

Remain Faithful

2 Timothy 3:10-17

New Testament Reading

“But you, remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it.”

2 Timothy 3:14

Much of the New Testament is made up of letters that Saint Paul wrote and sent to encourage the Church in various places around the world. However, because we know that the Bible is the living Word of God, we know that the words in it are applicable to us today too.



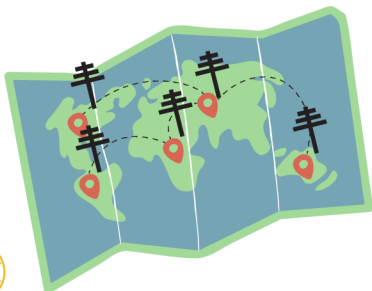
When we read the verse at the top of this page, we see that we are also encouraged to remain faithful in our spiritual life just as Saint Timothy was.



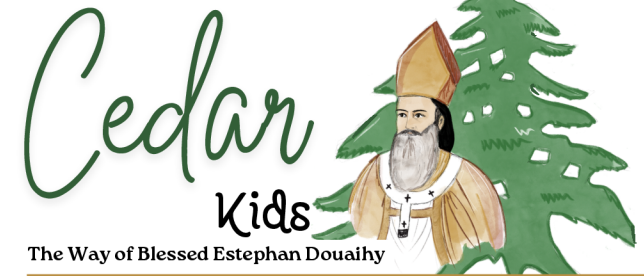
Today we celebrate a very important Saint in our Maronite Church who was faithful in HIS spiritual life. It is the saint from whom we got the name “Maronite.” Do you know who it is?

Saint Maron was born in ancient Syria and when he grew up, he lived the life of a hermit. He escaped the world and lived alone in the mountains and spent his days in prayerful silence with the Lord.

However, people found out about this man of God and came to him with their needs. God performed many miracles through Saint Maron’s prayers.



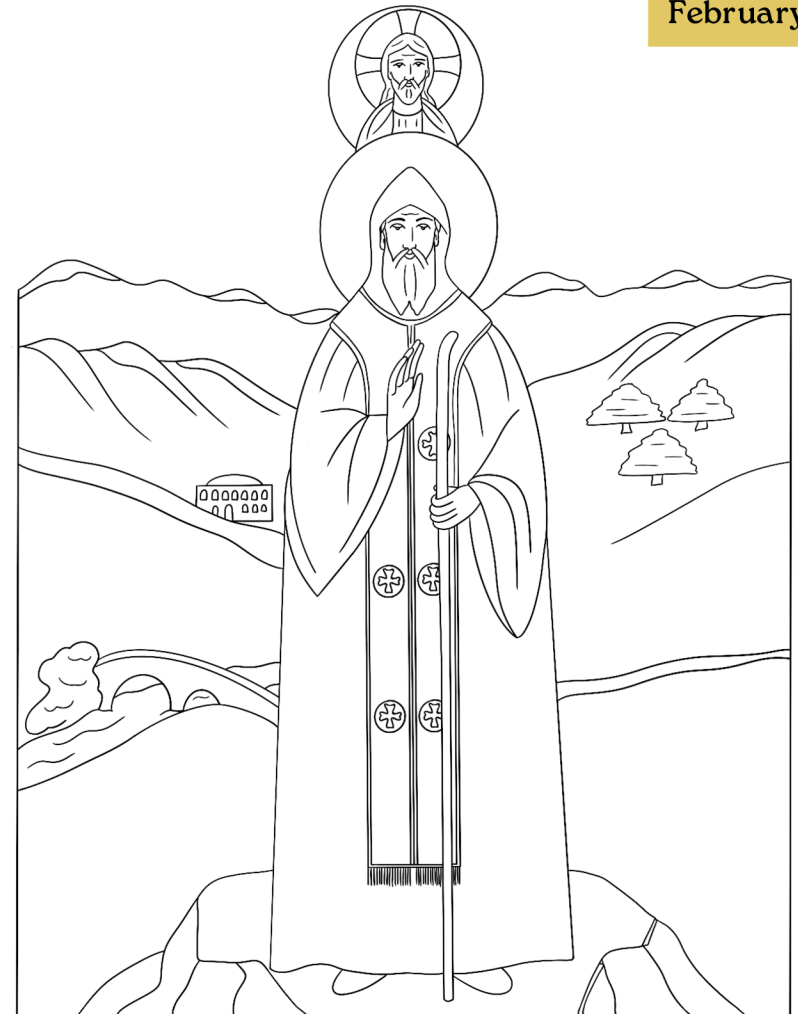
Saint Maron’s teachings and example inspired so many people that his disciples grew in number. They spread throughout the Middle East to places like modern day Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan Cyprus, etc. And today the Maronite Church can be found all around the world!



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

Feast of Saint Maron, Vol 2, No.20

February 9th



We sing hymns to Christ Jesus,
who forgives our sins and faults.
We are guided to heaven,
with the help of Saint Maron.

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Gospel Corner

John
12:23-30

Have you ever heard someone say that we as Christians are called to “die to ourselves?” This might sound strange or even shocking – didn’t Jesus say he came so that we might have life, and have it in abundance? So then why would we want to “die to ourselves?” Aren’t we supposed to enjoy life and all the good things that God gave us?



The Lord God certainly created every person out of love and He always wants what is best for us, but trying to figure out what is best can be tricky. To “die to ourselves” means that we are willing to let go of our own desires and trust that God knows what is best for us.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus talks about a seed that must be planted in the ground and undergo a death in order to produce a plant. The shell of the seed has to burst open to let its true life come out and grow. In the end, the seed no longer exists, but a beautiful plant emerges – maybe a flower, or a vegetable, or a tree.



In a similar way, in order to grow in our spiritual lives, to reach the fullness of what God created us for, we have to let go of our selfish desires and unhealthy habits, and surrender to the Lord and His will in our life.


Our holy father, Saint Maron, is a great example of a seed that died to itself and produced lots of great fruit. Many people learned from Saint Maron’s example and helped others grow in their faith. Let us strive to imitate Saint Maron and always follow the Lord’s will in our life.

Did you know?

PARADOX

A paradox is a statement that seems to contradict itself, or seems to go against itself, but actually contains a basic truth. The Bible is full of paradoxes such as: you gain life by losing it, you become strong through weakness, and the last shall be first. Each paradox expresses a deep meaning in the Christian faith.

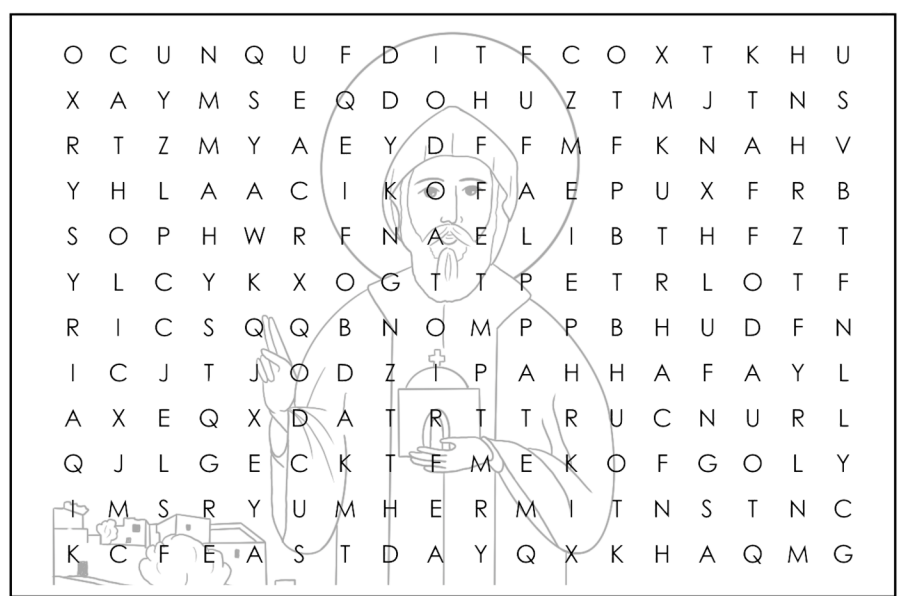
What you can do



- Learn more about Saint Maron!
- Read a book about him.
- Ask for Saint Maron’s prayers for a certain intention this week.
- Ask someone to explain one of the paradoxes from the Bible.

Saint Maron Word Search

Find the words from the list. They can be up and down, left to right, or diagonal.



-  Saint Maron
- Syria
- Faithful
- Lebanon
- Catholic
- Maronite
- Hermit
- February
- Feast day
- 