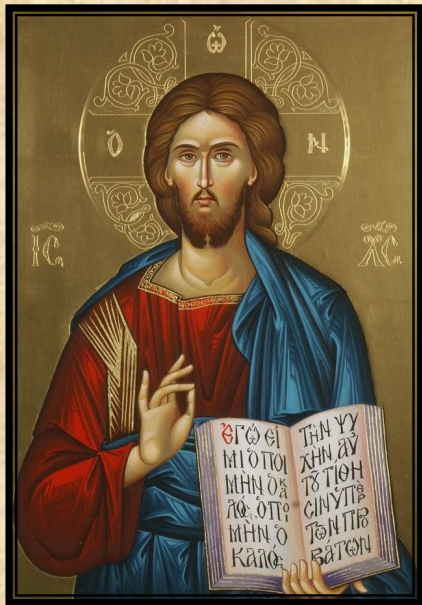


# January 22, 2017

## Third Sunday of Epiphany



Next Week is the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany. Please read these following Scriptures in preparation for the day: Romans 7: 1-6 (*Freedom from the Law*) and the Gospel according to JOHN 4:5-7,9-26 (*The Samaritan Woman*).

## Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church



*Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!*

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## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 22nd, 10:30 am

✠ Michael Harris (40 Day Memorial)

Monday, January 23rd

*Available intention*

Tuesday, January 24th

*Available intention*

Wednesday, January 25th

*Available intention*

Thursday, January 26th

*Available intention*

Friday, January 27th

*Available intention*

Saturday, January 28th

*Available intention*

Sunday, January 29th, 10:30 am

✠ Norman Pfatzgraff



*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 22nd

*Elie Kassab*

Sunday, January 29th

*available*



### **YOUR GIFTS TO GOD**

*“Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit, comes from above,” says James 1:17. But, he reminds us, true worship of God involves using those good gifts to benefit the less fortunate. Good stewardship is not optional; it is the hallmark of our faith!*

#### **Offering Report for January 9th - 15th**

**General Collection..... \$1,689.00**

**Projected Weekly Amount**

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

**Difference.....- \$618.00**

*Time, Talent, Treasure*

### **PARISH EVENTS**

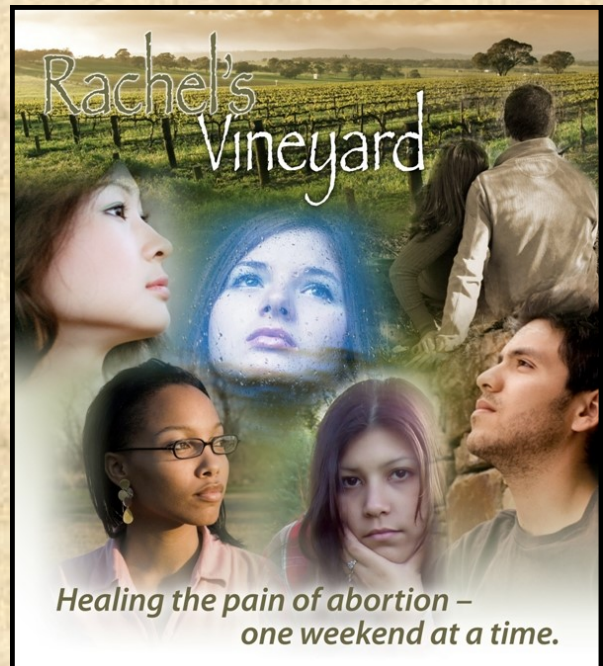
- ♦ Fr. Christopher and other Maronite clergymen from the parishes in our Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon are meeting this week in Phoenix for the annual conference. Remember them and Bishop Elias in your prayers as they travel!
- ♦ We are working on a **Mother's Day Hafli**, and the organizational meeting will be this Sunday after Mass. Everyone is welcome, even people who haven't come. Don't wait for an invitation, come and help us make this year fun and successful!



### **LOCAL EVENTS & NEWS**

#### **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 [projectrachel@ccoregon.org](mailto:projectrachel@ccoregon.org) for more information or to register for the retreat.





# Abouna's Corner

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

*(Living in the Light of Christ)*

2 Corinthians 4: 1 - 15 / John 5: 31 – 47

This Sunday we continue to celebrate the Light of Christ – that we carry in our hearts and share with the world – through our actions as *Children of the Light*. The Psalmist King David proclaims with joy: “Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path,” (Psalm 119: 105). Little did he expect that someday God would respond by making his *Word* incarnate – letting his light be reflected from *the face of Jesus*, radiating his divine peace and joy on us! Can we really *believe* that God would do this? This is the theme of today’s gospel message from St. John; the challenge of our faith!

Saint Paul, in his epistle declares: *God has shown in our hearts* that we may reflect the glory of Christ in our world. How awesome is this action of the divine Trinity: that we have been chosen to become a mirror reflection of Christ to the world! Now Christ’s Incarnation has extended its grace from *Mary* over to *us*. Saint Ephrem, in his poem meditations, images Mary – the Mother of Christ – for us as model carrier, and pure reflection of her son’s incarnate light.

And now, in *us* too, Saint Paul reminds us, shines that light of Christ: “to bring to light the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ!” This is a treasure, he explains, that we hold in earthen vessels: through our feeble human nature – so that in *us* too the power of God may manifest itself as that divine gentleness and compassion – reflecting upon us from the face of *God’s Beloved Son: Jesus!*

In our *Hymn of Light* of Saint Ephrem, the Church, like Mary, proclaims Jesus our Risen Lord, as: *the Light of the just and the upright, who came to rescue us from darkness and to fill us with the radiance of his light!*

In our sinful world today, it is not so easy to face the poor and powerless Jesus, and still *believe* in the power of God. Yet God’s power shines through the gentleness, mercy, and kindness of his beloved Son who has come into the world not to judge it, but to elicit human compassion; that he may re-fashion us into the image of his heavenly and merciful Father; that we too may have a share in his Kingdom of Light.

Jesus would often tell his followers not to hide their light under a stand, but to hold it up, so that others may also see it reflected in them! And now may the light from Jesus’ face – as from this altar – continue to shine on us and through us. May it be reflected through our hearts, goodness, and our compassion for others. And because of us, *may the Church continue to be the Light of Christ for the world* – as we too pray like the Psalmist David and wish it so through the prayer of the priest at the completion of our Altar Celebration.



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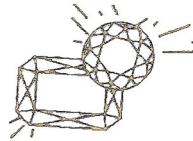
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