

February 12, 2017 Commemoration of the Righteous and Just



Next Sunday is the Commemoration of the
Faithful Departed
1 Thes 5:1-11 (Vigilance)
Lk 16:19-31 (The Parable of the Rich Man &
Lazarus)

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church



Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 12th, 10:30 am
+Karam Karam

Monday, February 13th
Available Intention

Tuesday, February 14th
Available Intention

Wednesday, February 15th
Available Intention

Thursday, February 16th
Available Intention

Friday, February 17th
Available Intention

Saturday, February 18th
Available Intention

Sunday, February 19th
Available Intention

*Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 9:00
am before the morning Liturgy.*

*Confession every Sunday at 9:15 am before
the morning Liturgy.*

*Also join us to pray the Rosary on Sundays at
10:00 am before the Liturgy begins.*

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, February 12th
Available

Sunday, February 19th
Available

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD

The world asks: "What does a person own?"
God asks: "How does a person use what he or she has been given?"



Offering Report for January 23rd-29th

Online.....\$510.00
Collection.....\$1,306.00

Projected Weekly Amount
Required to Meet Budget.....\$1,846.00

Difference.....-\$30.00

2017 PARISH COUNCIL

+Bruce Ashford (Treasurer)

Charlie Ashou

Gus Bekahi

Nick El Hajj

Agopos Ghossein

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Ann Marentette (Sec'y)

Doug Raab

+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Mitch Seikman

Laif Waldron

Ex Officio

+Deacon Tony

+Deacon Wadih

+Finance Committee

PARISH EVENTS

NEW ALTAR SPONSORSHIP

Every year the parish quietly spends money buying altar bread, communion wine, candles for the celebration of the Holy Offering of the Mass. In the past, the parish under Gladys' leadership pitched in to bring flowers to decorate the Holy Altar every week. I am wanting to expand that opportunity for those interested in supporting the altar and the Holy Offering of the Mass.

Therefore, this year we are trying something new. Each week there will be an opportunity for a family or individual to **sponsor the altar**. Your gift will be acknowledged on the website calendar and published in the bulletin. Here are a few points:

- Contact ANN MARENTETTE to schedule **Altar Sponsorships**. Her email is : abmarentette@gmail.com
- Your gift is a love offering, with the minimum gift being \$30. (Somewhere between \$50-60 is my guess about the breakeven point for us, but this is a new way of doing things, so not exactly sure). Again, there is no set amount, everyone has different means, so offer what you will.
- You can make your offering on the website, or you can put a check in collection plate, just note on the check or envelope what it is for (Altar Support).
- The big Sundays are Easter and Christmas, but also Mother's Day, and Feast Days (i.e., St Sharbel Feast, Epiphany, Holy Cross, Immaculate Conception, etc). Those are available on ***first come first served basis***. Obviously we spend more on flowers those days, so you could bear that in mind in considering your offering for that week's sponsorship.
- If you want to actually have a florist do the flowers for a big weekend, work with Ann to coordinate that.
- Just like Mass Intentions, there might be weeks where no one signs up. I would be ideal for people to sign up for every Sunday, but we are inviting you to take the initiative to sign up.
- There are no flowers in Lent obviously. In some parishes there are also no flowers during the Season of Announcement as it is a season of preparation and purification. What do you think about that -- flowers or no flowers for Season of Announcement? After I hear back from you all about it, I will prayerfully come to some decisions.

ABOUNA'S CORNER

SUNDAY OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Luke 16: 19 - 31

On this last Sunday of Epiphany, *Sunday of the Faithful Departed*, we celebrate all the faithful departed, and the memory of all our loved ones who have died, and who have reflected for us the Light of Christ. We also believe that all who sleep in the Lord, with hope, will be awakened into *the New Life* with Christ. This *epiphany celebration* of theirs, today, is also an invigorating joy for us as well as we look forward to *our future life!*

This Sunday the Church prays to Christ for all her children – the living and the departed – that we may all become *worthy of his Kingdom*. “O *True Hope* who never fails, grant the power of your resurrection to their bodies, and the forgiveness of sins to their souls”

Even more fascinating, this Sunday, is the Church's selection of the Gospel passage for today: it is the gospel parable of Lazarus. *Laazar* in Hebrew and Aramaic means the poor and the wretched one. Here Lazarus is portrayed as that helpless one who is totally dependent on the charity of others and the mercy of God. When no one helps, God, compensates for his losses with heavenly rewards. But wow to the one – or the ones – at whose gates the poor man – a Lazarus – lay abandoned and suffering – and did not give a helping hand. We have been warned!

Compassion, is the message of this parable-story told by Jesus, the wise Rabi-teacher of Israel, sent down to us to turn the hearts of *the Children* back to their *Compassionate Father*. Again and again in his parables, Jesus lets us know that It is by the measure of our compassion that we will be judged; or rather – it is by the measure of our deepest compassion – being in the image likeness of God – that our own hearts will judge us! The more compassionate we are, the nearest we should expect to be to God; while the less, the farthest from God.

As we pray *the Our Father* let us ask our *Compassionate and Merciful Father* that his compassion and mercy may deepen and increase within us; that Christ the Lord may bestow upon us, and the faithful departed – through his kindness and mercy and in spite of our failings – the *Robe of his Glory*. As our mother the Church and her saints remind us: none of us is free from *the guilt against Lazarus!*



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