoughtfully. "Sunday best" doesn't have to be a suit or formal dress—just clothing that's clean, modest, and shows you've made an effort. It's a simple way to say, "I value this gathering and the One we're here to worship."

Engage Fully in the Liturgy. Sing the hymns, pray the responses, listen attentively to readings and sermons. When we participate with our voices and our hearts, we're showing respect for the ancient rituals and for the community's shared faith.

Honor Your Neighbors. Give people space when they're praying, greet newcomers with a smile, and follow any guidelines (seating, communion lines, etc.) so everyone can worship without confusion or crowding.

Offer Your Gifts. Whether it's time (ushering, cleaning, altar serving), talent (music, lectoring), or treasure (the offertory), generously share what you have. Stewardship is a tangible way to say, "This place—and its mission—matters to me."

Feast of the Ascension

Forty days after Easter we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord—Christ’s “going up” into heaven in the sight of His Apostles (Acts 1:9-11). This Solemnity completes the Paschal Mystery, inaugurating the new creation in which Christ reigns at the right hand of the Father (Catechism §659). In ascending, Jesus both intercedes for us (Rom 8:34) and commissions us to carry the Good News “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Divine Liturgy

Wednesday May 28 at 7:00pm

Thursday May 29 at 10:00am



Save the date
Festival 2025
Weekend of
September 19-21



With Bishop Gregory Mansour and Fr. Vincent Farhat

Pray The Rosary

For all the souls of the faithful departed

**Every
Thursday**

AT 5 PM VIA ZOOM



Meeting ID: 890 3889 9691
Passcode: 011387

