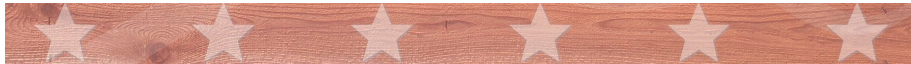


### A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

Father of all nations and ages,  
We recall the day when our country claimed  
its place among the family of nations;  
For what has been achieved, we give you thanks,  
For the work that still remains, we ask your help,  
And as you have called us from  
many peoples to be one nation,  
Grant that, under your providence,  
our country may share your blessings  
with all the peoples of the earth.  
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.



*American Saints: Continued from page 3*

**St. Rose Philippine Duchesne (1769-1852)** came to the United states as a French missionary sister.

*Strength of character is certainly needed to face life in the world and to stand by right principles, especially in the age in which we live.*

*You may dazzle the mind with a thousand brilliant discoveries of natural science; you may open new worlds of knowledge which were never dreamed of before; yet, if you have not developed in the soul of the pupil strong habits of virtue which will sustain her in the struggle of life, you have not educated her, but only put in her hand a powerful instrument of self-destruction.*



## Welcome to NAPLES MARONITE COMMUNITY

PRIEST  
**Rev. Thomas Boyer**  
tboyer1968@gmail.com

DEACON  
**Steven Marcus**  
stevenmarcusneg@gmail.com

SACRISTAN/ALTAR SERVER  
**Kamil Madkour**  
**Jay Hamilton**

MUSIC MINISTRY  
**Alijah Madkour**  
**Youssef Sakr**

FINANCE  
**Stephen Maroon**

WEBSITE  
**naplesmaronite.org**

 FACEBOOK  
**Naples Maronite Community**

 INSTAGRAM  
**@Naples Maronite Community**

### MARONITE DIVINE LITURGY

**SUNDAY, 9:15 A.M.**  
St. Agnes Chapel  
7775 Vanderbilt Beach Road  
Naples, Florida

**WEDNESDAY, 12:00 NOON**  
Saint Peter the Apostle Catholic Church  
5130 Rattlesnake Hammock Road  
Naples, Florida

**JULY 6, 2025**  
**FIFTH WEEK OF PENTECOST**  
[PAGE 425 IN THE BOOK OF OFFERING]

THE LITURGY THIS WEEK IS OFFERED  
In Gratitude for our Freedom

### LAST SUNDAY'S NUMBERS

Due to a vacation and holiday schedule, last Sunday's numbers were not available at time of production. They will be reported next week.

We are grateful for all your generous financial support. The bank has requested that all checks must be made out to  
**HEART OF JESUS NAPLES MARONITE MISSION**

## EPISTLE

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14

(But) whatever gains I had, these I have come to consider a loss because of Christ. More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God, depending on faith to know him and the power of his resurrection and (the) sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ (Jesus). Brothers, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus. Praise be to God always!

### AMERICAN SAINTS

The United States has produced some remarkable saints in its relatively short existence. On this 4th of July weekend, here is a smattering of wisdom, observations and advice from a few of them.

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821)** was the first American-born saint. (There were others canonized as American saints before her, but they were born elsewhere and came to America as missionaries.)

*Be attentive to the voice of grace.*

*We must often draw the comparison between time and eternity. This is the remedy of all our troubles. How small will the present moment appear when we enter that great ocean.*

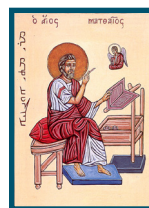
*Blessed are they who wear themselves out for charity.*

**St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955)** was a wealthy Philadelphia heiress who founded a religious order to serve Black and Indigenous Americans.

*It is a lesson we all need - to let alone the things that do not concern us. He has other ways for others to follow Him; all do not go by the same path. It is for each*

## GOSPEL

MATTHEW 10:1-7



Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him. Jesus sent out these twelve after instructing them thus, "Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' This is the truth. Peace be with you.



ICON OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES.  
Via Maronite Wikimedia Commons

*of us to learn the path by which He requires us to follow Him, and to follow Him in that path.*

**St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917)** came to the United States as an Italian missionary sister.

*The world is poisoned with erroneous theories, and needs to be taught sane doctrines, but it is difficult to straighten what has become crooked.*

*The impressions of childhood are never obliterated.*

**St. John Neumann (1811-1860)** was born in Bohemia, emigrated to the United States as a young man and became a bishop of Philadelphia

*Pray – for with God's grace, there is nothing impossible. Prayer defeats death. Prayer heals the sick. Prayer makes all things possible. "Ask and you shall receive."*

*American Saints: Continued on page 4*