

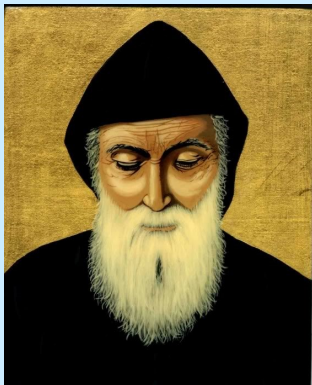
# December 4th, 2016

## The Birth of John the Baptist



Next Week is the Revelation to Joseph. Please read these Scriptures in preparation: 2 Samuel 7: 18-25, Ephesians 3: 1-13 (*Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles*) and the Gospel According to MATTHEW 1: 18-25 (*The Birth of Jesus the Messiah*).

## Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church



*Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!*

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## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 4th, 10:30 am  
*Joseph Atie (40 Day Mass)*

Monday, December 5th  
*Available Intention*

Tuesday, December 6th  
*Available Intention*

Wednesday, December 7th, 7:00 pm (Vigil Liturgy)  
*Available Intention*

Thursday, December 8th, Immaculate Conception  
*Available Intention*

Friday, December 9th  
*Available Intention*

Saturday, December 10th  
*Available Intention*

Sunday, December 11th, 10:30 am  
*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 Flowers

Sunday, December 4th  
The Mesa Family

Thursday, December 8th  
The Allam Family

Sunday, December 11th  
The Grissan Family

## ➤ CHURCH EVENTS & NEWS ◀

### Children's Singing Ministry

The final rehearsals for the children's singing ministry will be **Sunday Dec 4th & Sunday Dec 11th** immediately after Holy Mysteries. These rehearsals are mandatory as the children will be receiving their specific roles in the play and having a dress rehearsal. If you would like your child to be a part of the play this year, please make certain they attend.

### St. Sharbel's Christmas Schedule

- **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** (vigil), December 7th at 7:00pm. This is a holy day of obligation and may be met by attending Mass with us on Weds night or at any Roman Rite church on Thursday the 8th.
  - **Christmas Novena** — begins December 15th thru (and including) December 23rd each day at 10:30 am (on Sundays it occur with Mass). Families who cannot make it are urged to pray the Novena as a family each day. Please note this is not a Eucharistic liturgy, but one of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
  - **Breakfast with Papa Noel, December 18:** Maronteens and Crossroads Youth will be serving up a delicious breakfast after Mass, and Papa Noel will be attending! Proceeds from the breakfast will go to the Monks of Jesus Mary and Joseph.
  - **Christmas Eve Mass**, December 24th: 5:30 PM, Christmas pageant/ children's choir to preform with Mass following around 6:00 PM.
  - **Christmas Day Mass**, December 25th: 9:00AM Christmas Mass. [Note: There is NO 10:30AM Mass on Christmas Day.] Parishioners are encouraged to attend the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve or the Mass on Christmas morning, both are not required.
- New Years Day**, January 1st, 2015: Mass at 10:30AM, as per normal.

## YOUR GIFTS TO GOD

*“Be on guard lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence.” (Luke 21:34) Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a pleasing way to God, overflowing with love for one another!*

### Offering Report: November 21st - 27th

**General Collection..... \$1,074.00**

**Projected Weekly Amount Required to Meet Budget.....\$ 2,307.00**

**Difference.....-\$1,233.00**

## 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*

*The Oblates of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is a lay organization whose purpose is to pray for the sick and various needs of the church. We meet once a month to pray the Maronite Divine Office (Ramsho) together and discuss a spiritual book. If you would like members of the Oblates to visit you in your home and pray with you, please let us know and we will schedule a visit. If you are interested in learning more about the Oblates of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, please contact Deacon Wadih Kaldawi 503-349-5910 or [wadykal@gmail.com](mailto:wadykal@gmail.com)*

## Community Events

**Human Trafficking Silent Prayer Vigil:** St. Andre Bessette Catholic Church, 601 West Burnside Street, Portland, today, December 4, from 11:15-11:45 AM. Please join together to pray for victims and an end to human trafficking.

**12/11 Monthly Prayers for Life:** There will be a prayer service including the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the culture of life at St. Agatha's Catholic Church, Sunday, December 11, at 1:00 PM. St. Agatha's is located at 7960 SE 15th Avenue, Portland.

**1/20-21 WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST:** Join tens of thousands of prolife Americans in San Francisco on **Jan 20-21st** for the Walk for Life West Coast. Events include the Pro-Life Vigil with Vespers on Friday evening Jan 20th at St. Dominic's Church; All night Eucharistic Adoration For Life at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul; Catholic Mass with Archbishop Cordileone at the Cathedral Saturday morning before the Walk; and the Walk for Life Main Event at Civic Center Plaza. For more information, visit: <http://www.walkforlifewc.com/event-info/>.

## Abouna's Corner

### *THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST*

*Luke 1: 57-66*

On this Sunday, the Church and her children, join with Zechariah and Elizabeth to celebrate the birth of the St. John the Baptist with songs of joy, praise and thanksgiving. The Gospel of Saint Luke the evangelist, celebrates the fulfillment of God's promises made long ago, his kindness, and his compassion. While it is a personal song of joy for the birth of a child, it now has become a universal song of salvation on behalf of all humanity.

In Semitic religious traditions names have meaning and purpose; the name "John" (*Youhanan in Hebrew*) means: "God is kind and gracious." Thus, the child John, will grow to become an expression of that graciousness poured out in the form of forgiveness of sins by the river Jordan – the first baptismal fountain! Like John we too are called to become forerunners for Christ in our world by ourselves becoming expressions of God's forgiveness and grace.

The Church, joins on this *Jubilee of the Birth of the Forerunner of the Lord*, "the infant of grace" – who makes straight his paths – revealing the graciousness of God for his people. In the Hoosoyo she recollects this astonishing birth with praise and thanksgiving that extend throughout infinity. She draws her children to listen attentively to the announcement of the Baptizer made at his birth, and later by him by the river Jordan.

From the birth of John we look mystically forward to the birth of the Beloved Son of God: "like people awaiting a new dawn and like a ship whose watchman has seen the land"! We behold this as the sign and expression of God's fatherly loving-care towards us and all of his creation. It is so fitting, therefore, to follow this remembrance of the graciousness of God liturgically with the tree-time holy praises of the Trinity: "Qadeeshat Aloho"!

Let us move on to show our thanksgiving by praying together the living Creed: the gift of faith, the remembrance of love, and the expression of Christian joy. Like this holy child of joy, John, whose name is only a reminder of God's infinite mercy, now we offer our faith, handed down from one generation to another, as the hope for the ages!



**Gibran N. Zogbi**

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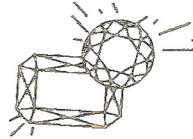
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