



Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



November 17-18, 2018

Season of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord

ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZECHARIAH



THE CATHOLIC ORIGINS OF THANKSGIVING

Did you know that Thanksgiving is a Catholic holiday? True, it's not on the Church calendar. And it is celebrated only in America, whereas Church holidays are universal. Our national holiday is certainly an event that has taken on a life of its own, with an established tradition involving turkey and mashed potatoes, football, shopping, and a four-day weekend—which is fascinating since none of those things have anything to do with the original event that gave rise to annual celebration on the fourth Thursday in November. But any time a nation does anything in unison that involves families getting together and counting their blessings, it is a

good thing. “Thanks,” says G.K. Chesterton, “is the highest form of thought.” And he mentions the fact that the worst moment for an atheist is when he is thankful and suddenly realizes he has no one to thank. But what is the origin of this holiday? What most people

believe is a variation on what I was taught in public school in the 1960s. The Pilgrims came to Plymouth on a ship called the *Mayflower*. They were the first English settlers in America. They came for religious freedom. And they had a big feast with Indians, and that was the first Thanksgiving. That about sums it up. And that is what Chesterton calls “The Myth of the *Mayflower*.” First of all, they were not known as “pilgrims” till about 200 years afterwards. They were Puritans, a radical Anglican “low church” sect that loathed the “high church” Anglicans that happened to include the King of England. In fact, about 30 years after the Puritans arrived in America, some of their fellow Puritans back in England arranged for King Charles I to have his head

chopped off. Secondly, there were at least nine other British settlements before the Plymouth colony. In fact, one of them was at Plymouth. All but one of them failed, including the first settlement at Plymouth. The Puritans who came to Plymouth in 1620 almost didn't survive. Half the settlers died the first winter. They were saved by

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*Thanksgiving Prayer
Heavenly Father, on
Thanksgiving Day we bow our
hearts to You and pray.
We give You thanks for all
You've done especially for the
gift of Jesus, Your Son.
For beauty in nature, Your
glory we see for joy and
health, friends and family,
For daily provision, Your
mercy, and care these are the
blessings You graciously
share.*

*So today we offer this response
of praise with a promise to
follow You all of our days.*

Mary Fairchild

Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Fr. David Fisher, Weekend Assistant | Fr. Richard Cannuli, Weekend Assistant

Mrs. Zeina Topalian, Religious Education Director | Address: 1013 Ellsworth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm.

a Native American named Squanto, who taught them how to hunt and fish and grow corn. But here's what is really interesting: Squanto was a Roman Catholic. In 1614, he had been captured by an English party led by Captain John Smith (of Pocahontas fame) and taken on a ship to Spain where he was to be sold as a slave. He was rescued by some Dominican friars who instructed him in the Catholic faith. He told them he wanted to return to his people in America. They helped him get to England, where he met John Slaney, who taught him English and arranged for him to get to Newfoundland. Squanto served as an interpreter between the English and the Indians and crossed the Atlantic six times. He was never able to return to his own tribe, because they had been wiped out in a plague. After he came to the aid of the Plymouth settlers, helping them grow their own food, he arranged for a joint harvest feast with the local Wampanoag tribe. It was this event that is the basis of our Thanksgiving holiday. So Thanksgiving was started by a Native American Catholic. Ironically, the Wampanoag tribe later took Squanto hostage because they distrusted him, and he was rescued by the English. It is possible that the Indians poisoned him, which led to his death shortly afterwards in 1622. And then there is this other thing we never learned in school: In 1621, the year after the Puritans arrived at Plymouth, another group of English settlers arrived in Ferry, Newfoundland. The land had been granted to George Calvert, the First Baron of Baltimore. Calvert's son, Cecilius, the Second Baron of Baltimore, was granted another chunk of the New World, which he settled in 1632. He called it Maryland. Why did England give this land to George Calvert and his son? As

compensation for the fact the George Calvert had been stripped of his title of Secretary State. And why had he been stripped of his title? Because he declared that he was a Roman Catholic. Maryland (named for some woman whose name was Mary) was the first English Catholic settlement in the New World, and one of its founding principles was...freedom of religion. The Puritans up the coast get all the credit for establishing freedom of religion, but they did not do it. They were actually quite opposed to the idea. They were anything but tolerant. In fact, it was their intolerance that caused them to come to the new world, not persecution. England was not Puritan enough for them. They did not think the Stuarts had gone far enough to do away with the elements of Catholicism that still remained in the Church of England. Puritan intolerance led the eventual execution of King Charles I (whose wife and children were Catholic). Puritan intolerance was further demonstrated by a course of events in another Puritan settlement established just six years after the one in Plymouth, just down the road, had there been a road. It was called Salem. It was there that anyone who departed from a strict Puritan practice was in danger of being burned as a witch. Chesterton points out that the Puritans lost their belief in priests but kept their belief in witches. So the Catholics deserve the credit not only for the first Thanksgiving, but for the first real religious freedom in America. Not the Puritans whom we call Pilgrims. It is perhaps why G.K. Chesterton says that England should also celebrate Thanksgiving—in thanks that the Pilgrims *left* England!

<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2017/11/23/the-catholic-origins-of-thanksgiving/>

2019 CHURCH ENVELOPES

The 2019 weekly envelopes are now available in the church hall. If anyone does not have a set of envelopes and would like them please contact the office and Claudine will have a set ready for you. In this way we can give you tax recognition at the end of the year.

SECOND COLLECTION

As per the directive of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, a second collection will be taken for the Maronite Patriarchal Charities. Proceeds from this collection will be sent directly to our Patriarch for his charitable works. Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a parish council meeting on Monday, December 3, at 6:30 PM, in the rectory. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you are unable, please let me know. Thank you for your dedication.

FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a finance council meeting on Wednesday, December 5, at 7:00 PM, in the rectory. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you are unable, please let me know. Thank you for your dedication.

MYO THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

A special thanks to this community for your generosity in the MYO Thanksgiving Food Drive. Because of your generous donations we were able to help over 40 families celebrate with their loved ones for Thanksgiving. What a difference a community can make in the lives of others. I wish you all a beautiful Thanksgiving with your family and loved ones.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 17, 2018, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Gregory the Wonderworker) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Thomas Stornant requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 18, 2018 @ 11:00 AM, (Feast of St. Romanos) liturgy is offered for the soul of Michael and Edmond Tayoun requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace.

Monday, November 19, 2018, @ 11:00 AM,

Tuesday, November 20, 2018, @ 11:00 AM,

Wednesday, November 21, 2018, @ 6:00 PM, (Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple)

Thursday, November 22, 2018, @ 11:00 AM, NO LITURGY

Saturday, November 24, 2018 @ 6:00 PM, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Debra Rummel requested by her family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is also being offered for the soul of Matthew Mockewich requested by Marlene Mockewich. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 25, 2018 @ 11:00 AM, liturgy is offered as a 40 day memorial for the soul of Carmen Marrone requested by his family. May his soul rest in peace.

SAINT MARON CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 16, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Barbara and Manal have a list for those of you who can bring a dish to pass. Please see them to inform them of your plans. There is no charge for the party as we have relied on the generosity of this community. There will be a special visitor for the children as well.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLUB OF SAINT MARON

I am thrilled with the response to the Men's and Women's club for Saint Maron Church. Many have asked what these clubs all about are. I would like to have a meeting with both groups together on **Wednesday, November 28, at 7:00 PM**, so that we may discuss how these groups will help and benefit you and the Church. Please mark your calendars so that you will be able to attend.

The intention of these clubs is to gather our community in spiritual unity, to gather socially for fun and activities, to work together for the advancement and building of the Church, and to organize charity work for outside the parish. These clubs will act independently of each other and at times gather together for different functions that will be sponsored at the Church. I look forward to this new beginning with each of you.

BIBLE STUDY

Due to Fr. David illness, bible study will be postponed until he recovers. Please keep Fr. David in your prayers and may God grant him a speedy recovery.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Christmas Novena and Divine Liturgy, December 15-23.**
- **Christmas Parish Party, December 16, 2018, immediately following Divine Liturgy.**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Please know that confession is available before liturgies. You may also call to set up an appointment.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers Tina Grassi, Rita Impo, Lisa and Henry Schaffer, Christina Valotta, Jade Kellam, Marion Thomas Branca, Francesca Impo, Raja Kaldany, Lucy DiLuce, Cat Niven Glaze, Laurent Chidiac, Tom Hart, John Hart, Fadi Jaber, Alexis Carine, Albert Anderson, Sr., Joseph Realdine, Benjamin Uzzo, Emily Stone, Roseann Anthony, Elaine Nader, Amelia Habib, Suzanne Haney, Lisa Alestra, John Nader, Chucky Simon, Mary Fetterman, Aminee Skaf, Yasmine Myers, Joey Gdowick, Francis Joseph Kerns, Samer Chokeir, Kathy Newman, Rita Arrigale, Helen Freedenberg, Maryann Bratton, Renee Sahar, Sister Nahida Al Sawa, Rose De

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Jesse, James Cordisio, Stacey Fuentes, Debbie Freedenberg, Noel Andjuhar, Eddie Gussin, Angel Salerno, Dennis McGiney, and Bonnie Sabatini. We ask Almighty God to bless them with good health so that they may join us in the Church and give glory and thanksgiving to God. Please notify the Church office of any family member who is ill so that we may remember them in our daily prayers and on our altar of intentions.

**WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR
November 10-11, 2018**

Collection \$ 1,282.00
Coffee Hour \$ 57.00
Total: \$ 1,339.00

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Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



November 17-18, 2018

First Reading

Romans 4:13-25

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. Your blessing father...

Brothers and Sisters:

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Praise be to God always.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل رومة

يا إخوتي، الوعد لإبراهيم أو لنسله بأن يكون وارثاً للعالم، لم يكن بواسطة الشريعة، بل بالبر الذي ناله بالإيمان. فلو كان أهل الشريعة هم الوراثين، لأبطل الإيمان، وألغى الوعد؛ لأن الشريعة تسبب غضب الله؛ وحيث لا شريعة، فلا تعدي للشريعة. لذلك فأهل الإيمان هم الوراثون، لكي تكون الوراثه هبة من الله. وهكذا تحقق الوعد لكل نسل إبراهيم، لا للنسل الذي هو من أهل الشريعة فحسب، بل أيضاً للنسل الذي هو من أهل الإيمان، إيمان إبراهيم، الذي هو أب لنا أجمعين؛ كما هو مكتوب: «إني جعلتك أباً لأمم كثيرة». فأبراهيم الذي آمن بالله هو أب لنا أمام الله، الذي يحيي الأموات، ويدعو غير الموجود إلى الوجود. وقد آمن إبراهيم راجياً على غير رجاء، بأنه سيصير أباً لأمم كثيرة، كما قيل له: «هكذا يكون نسلك». ولم يضعف بإيمانه، برغم أنه رأى، وهو ابن نحو مئة سنة، أن جسده مات، وأن حشا سارة قد ماتت. وبناءً على وعد الله، ما شك ولا تردد، بل تقوى بالإيمان، ومجدد الله. وأيقن من الله اليقين أن الله قادر أن ينجز ما وعد به. فلذلك حسب له إيمانه برآ. ولم يكتب من أجله وحده أنه «حسب له برآ»، بل كتب أيضاً من أجلنا، نحن الذين سيحسب لنا برآ، لأننا نؤمن بالذي أقام من بين الأموات يسوع ربنا، الذي أسلم من أجل زلاتنا، وأقيم من أجل تبريرنا.

والتسبيح لله دائماً.

Gospel Reading

Saint Luke 1:1-25

The Apostle Writes:

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed. In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.' Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.

This is the truth. Peace be with you.

من إنجيل القديس لوقا

بما أن كثيرين أخذوا يربون رواية للأحداث التي تمت عندنا، كما سلمها إلينا من كانوا منذ البدء شهود عيان للكلمة، ثم صاروا خداماً لها، رأيتُ أنا أيضاً، أيها الشريفُ ثيوفيل، أن أكتبها لك بحسب ترتيبها، بعدما تتعنتها كلها، منذ بدايتها، تتبعاً دقيقاً، لكي تتيقن صحة الكلام الذي وعظت به. كان في أيام هيرودس، ملك اليهودية، كاهن اسمه زكريا، من فرقة أביا، له امرأة من بنات هارون اسمها إيصابات. وكانا كلاهما بازين أمام الله، سالكين في جميع وصايا الرب وأحكامه بلا لوم. وما كان لهما ولد، لأن إيصابات كانت عاقراً، وكانا كلاهما قد طعنا في أيامهما. وفيما كان زكريا يقوم بالخدمة الكهنوتية أمام الله، في أثناء نوبة فرقة، أصابته الفرعة، بحسب عادة الكهنوت، ليُدخل مقدس هيكل الرب ويحرق البخور. وكان كل جمهور الشعب يصلي في الخارج، في أثناء إحراق البخور. وترأى ملاك الرب لزكريا واقفاً من عن يمين مذبح البخور، فأضطرب زكريا حين رآه، وأستولى عليه الخوف. فقال له الملاك: "لا تخف، يا زكريا، فقد أستجيبت طلبتك، وأمرتك إيصابات ستلد لك ابناً، فسمه يوحنا. ويكون لك فرح وأبتهاج، ويفرح بمولده كثيرون، لأنه سيكون عظيماً في نظر الرب، لا يشرب خمراً ولا مسكراً، ويمتلئ من الروح القدس وهو بعد في حشا أمه. ويرد كثيرين من بني إسرائيل إلى الرب إلههم. ويسير أمام الرب بروح إيليا وقوته، ليرد قلوب الآباء إلى الأبناء، والعصاة إلى حكمة الأبرار، فيهيئ للرب شعباً معداً خيراً إعداد." فقال زكريا للملاك: "بماذا أعرف هذا؟ فإني أنا شيخ، وأمرأتي قد طعنت في أيامها!" فأجاب الملاك وقال له: "أنا هو جبرائيل الواقف في حضرة الله، وقد أرسلت لألكمك وأبشركم بهذا. وما أنت تكون صامتاً، لا تقدر أن تتكلم، حتى اليوم الذي يحدث فيه ذلك، لأنك لم تؤمن بكلامي الذي سميت في أوامره. وكان الشعب ينتظر زكريا، ويتعجب من إنطائه في مقدس الهيكل. ولما خرج زكريا، لم يكن قادراً أن يكلمهم، فأدركوا أنه رأى رؤيا في المقدس، وكان يشير إليهم بالإشارة، وبقي أبكم. ولما تمت أيام خدمته، مضى إلى بيته. وبعد تلك الأيام، حملت امرأته إيصابات، وكنمت أمرها خمسة أشهر، وهي تقول: هكذا صنع الرب إلي، في الأيام التي نظرت إلي فيها، ليزيل العار عني من بين الناس!

حقاً والأمان لجميعكم.