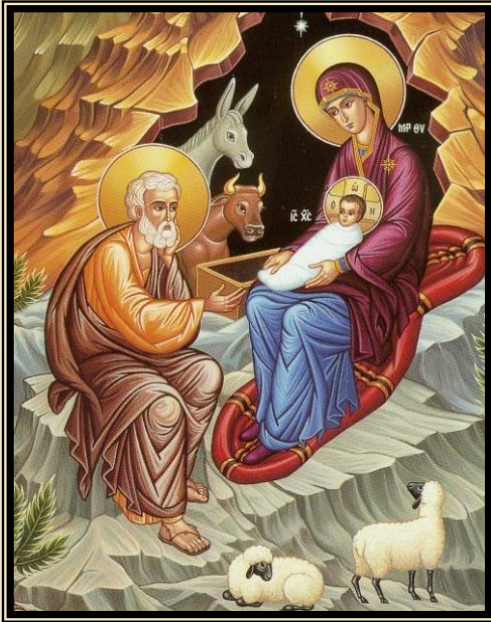


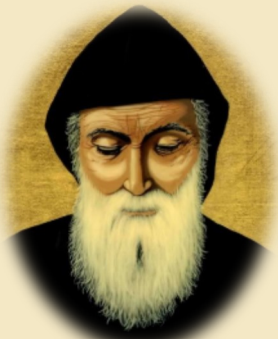
# December 25th, 2016

## The Glorious Birth of Our Lord



Next week is the Circumcision of Jesus. Please read these scriptures in preparation for the lesson: Ephesians 2: 1-11, and the Gospel according to JOHN 14: 27-31.

## Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church



*Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!*

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## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 25th, 10:30 am

*The Maronite Monks of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph*

Monday, December 26th

*Living and Deceased Parish Members*

Tuesday, December 27th

*Seminarians for both Eparchies*

Wednesday, December 28th

*Bishop Zaidan*

Thursday, December 29th

*Seminarian Peter Zogbi*

Friday, December 30th

*Deacon Wadih Kaldewi and his Family*

Saturday, December 31st

*Deacon Tony Karam and his Family*

Sunday, January 1st, 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.*

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## Altar Flowers

Sunday, December 25th

Mitch Seikmann

Sunday, January 1st

Denise Khory

## ➤ CHURCH EVENTS & NEWS ◀

- ♦ On **Christmas Eve** we will start with the children's pageant and concert, and Mass will immediately follow. We should be done by 7:00. If you can't make it Christmas Eve, **Christmas morning** we will have Mass at 9:00am.
- ♦ **New Years Day**, January 1st, 2015: Mass at 10:30 AM, as per normal.



## YOUR GIFTS TO GOD

*"The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!" Good stewards demonstrate by their living and giving that they understand God as the source of all they are and have.*

### Offering Report: December 12th - 18th

**General Collection..... \$1,154.00**

**Projected Weekly Amount**

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

**Difference.....-\$1,153.00**



## Community Events

**12/28 Feast of the Holy Innocents:** Rosary (6:30 PM) and Mass (7 PM) for the Little Saints at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 3145 SW 192nd Avenue, Aloha. Celebrated by Father Jeff Meeuwsen. This Mass remembers all deceased children, especially those who have died before birth or baptism, and for victims of abortion. If you would like a ride, please call Sharon at 503-675-1874.

**1/15 Roe V. Wade Memorial Rally/ March,** 2:30 PM at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland (new location).



### **1/20-21 WALK FOR LIFE WEST**

**COAST:** Join tens of thousands of pro-life 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 GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD

Our Western culture has paired Christmas down into gift-giving and family time. Of course, all of this is good, but as believers we have an even better reason to look forward to Christmas: we are celebrating the coming of Emmanuel, “God with us,” the One who “will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:23, 21).

Yes, Jesus is God with us. And yes, he came to save us from sin. These are two of the most inspiring, encouraging truths we could ever learn about our Catholic faith. They tell us how much God loves us, and they tell us how much he wants to work in our lives.

On the one hand, God has always been with us. He created us out of love, and when you love someone, you don't abandon them. He stayed with us even after we had fallen, after Adam has removed his Robe of Glory.

The Hebrew Bible is one long story of God's faithfulness to his people. We see it in stories of Abraham, Moses, and David. We see it in the Israelites' wanderings in the desert and in their long history of ups and downs in the Promised Land. God never left them.

But then, after nearly two thousand years of staying close to his people, God did something far more powerful than he had ever done before. He didn't just stay “with us” in a spiritual sense; he actually became one of us and lived among us as a man like us in all things but sin. There's a passage in the Bible that beautifully emphasizes this distinction between God's work before and after Jesus came among us:

In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe. John's Gospel emphasizes the graciousness of God and the glory of God. John tells us, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

When Jesus came to be with us, he came to *speaking God's word* in a new way. He came to *reveal God's love* in a new way, and he came to *sacrifice himself for us* in a new way. Let us rejoice and give thanks for Christ's birth amongst us!

*A Blessed Holy Christmas to you and your families! Abouna*



**Gibran N. Zogbi**

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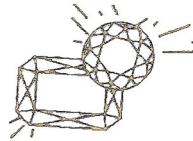
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