



Saints Peter & Paul

Maronite Catholic Church

March 2025

WWW.PETERPAULTAMPA.COM

6201 Sheldon rd, Tampa, Fl, 33615

Weekend Mass Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm - Sunday 11 :30 am



Prayer for the Virgin Mary on the Feast of the Annunciation:
(March 25)

**O Most Holy Virgin Mary,
On this day of your Annunciation,
We recall with joy the moment the angel Gabriel brought you
the news**

That you were chosen to be the Mother of God.

Your “yes” opened the gates of salvation to the world.

Teach us, O Mother, to surrender to God’s will as you did.

Help us to trust in His plan, even when we do not understand.

**Intercede for us, that we may carry Christ in our hearts,
And bring His love to all those we meet.**

Virgin full of grace,

Cover us with your protection.

Guide our steps in times of doubt,

And strengthen us in our faith.

On this blessed feast, we ask you, O Mary,

To watch over our families, our Church, and our world.

**May your humble obedience and loving heart inspire us
always,**

**As we seek to follow your Son, Jesus Christ, Who lives and
reigns forever and ever.**

Amen.



Services

-Baptism: By appointment, one parent and one sponsor must be practicing Catholics

-Confession: One hour before the Divine Liturgy.

At other times by appointment.

-First Holy Communion : Celebrated publicly once a year . Please contact Father Fadi to sign up for classes.

-Communion of the Sick: Please let us know when a loved one is sick, hospitalized, or homebound.

-Last rites: Please let us know immediately when a loved one is gravely ill and in danger of death. Be sure to provide for the spiritual needs of your loved ones.

-Mass intentions: If you would like to have a Mass offered for your intentions or the intentions of a loved one, living or deceased, please contact the Pastor before two weeks at least .

Why fasting?

Catholic believers fast as a spiritual practice to grow closer to God. Fasting is an ancient tradition in the Church, rooted in both Scripture and the teachings of Jesus. There are several reasons why Catholics fast:

1. Spiritual Discipline

Fasting helps Catholics exercise self-control and discipline. It's a way to detach from worldly comforts and focus on the soul's relationship with God.

2. Repentance and Penance

Fasting is often associated with repentance for sins. Catholics fast as a form of penance, expressing sorrow for their sins and seeking God's mercy.

3. Following Jesus' Example

Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert before beginning His public ministry (Matthew 4:1-11). Catholics imitate His example, especially during Lent.

4. Preparation for Prayer and Worship:

Fasting helps clear the mind and heart, making it easier to pray and listen to God. It prepares Catholics spiritually for important feasts, like Easter.

5. Solidarity with the Poor:

By giving up food or other comforts, Catholics remember those who are hungry and in need. Fasting can inspire acts of charity and compassion.

6. Offering Sacrifice:

Fasting is a small sacrifice offered to God out of love and gratitude. It's a reminder that God is the source of all good things.

- Fridays in Lent: Catholics abstain from meat as a form of fasting.
- Optional Personal Fasting: Many Catholics fast or give up certain foods or activities as a personal spiritual practice.

Fasting is not just about food—it's about turning the heart toward God. It's a reminder that spiritual nourishment is more important than physical comfort.





Spiritual Retreat at Our Church

Join us March 28-30 for a transformative spiritual retreat led by Father Dominic Hanna!

Highlights:

- Fri, Mar 28:
 - 6pm stations of the cross .
 - 7 PM Eucharistic Adoration & spiritual reflection
- Sat, Mar 29: 6 PM Mass & spiritual reflections
- Sun, Mar 30: 11:30 AM Divine Liturgy & homily

Confession available 1 hour before each Divine Liturgy.

Mark your calendars and join us!



Mass intentions :

March 23: the Mass will be held for the departed soul of Dib Hasrouni offered by khoury family.

March 30: the Mass will be offered by Ghawi family, for the departed soul of Nicola Joseph Nadra, May his soul rest in peace. Followed by the mercy meal

Announcements

1. Lenten Season: The Lenten season will begin on March 3rd, with Ash Monday. There will be a Mass at 7:00 PM in the church, followed by the distribution of ashes on the foreheads of parishioners.

2. Feast of St. Joseph: On March 19th, we will celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph, the Patron of the Happy Death. May his prayer be with us. The Sodality will offer delicious pastries and a meal after the Mass at 7:00 PM.

3. Stations of the Cross: Every Friday during the Lenten season, we will pray the Stations of the Cross at 6:30 PM. Please join us as we walk this journey of faith together.

4. Lenten Dinner: On April 4th, after the Stations of the Cross, join us for a Lenten dinner featuring fish, cheese pies, SAJ, za'atar, lentil soup, and more...All proceeds will support the church financially. Please come and enjoy a meal together as a family.



Bishop Gregory Mansour Visits Saint Peter and Paul Maronite Catholic Church

It was with great joy that our parish, Saint Peter and Paul Maronite Catholic Church, welcomed Bishop Gregory Mansour from February 21st to 23rd.

During his visit, Bishop Mansour attended a beautiful and successful dinner, which was attended by over 200 people. He also took the time to meet with various groups within our parish community, including:

- Children and youth, with whom he shared prayers and the Word of God
- Teenagers and sodalities
- Parish committees, including the Financial Committee, Building Committee, and Church Council

One of the highlights of his visit was the consecration of 6 new ladies to the Sodality, a moment of great joy and spiritual growth for our parish.

Bishop Mansour also joined the Saint Charbel group for the prayer of Ramsho, a beautiful expression of our Maronite heritage. He then shared dinner with the group, deepening his connection with our parish family.

Bishop Mansour engaged in fruitful discussions with these groups, exploring the present and future of our church, including plans for a new hall. He graciously listened to everyone's thoughts and ideas.

We are grateful for Bishop Mansour's visit and for the blessings he brought to our parish. May we continue to be inspired by his words and guided by his wisdom.



MYO

Our MYO youth group retreat was a memorable experience filled with faith, fellowship, and fun. Our retreat consisted of 8 youth, 2 adult chaperones, and our MYO president Maryangel Kalach and vice president Nicole Bouserhal.

We went to Camp Kulaqua in High Springs FL from February 15-17. Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed before kicking off the retreat with a shared dinner and lively icebreakers.

The first evening included small group activities, an evening prayer, and a bonfire where we bonded over stories and songs before winding down for the night. Mornings began with prayer and reflection, followed by inspiring talks and breakout sessions that deepened our faith. The Divine Liturgy was a highlight, bringing everyone together in worship before enjoying lunch and some free time. In the afternoon, we explored the horse stables, wandered through the beautiful campgrounds, and played basketball and other games in the gymnasium. As the retreat continued, we engaged in adoration and confession, shared meals, and even had a fun-filled pizza party before another restful night.

Our final day included a heartfelt group sharing activity, a farewell lunch, and a group photo to capture the special memories we made before heading home.



Sodality Activity

Lenten Food Drive As we journey through the Lenten season, let us remember those in need. We will be collecting non-perishable food items and canned goods at the main entrance of the church.

Your donations will support the Santa Maria Mission, serving the poor and homeless.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." - 2 Corinthians 9:6"



MYA Retreat 2025

Our Maronite young adults will be attending their annual retreat in Greenville, South Carolina, from March 20th to 23rd. This retreat will help our group stay connected to our church both spiritually and physically. Our young adult groups are the future of our church, and this retreat will be a wonderful opportunity for them to grow in faith and fellowship.

During the retreat, the group will participate in spiritual discussions, serve Mass, engage in Eucharistic adoration, and enjoy hiking and various activities around Greenville. If you are interested in joining, please contact: Miss Clara Makdesi 727-505-8060.



**GREENVILLE,
SOUTH
CAROLINA
MARCH 20-23**

Where: 670 Verdae Blvd
Embassy Suites by Hilton
GreenVille Golf Resort &
Conference Center

**PRICE:
\$400**

**WE LEAVE STS.
PETER AND PAUL
@ 7:30 AM (:**

**SOUTH
CAROLINA**



Maronite Sisters in Christ Sodality

The Maronite Sisters in Christ group gathered on February 12th, beginning their meeting with Eucharistic Adoration, offering their prayers before the Blessed Sacrament.

Following this, Mrs. Lana took attendance and engaged the ladies with a fun Bible quiz, awarding small prizes. They then rehearsed for their consecration with Bishop Gregory Mansour on February 23rd, where six ladies will be committed to the sodality. They also discussed attire for the occasion.

The gathering concluded with a delightful meal of tabbouleh, chicken, and more. Their next meeting will be on March 12th to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph at 7 PM at the church.



- March 2nd. Mr. Elie Rouhana and Mrs. Lauren Rouhana
- March 9 Mr. Ralph and Mrs. Cenderella Abi Nader.
- March 16 Mr. George and Mrs. Ghada Bou Zaidan.
- March 23rd Mr. Charbel and Mrs. Lela Houry
- March 30 the Ghawi family

Clergy Retreat 2025

From March 24th until March 28th, all the priests in the Eparchy will gather in Tampa with Bishop Gregory Mansour for their annual spiritual retreat.

This sacred time of prayer, reflection, and renewal allows the clergy to strengthen their relationship with God and with one another, as they seek guidance and grace to continue serving their parishes with faith and love. We ask you to keep them in your prayers, that the Holy Spirit may inspire and uplift them during this retreat.



Parish Hall Update:

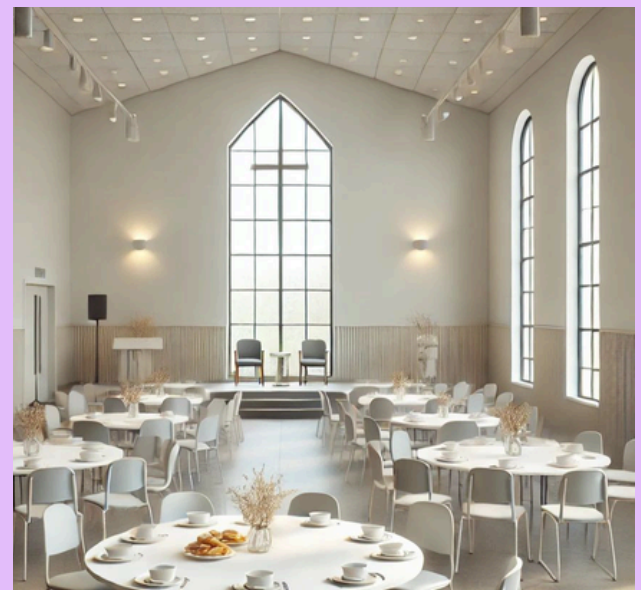
In February, the Financial and Building Committees convened to evaluate the feasibility study for the parish hall adjacent to the church. Collaborating with Mr. Badwi, they revised the proposed plans and explored potential fundraising initiatives to finance the construction and associated costs. Mr. Tony Tabshe, the engineer, attended to answer any questions related to the study. It was concluded that the hall needs to be elevated by more than four feet and should have the capacity to hold 200 people.

Furthermore, the Saint Charbel House will be demolished to create a parking area. The committee also decided to keep the Lutz property for possible future use. The feasibility study will be submitted to the Chancery and the Bishop for review at the earliest opportunity.

Please note: No decisions have been finalized; all options are still being considered.

Maronite feast days in March

- St John Maroun (2 March)
- The Forty Martyrs (9 March)
- St Joseph (19 March)
- St Rafqa (23 March)
- The Annunciation (25 March).



NAM 2025 CONVENTION

FAITH IGNITED - HOPE RENEWED

60 YEARS ROOTED IN MARONITE TRADITION



60TH CONVENTION
ANNIVERSARY



THE MASSABKI
BROTHERS

SAVE THE DATE

July 3-6, 2025

Hosted by Saint Sharbel Church

Raleigh - NC

 Hilton Hotel, Raleigh North Hills



NAMConvention