



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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[www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)

## May 31, 2020

**Pentecost Sunday: Descent of the Holy Spirit**



### Next Sunday

*Sunday of the Holy Trinity*

**Rom 11:25-36** (God's Irrevocable Call/Triumph of God's Mercy)

**Mt 28:16-20** (The Commissioning of the Disciples)

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, May 31st 10:30 am

*Available*

Monday, June 1st

*Available*

Tuesday, June 2nd

*Available*

Wednesday, June 3rd

*Available*

Thursday, June 4th

*Available*

Friday, June 5th

*Available*

Saturday, June 6th

*Available*

Sunday, June 7th

*Available*

***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 May 17th - 23rd*

Online.....\$890.00

Collection.....\$1,587.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,477.00

YTD Total.....\$36,085.29

YTD Goal.....\$36,920.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$834.71**

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, May 31st

*Available*

Sunday, June 7th

*Available*

# Parish / Community Events

## Parish Council

+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

Sunday, May 31, 2020, 10:30am

We're doing things a little differently this Sunday. Rather than sending out a link to a specific video, we'll be sending out the link to the Youtube Channel itself. Then Parishioners will just have to click on the video with the corresponding Mass date.

Channel Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi8CEQIEnX-VeERKBMqhKRA>

We'll be using this same link every week since it connects to St. Sharbel's Youtube Channel. The only thing that will change is that each week new videos will be added to that channel. Some changes are being made to the streaming process this Sunday so we've had to adjust for the changes.

## REMINDERS FOR MASS

Saturday and Sunday Masses — Must Sign up ahead of time.

- You will need to come with a mask. Mask may be removed to receive Communion obviously. We don't have masks to give you so please bring one.
- I cannot give Communion outside of Mass – this means in your cars, on the sidewalk, etc. Communion for the homebound is suppressed also at this time.
- Sit only in spot marked on pews. Remain physically distant as you enter and exit the church through the basement entrance only.
- No lingering after Mass, you will need to leave directly.
- If your name is not of the sign up list the ushers cannot allow you to come in. We will need to be strict about this and apologize in advance for problems that might arise.
- I request you only use the downstairs entrance, below the main stairs, the other doors will be closed, this will help us to be able to clean commonly touched surfaces.
- We will not allow use of missals, or other books in the pews. Do your best with the responses.
- Only people who are members of the parish are eligible at this point to attend our limited Masses. If you have been coming regularly, and are not registered elsewhere but have not registered with us, now is the time to do this. Archbishop has asked that we keep people going to the parishes they are registered as a way to respect fair and equitable access to all.

# Reflection

Today we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost when God fulfilled His promise when He said “I will not leave you as orphans” (Jn. 14:18). The Holy Spirit, Who has been in creation since the beginning, was confirmed in His presence in the Church today. He existed before all time with the Father and the Son, and is foreshadowed throughout all of the Old Testament. In the very beginning of the world He is recalled to be hovering over the waters (Gen. 1:2) and so we profess, “We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life...” for He perfected all creation. The various prophets, such as David (Ps. 51:11), called upon Him for His assistance. But today we come to know Him Who was simply alluded to in ages past but never seen. Today is the day the Holy Spirit, Who is always with us, has revealed Himself for the sake of our salvation and strength.

The time after Christ’s Ascension was a time of confusion for the Apostles. Though Christ promised them that He would never leave them orphans it seemed that God was most absent to them since they first encountered Jesus. They hid themselves in the Upper Room where they had celebrated the Last Supper and He had appeared to them again after His Resurrection for fear of persecution on the Feast of Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Passover. But God foretold through the prophet Joel, as He did through so many others, that “I will pour out my Spirit on all people” (Acts 2:17) and so “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:4). Just as the Holy Spirit completed creation the first time in Genesis, He completed the salvific mission of Jesus Christ by being poured out upon them. Just as the Father and Son are always present, so too has the Spirit, but just like the Son was received in a particular way at His Incarnation, the Spirit was received in a special way at His pouring out at Pentecost. For those who loved Christ and followed His commands, the Holy Spirit overshadowed the Apostles and appeared as tongues of fire, enabling to speak every language present so that they may spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Then did the Apostles realize that they had not been abandoned, but the promise of Christ had been fulfilled:

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth... On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.” (Jn. 14:16-17, 20)

In God’s love the Apostles gained their greatest Advocate, Who strengthened them in their fear and gave them all things necessary to do the work of God.

But the descent of the Holy Spirit was not something once realized at Pentecost and irrelevant to us, but He continues to indwell in us. When we are baptized we receive the Holy Spirit into ourselves, and He does not leave us no matter our actions, as long as we do not deny Him. This is why St. Paul asks, “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, Whom you have received from God?” (1 Cor 6:19). By baptism we have received the same Spirit Who empowered the Apostles two thousand years ago. Perhaps we do not manifest tongues of fire because they are not necessary for our mission, but He gives us the strength and capacity to accomplish the work of God. The same Spirit Who was at the beginning and spoke through the prophets, is poured out today, and will forever be our advocate is Whom we celebrate and remember today. Let us remember He is our strength every day as we pray,

Make us worthy, Lord God, Lover of Men, that we may sate our souls and fill our hearts with the rational drink of the new wine of the Spirit, the Paraclete, that having been made pure and holy we may sing pure praises with pure and holy tongues to Your adored and holy name, and that of Your Only-Begotten Son, and Your Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen.



**Gibran N Zogbi**

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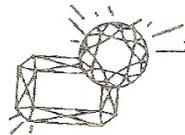
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