

**January 15, 2017**

**Second Sunday of Epiphany**



**Next Week is the Third Sunday of Epiphany. Please read these following Scriptures in preparation for the day: Galatians 3: 23-29 (*What Faith has Brought Us*) and the Gospel according to JOHN 3: 1-16 (*Revelation of Christ's Mystery to Nicodemus and the Jewish People*).**

**Saint Sharbel  
Maronite Catholic Church**



*Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!*

1804 SE 16th Ave  
Portland, OR 97214  
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e-mail: [stsharbelpdx@gmail.com](mailto:stsharbelpdx@gmail.com)  
on the web: [www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)

**Liturgy Intentions**

Sunday, January 15th, 10:30 am

✠ Josephine Chemali

Monday, January 16th

*Available intention*

Tuesday, January 17th

*Available intention*

Wednesday, January 18th

*Available intention*

Thursday, January 19th

*Available intention*

Friday, January 20th

*Available intention*

Saturday, January 21st

*Available intention*

Sunday, January 22nd, 10:30 am

✠ Michael Harris (40 Day Memorial)

*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 15th

Denise Khory

Sunday, January 22nd

*volunteer needed*



## **YOUR GIFTS TO GOD**

Small note regarding the collections for this last week: The collection amount was **\$290**, and that comprised monies donated online. We are behind in the collections goals because we didn't have Mass. **Parishioners are encouraged to make an extra contribution in church this Sunday, or online or by mail.** We ask everyone to prayerfully consider these options.



*"Whatever you do, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through Him." And so we offer our gifts "through Him, with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit."*

## **PARISH EVENTS**

- ♦ Sunday School for **Preparation of the Sacraments** and **Angel Scouts** begin this Sunday, January 15, 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](http://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 [projectrachel@ccoregon.org](mailto:projectrachel@ccoregon.org) for more information or to register for the retreat.



# Abouna's Corner

## THE SECOND WEEK OF EPIPHANY

Has anyone ever asked you a question like this: “What are your greatest hopes and dreams?” When people ask us deep questions in unexpected moments we tend to freeze, we are like deer caught in the headlights. Sadly, because of the culture we are surrounded with, the first thing that is likely to come into our minds when we are asked this big question about what we are looking for might regard things of the material world.

Today's Gospel finds the first apostles in a similar situation. John the Baptist points them to Jesus, so they follow, not knowing exactly why. When He turns and asks them, “What are you looking for?” they freeze and try to change the subject: “Rabbi, where are you staying?” (John 1:38). They really don't know what they're looking for. They'll only find out when they accept Jesus' invitation, “Come, and you will see” (John 1:39).

So what are you looking for? It's a question the Lord wants to ask all of us. It's also a question He can help us answer in the best way possible. By showing us who He is, He gradually unveils our own deepest longings and desires. That's because we belong to Him. We are created in His own image and likeness, and we find all our true answers in Him and in the desires of His heart.

So this week in prayer, accept His invitation to come and see:

- “Come and see how deeply I delight in you. Come and see that you are beloved and treasured in my eyes. Come and see your true, incalculable worth in my eyes.”
- “Come and see that I have redeemed you from sin. Receive my mercy, which is always flowing like a mighty river. See that I gave my very life for you. I withheld nothing so that you might walk in freedom. Come and see that you can be set free.”
- “Come and see the dreams I have for your life. I have plans and goals for you. Let me show you how I look at you and how hopeful a future you have as you learn from me.”

What are you really looking for? Jesus! So quiet your mind and let Him answer you. He wants to show you who He is — and who you really are.

My deepest hope for you in this Season of Epiphany is this: that you encounter our Lord in prayer, and that you find in Him all that you are looking for. For only in things eternal will we find rest, only in the Lord will we find something worth longing for.

**Gibran N. Zogbi**

Agent

2925 SE 73rd Avenue  
Hillsboro, OR 97123  
Bus 503-649-9514 Fax 503-649-1612  
gibran.zogbi.qdmq@statefarm.com

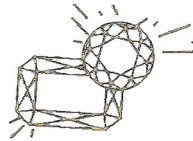
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