November 27^{th} 2016

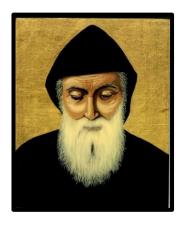
Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth



Next week is the Birth of John the Baptist. Please read these Scriptures in preparation:

- ➤ Malachi 3: 1-4, Galatians 4:21-5:1 (The Allegory of Hagar and Sarah)
- ➤ The Gospel According to Luke 1:57-66 (Birth of John the Baptist)

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church



Saint Sharbel Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave Portland, OR 97214 503.231.3853

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Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 27th, 10:30 am

Anthony & Georgette Zogbi

Monday, November 28th

Available Intention

Tuesday, November 29th

Available Intention

Wednesday, November 30th

Virginia Anson

Thursday, December 1st

Available Intention

Friday, December 2nd, 10:30 am

Available Intention

Saturday, December 3rd

Available Intention

Sunday, December 4th, 10:30 am

Joseph Atie (40 Day Mass)

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 Flowers

Sunday, November 27th

Nisreen Mouammar

Sunday, December 4th

The Mesa Family

Abouna's Corner

MARY'S VISITATION TO ELIZABETH (Gospel of Luke 1: 39 – 45)

On this Sunday of the Season of Announcements, we have a joyful celebration of our belonging to the divine fatherhood and motherhood of God in the Most Holy Trinity. The divine fatherhood is beautifully expressed by St. Paul in the image of the loving God, our Father, and his plan of salvation through his beloved Son Jesus. Saint Paul in this hymn of blessings – in his letter to the Ephesians – emphasizes the blessings of the Father that we have all received in Christ Jesus through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel, St. Luke, portrays for us the motherhood of the Holy Spirit who is about to give a new birth to the new creation – revealed in the holy pregnancies of Mary and Elizabeth. By God's grace both heaven and earth are pregnant now with Christ and the Holy Spirit! It is with this Spirit that both Mary and Elizabeth are filled and rejoice.

In our Syriac (Christian Aramaic) baptismal tradition, the Holy Spirit is often portrayed as the divine mother who gives life eternal to her children. In the Gospel Jesus reminds us that it is not enough to be born of our natural mothers alone but we need to be born anew by the Holy Spirit. (John 3:6).

On this Sunday, the Church and her children, as on a contemplative pilgrim-journey travel with Mary on her way to Elizabeth, ascending to the mountain hills of Judea. At the start of the journey we hear sounds of praise and rejoicing in Mary's song: "My spirit rejoices in the Lord...God my savior," which in turn echoes the ancient song of Hanna (1 Samuel 2), as well as the psalms, and the prophets. This has now become our song, for our journey!

As Mary ascends the hillsides of Judea, the Church is reminded of the mountains of the Lord where God dwelt in ancient times. As his people ascended the mountain to gaze upon him and worship him so now we are about to ascend to his altar, to receive Christ – the "Fruit of the Virgin's womb!"

Listen to the prayer of St. Ephrem:

Fire and Holy Spirit in the womb that bore you.

Fire and Holy Spirit in our baptism.

And in the Bread the Cup fire and Holy Spirit!

May Mary's Peace, Christ, come to your home in this holy season; and may he remain always with you.

Your Gifts to God

We are the servants of God, each with our own task. We will be judged good stewards if He finds us ready and pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.

Offering Report: November 14th – 20th

General Collection......\$1,537.00

Projected Weekly Amount

Required to Meet Budget......\$2,307.00

Upcoming Meetings

Saturday, December 10th:

Crossroads & Maronteens, 6:00 pm

Meet at the lower hall of St. Sharbel church

Maronite Young Adults (MYA), 7:00 pm

Meet at Claude & Gennifer's home

Monday, December 12th:

Oblates of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph, 7:00 pm

Meet at Deacon Wadih & Mona's home



Gibran N. Zogbi

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