

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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www.stsharbel.org



November 19, 2017

Season of the Glorious Birth

The Announcement to Zechariah



Next Sunday

The Announcement to the Virgin Mary

Gal 3:15-22 (The Law Did Not Nullify the Promise)

Lk 1:26-38 (Announcement of the Birth of Jesus)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 19th, 10:30 am

+Marie Germanos

Monday, November 20th

+Wenefrida A. Nunag

Tuesday, November 21st

Available

Wednesday, November 22nd

Available

Thursday, November 23rd

Available

Friday, November 24th

Available

Saturday, November 25th

Jan, Eva, Erik, Klaudia

Sunday, November 26th

+Antoine & Georgette Zogbi

Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 9:30 am before the morning Liturgy.

Confession every Sunday at 9:45 am before the morning Liturgy.

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

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for November 5th - 12th

Online.....\$1,288.00

Collection.....\$1,740.00

Weekly Total.....\$3,028.00

YTD Total.....\$84,832.00

YTD Goal.....\$84,916.00

YTD Difference.....-\$84.00

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, November 19th

Redmond Family

Sunday, November 26th

Allam Family

- +Bruce Ashford
(Treasurer)
- Charlie Ashou
- Gus Bekahi
- Nick El Hajj
- Agopos Ghossein
- Adib Karam
- +Claude Karam
- Anne Marentette
(Secretary)
- Doug Raab
- +Thaddeus Rask
- Nadia Redmond
- Mitch Siekmann
- Laif Waldron

- Ex Officio
- +Deacon Tony
- +Deacon Wadih

- +Finance
Committee

Parish Events

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM:

"To all parents who have children and youth in Sunday School, Music Ministry, and MYO: All Catholic parishes are required to provide annual training to all our children and youth that participate in our programs. I have been trained in the Call-to-Protect program and as before, I will be providing the training to our children and youth on the following dates:

Sunday School Classes-Sunday, November 26, 2017 @9:15am

MYO-Sunday, December 3, 2017 @9:15am

Music Ministry-Sunday, December 3, 2017 Immediately after the liturgy

Please contact me if you would like to see the Call-to-Protect curriculum for children and youth.

Appreciate your understanding and support,

Nadia Redmond

[503-671-0440](tel:503-671-0440)"

**"For heights and depths no words can reach,
music is the soul's own speech"**

All of the children of the parish ages 3 and up are invited to participate in the singing ministry this fall. We will be learning beautiful music to be sung in annual Christmas Play on Christmas Eve. The scheduled rehearsal dates are the following Sunday immediately after Holy Mysteries:

November 19th

December 3rd

December 10th

Please mark your calendars. We will have a short social activity and snacks to really make this fun and memorable for the kids.

Please contact Gladys at 503-747-8689 or alunui3r@frontier.com.

Community Events

Below are details on two special days in November that Bishop Elias has asked for our participation in observance.

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR: November 19, 2017

Pope Francis officially launched the "World Day of the Poor" which will take place November 19, 2017 and every year thereafter.

Pope Francis is calling on Christians to serve the poor with concrete actions that address their daily needs. The Holy Father noted in his message: "[It is] an imperative that no Christian may disregard."

DAY IN SOLIDARITY WITH CHRISTIANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST: November 26, 2017

"Our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East need our solidarity, and the Middle East needs our Christian brothers and sisters. A concern for our Christian brethren is inclusive and does not exclude a concern for all the peoples of the region who suffer violence and persecution, both minorities and majorities, both Muslims and Christians."

The Conference of Bishops along with the Knights of Columbus have selected Sunday, November 26, 2017, as a special day to acknowledge our solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East. It will be a special day to offer prayers and intentions for them.

"Our Mother's House": Help for the Victims of Human Trafficking

Global Health Promise is a Portland-based nonprofit organization that focuses on the need of mothers who have been trafficked or in prostitution and their children. The co-founder and Director, Brian Willis, is a parishioner at St. Mary's Cathedral. He has operated a program for these families, called "Our Mother's House," in Portland for the last 10 years.

Mr. Willis also works with organizations in other countries to develop similar programs to help end this tragic practice. Our Mother's House is seeking volunteers for a drop-in-center in Portland as well as people with experience in the nonprofit sector. Current open positions are secretary for the board and treasurer.

Brian is available to make presentations regarding this vital work. Please contact Brian at bwillis@globalhealthpromise.org or call 503-913-1336.

"Human Trafficking is a scourge, a crime, against the whole of humanity. It is time to join forces and work together to free its victims to eradicate this crime that affects all of us, from individual families to the worldwide community." Pope Francis

Reflection

The Announcement to Zechariah

Lk 1:1-25

Announcement, annunciation, greeting, and good news (that is the Gospel) all share a common root in Syriac Aramaic, our liturgical language. Starting today for the next few weeks, the Maronite Church, along with all the other Syriac Churches, will celebrate a period often called the Season of Announcements. On each Sunday, an announcement, a greeting, the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is announced to mankind, first by Gabriel Whom the Father sends from heaven. The reason for the Father sending Gabriel to deliver this good news is to make Himself better known to us, just as previously mentioned with the establishment of the Church, so that we can come to be near Him, and rejoice with Him.

Particular to this Sunday, God sends the archangel Gabriel to Zechariah, the father to-be of John the Baptist and high priest at the time in the Temple in Jerusalem. The Gospel tells us that Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, were obedient and followed all of God's commands, but were both barren and old (Luke 1:6-7). Nonetheless, they prayed devoutly that God would grant them a child – apart from Zechariah's office, Zechariah and Elizabeth were devout Jews and so would have heard the Old Testament read out entirely at very least once a year, listening to how God began His covenant of an intimate relationship with Abraham by granting him a son, even though he and his wife were old and barren. This demonstrates God's entire dealings with Israel are the pure gift of His initiative, mercy, and love that overcome the expectations of the world. Knowing this, Zechariah and Elizabeth had the confidence to ask that God do it again.

God in His mercy heard their prayer and answered by sending Gabriel to announce the birth of John. After all, nothing is impossible for God, which is why He chooses to work what seems to be the impossible at times. In fact, the birth of John foreshadows Christ's own birth, Whom Isaiah says will be a "shoot from the stump of Jesse" (Is. 11:1). Israel at this point has been destroyed, conquered by Rome, and any rebellion thoroughly crushed – the monarchy's lineage, that of Jesse, has been lost. Humanity would expect nothing to come from this now "dead" stump – but God works unexpected wonders, and comes Himself from this supposedly dead stump by His birth. We call John the Forerunner and Proclaimer of Christ, as he was sent ahead to "make ready for the Lord a people prepared" (Luke 1:17) like Gabriel tells Zechariah. His first message is his extraordinary birth from barren parents, demonstrating God shall make even the dead alive in Him, and He shall come from this stump. Gabriel tells Zechariah not only has God answered his prayer, but his son will be the preparing the world for the coming of God.

But Zechariah doubts what the archangel Gabriel is telling him – instead of rejoicing at the good news, which John is being sent to specifically proclaim, he cheapens it with dispute. Though he knew the Scriptures so well he doubted the generosity of God and that He would work such a miracle in his life because it simply does not seem likely by his expectations. Of course, God has given us reason to use, but He also gives us faith and knowledge of Him in His revelation. All things are a gift from God; even the tongue that enables us to speak was given to us by God, for which we should be thankful, and the tongue that does not thank God is essentially useless – Zechariah learned this by being made mute until his son was born. But we must also remember we ask for the intercession of *Saint* Zechariah because, though he failed at one moment, he loved God and continued being faithful as he was before. So today with St. Zechariah, let us praise Jesus Christ our God by remembering when we pray and professing with our tongues that He is the "Hope Who has given hope to the hopeless, and makes a way for the impossible, the Maker of great miracles, and Giver of beautiful gifts, the Creator Who, by the beckon of His Creatorship, His will exists in those Who He willed to make – everything is easy for His love..." (Evening Prayer for the Announcement to Zechariah).

- Article Credit: St. Rafqa Parish



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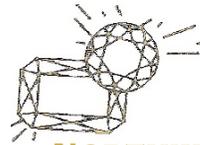
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