

January 8, 2017

First Sunday of Epiphany



Next Week is the Second Sunday of Epiphany. Please read these following Scriptures in preparation for the day: 2 Corinthians 4: 5-15 (*The Paradox of the Ministry*) and the Gospel According to JOHN 1: 35-42 (*First Disciples*).

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church



Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 8th, 10:30 am
✠Norman Pfatzgraff

Monday, January 9th
✠Navrick Tanouri

Tuesday, January 10th
✠Cheryl Manion

Wednesday, January 11th
Available intention

Thursday, January 12th
For Successful Surgery

Friday, January 13th
Available intention

Saturday, January 14th
Available intention

Sunday, January 15th, 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, January 8th
Denise Khory

Sunday, January 15th
Denise Khory

PARISH EVENTS

- ♦ Sunday School for **Preparation of the Sacraments** and **Angel Scouts** begin again this Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 9:15 am.

LOCAL EVENTS & NEWS

Praying to End Abortion - 9 Days for LIFE

The U.S. Supreme Court decisions *Roe v. Wade* & *Doe v. Bolton* made abortion on demand the law of the land 44 years ago on January 22, 1973. We mark that anniversary with sadness, but also with renewed resolve to pray & work for the protection of life ... from conception to natural death. The USCCB has a **Nine Day Novena for Life from Jan 21 to 29, 2017**. There are 4 ways to get the daily novena prayers and suggested actions: smart phone, texts, e-mails, and Twitter. Visit www.9daysforlife.com for information on the downloads.

Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreat February 10 – 12, 2017 Portland Area

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat is a spiritual and psychological process facilitating grieving and reconciliation with God, yourself, your child(ren), and others. It is a confidential and compassionate ministry that offers a safe environment for mothers and fathers of children lost to abortion, grandparents, other relatives, health care providers, and many others. **Catholic Charities** is sponsoring this healing retreat for women and men who are post-abortive. The retreat will be facilitated by Project Aurora in the Rachel's Vineyard retreat format. Call 1-800-249-8074 or e-mail projectrachel@ccoregon.org for more information or to register for the retreat.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD

The Lord has been gracious to us, pouring into our hearts that spirit that knows Him as Father and makes us His children. We treasure these things in our hearts and live and give gratefully!

Offering Report for December 26th - January 1st

General Collection..... \$1,497.00

Projected Weekly Amount

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

Difference.....- \$810.00

1973–2017
FORTY FOUR YEARS.
FIFTY EIGHT MILLION UNBORN BABIES.
WE WILL REMEMBER.

Roe v. Wade

MEMORIAL RALLY AND WALK

JANUARY 15, 2017 // 2:30 PM
NEW VENUE: OREGON CONVENTION CENTER // PORTLAND
WALK IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE RALLY.

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TO LIFE



Abouna's Corner

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

{The New Life by the Waters of the Spirit}

Luke 3: 15 – 22

On this Sunday, we the Church and her children, celebrate the feast of the Baptism of our Lord by the river Jordan at the hands of Saint John the Baptist. We celebrate the founding of Baptism as a Mystery of our salvation and of repentance – as Christ, Our Lord, opens the doors of paradise wide – to all who begin this new life in the Holy Spirit.

In our prayers today Christ is called by his Church the Fountain of Holiness and the Coal of Fire who by his baptism sanctified the Jordan and the waters of baptism. With his luminous light and the rays of his divine grace, Christ has enlightened all of creation. He has filled – and united – our humanity with the saving energies of his divinity (Hoosoyo and Qolo).

This proclamation renews in a new way and confirms the purpose of his divine incarnation: “It was for our sake that you became flesh of the holy Virgin Mary,” the Church addresses Jesus, and continues: “You are the God seen in the flesh, while we of flesh, are transformed by the gifts of your Holy Spirit.” In this new year, our mother asks for Christ’s blessing, protection, and worthiness to enter the Paradise of Light that he has opened for her and her children (Hoosoyo).

The Holy Spirit – who hovered over Jesus at baptism – now hovers over us. We too are confirmed as beloved children of God, Our Father, through his everlasting mercy towards our feeble humanity. This is a time and a season of feasting and rejoicing, as we “offer glory, praise, and honor to the Hidden Father who thundered from the heavens,” and revealed to us his beloved Son (Hoosoyo).

Let us therefore welcome the Lord on this Epiphany as the Light of Our Lives. Let us show ourselves to him – through our faith, our hope, our optimism and joy – as children who are truly enlightened by his light in all that we say and we do.

Let us reach out to others, to let Christ’s fire enkindled in us, be enkindled in them as well to form a beacon of hope for our darkened world – that all who see us, and are touched by us, may be moved away from a culture of death to a new culture that loves and bears the fruits of life.

And may Christ, the Coal of Fire of the love of the divine Trinity – whom we have received in baptism and will receive in our communion today – continue by his mercy and grace to burn-on in our hearts. **We are the light of the world!**

**Gibran N. Zogbi**

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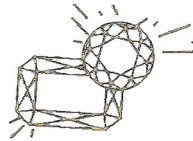
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