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SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

[PAGE 425 IN THE BOOK OF OFFERING]

The liturgy this week is offered for

CHORBISHOP SHARBEL GHATTAS MAROUN,
THE NEW MARONITE ARCHBISHOP OF DAMASCUS.
MAY GOD GRANT HIM WISDOM AND COURAGE,
AS HE SERVES THE MARONITE FAITHFUL
IN DAMASCUS AND BEYOND.

MARONITE DIVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY, 9:30 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

CONFESSION
Father will hear confessions
30 minutes before and 30 minutes after Mass.

MASS REQUESTS
To request a Mass for someone
or some special intention,
please email your request to
Father@NaplesMaronite.org

EPISTLE

ROMANS 8:18-27

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance. In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.



Next Sunday is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which begins the Maronite Season of the Holy Cross. The following paragraphs are excerpts from the article Melto D'Moronoyo: The Feast of the Holy Cross by Fr Yuhanna Azize, which first appeared on the website for the Maronite Eparchy of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania (maronite.org.au) on 13 September 2024

This feast, celebrated on 14 September, commemorates how, in 628, Emperor Heraclius recaptured the cross that the Persians had stolen in 614. On this day, we also commemorate the finding of the Cross by St Helena in 326, and the dedication of the church of the Holy Sepulchre.

In this season, we prayerfully remember the holy cross itself and the passion, death, and resurrection of the Lord; the discovery and restoration of the cross; and the establishment of a house of worship in the sacred city of Jerusalem dedicated to its veneration. This feast also marks the beginning of the final season of the Liturgical Year in our Maronite Church, the Season of the Holy Cross, when we focus on the four last things: death, judgment, heaven, and hell.

Closing the liturgical year with the Season of the Holy Cross is something the Maronite Church shares with the Syriac Orthodox

GOSPEL

LUKE 18:9-14

 He then addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else. "Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity--greedy, dishonest, adulterous--or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.' But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.



THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR.
John Hardman, 1874. St James' church,
Louth, Lincolnshire, UK
via Wikimedia Commons



Churches. Veneration of the cross was found in the New Testament Church and was especially important in ancient Jerusalem and Antioch, from where relics of the cross were sent throughout the Christian world.

This season reminds us of the inevitability of our deaths and, therefore, the preciousness of our lives. It fosters in us a spirit of repentance through an examination of conscience and helps conform us to the life of Christ. Our Lord taught us that the soul will continue into eternity; physical death is not the end for us. If we wish for eternal life, we must cooperate with God's plan.

As St John Henry Newman remarked, the way the Lord speaks in the Gospels is always exhorting, urging, and even demanding that we learn God's commandments and keep them if we are to inherit eternal life. This has at least two aspects: doing what is good, and avoiding and preventing what is evil. Pride is perhaps the fault hardest to see in ourselves, and meditation on the Holy Cross brings us to the mystery of humility and self-sacrifice.

LAST SUNDAY'S NUMBERS

Attendance: 38
Collection: \$220.00

When you are out of town, you can still donate to the collection by using this link.
<https://naplesmaronite.org/donate>

We are grateful for all your generous financial support. The bank has requested that all checks must be made out to Naples Maronite Catholic Community, Inc.

TODAY, WE WELCOME
FATHER MANUEL TO NAPLES!



Thank you for saying 'yes' to serve our community. We look forward to a long, successful relationship with you. Thank you, again, Abouna and welcome to Naples!



THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS. Icon written by Father Abdo Badawi. Courtesy of St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church, Waterville, ME

TREASURER'S REPORT:
AUGUST 2026 CASH FLOW

Income	\$2,402*
Expenses (\$2,335)**	
Net	\$67

* includes \$972 online
**includes \$1,547 for clergy & travel

SAINTS FOR THIS WEEK

- 6 St. Michael the Archangel, An
- 7 St. Sozon, M
- 8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 9 Sts. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Virgin Mary, C
Bl. Frédéric Ozanam, C
The Council of Chalcedon (451)
- 10 St. Pulcheria the Queen, V
- 11 St. Theodora of Alexandria, C
- 12 St. Cornelius the Centurion, M

WISDOM FROM THIS WEEK'S SAINTS

I am now completely convinced, that when one does a deed of charity, one need not worry about where the money will come from, it will always come!"

The best way to economize on time is to 'lose' half an hour each day attending Holy Mass.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam
Founder of the St. Vincent de Paul Society
Feast Day September 9

Let us strive to enter by the narrow gate. Just as the trees, if they have not stood before the winter's storms cannot bear fruit, so it is with us; this present age is a storm and it is only through many trials and temptations that we can obtain an inheritance in the kingdom of heaven.

St. Theodora of Alexandria,
Feast day September 11

Fall 2026
Maronite Faith Formation Series
The Season of the Glorious Cross



Guest Speaker: Chorbishop Seely Beggiani
September 10, 17, 24 | 8pm EST
Via Zoom

Three Presentations:
1. Stages of Faith
2. Transformation in the Spirit
3. Maturity in Christ



REGISTER NOW



Hosted by the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light in conjunction with the St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center

For more information or to register, Contact the Saint Sharbel Center
Website: <https://saintsharbelcenter.org/>
Email: info@saintsharbelcenter.org
Phone: (480) 628-3929

Pope Leo XIV has approved the election of Chorbishop Sharbel Ghattas Maroun as the new Maronite Archbishop of Damascus, succeeding Archbishop Samir Nassar.

We extend warm congratulations to Sayedna and pray for him as he takes up his new appointment. We are always thankful when he comes for a visit to our mission here in Naples. May he come back one day soon!

But even more than for the blessing of a visit, we ask the Lord to bless his episcopal ministry, grant him wisdom and courage, and guide him in serving the Maronite faithful in Damascus and beyond.

