

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

November 17, 2019

The Announcement to Zechariah



The Announcement to the Virgin Mary

Gal 3:15-22 (The Law did not Nullify the Promise)

Lk 1:26-38 (Announcement of the Birth of Jesus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for November 3rd - 9th

Online.....\$655.00

Collection.....\$1,915.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,570.00

YTD Total.....\$80,939.14

YTD Goal.....\$83,070.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,130.86**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 17th 10:30 am

+Joseph Tanious Atie

Monday, November 18th

Available

Tuesday, November 19th

Available

Wednesday, November 20th

Available

Thursday, November 21st

Available

Friday, November 22nd

Available

Saturday, November 23rd

Available

Sunday, November 24th

+Tom Sheridan 40 day mass

Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 9:30 am before the morning Liturgy.

Confession every Sunday at 9:45 am before the morning Liturgy.

Also join us to pray the Rosary on Sundays at 10:00 am before the Liturgy begins.

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, November 17th

Redmond Family

Sunday, November 24th

Available

Parish / Community Events

A NOTE FROM ABOUNA:

Brothers and Sisters,

Just a brief note about parish finances. We want to finish the year strong. We are a little behind in our goal for the collections plate for the year. That and the additional spending we did this year for parish refresh/remodel might impact our bottom line for the year. If you are able, and after prayerful consideration are able to, please consider a little extra gift for the parish sometime before the end of the year! God knows that I appreciate each and every one of you, and that I hate talking about money, but it has to be discussed. The Ladies Guild is preparing falafel for the end of the year fundraiser to kick in just a bit — please come down after church and have a lunch Sunday the 24th!

God Bless, Abouna Chris

FALAFEL FUNDRAISER

Hosted by the Ladies Guild

After Church *Sunday, November 24, 2019*

Parish Council

+Bruce Ashford
(Treasurer)

Charlie Ashou

Gus Bekahi

Nick El Hajj

Agopos Ghossein

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Anne Marentette
(Secretary)

Doug Raab

+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Mitch Siekmann

Laif Waldron

Ex Officio

+Deacon Tony

+Deacon Wadih

+Finance

Committee

The Cedars of Saint Sharbel Youth Group Discussion Schedule:

All meetings held in upstairs classroom immediately following Sunday Mass.

NOV:

24th - Evangelization: Called to Spread The Gospel

DEC:

22nd - Christmas Breakfast Service Project - Church Basement

JAN:

12th - Truth vs. Tolerance

26th - Church Authority: What is It? and Apologetics

FEB:

9th - Youth and Young Adult Saints

23rd - Mary : Her Motherhood, her Apparitions, the Rosary

MAR:

8th - Sacraments and Mysteries : Their meaning, Grace

22nd - TBA

APR:

19th - The Truth About Human Sexuality and God

MAY:

17th - Social Event: TBA



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

Office of the Bishop

BISHOP'S LETTER ON STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

November 12, 2019

*To be read in church and distributed
over parish social media*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have often referred to our use of TIME, TALENT and TREASURE – the three components of Stewardship. In this letter to you I wish to address the use of time.

Time is a very precious gift from God. In a very real sense we are all given the same amount of time. We are all equal: we have 24 hours in each day, 365 days in each year. We cannot “make” more time in the same way that perhaps we can make more money or other tangible things, nor can we make time stand still, nor can we bring it back. How often do we hear “If I only had more time, I could have...”

The real issue with time is not how much of it we have, but what we do with the time given to us. In Psalm 90 we pray: “So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.” (Psalm 90:12) The meaning of “to count our days” in this Psalm is that we must in some way “weigh” or “measure” our time; we must recognize that our time is not unlimited and therefore, of great value. Each day, each hour, even each minute that is given to us must be used so as to glorify God and shower blessings on the lives of others. The Lord has placed us here for a reason; we have been created for a purpose and every minute of our life is an opportunity for us to respond to God and to live out that purpose.

Your parish needs your time. Certainly the time it takes to participate in the liturgical life of the Church, your time in being present to your parish family and in the use of time to help the Church fulfill the mission given by the Lord – the time to help do the work of the Lord. That will be time well-spent.

I can truly say that I have never heard someone near death say “I spent too much time with my children when they were young.” We should not have to regret that we misused or wasted the time given to us. The Lord Jesus warns us, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” (Mark 1:15). In other words, “now” is the time.

St. Paul writes, “Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the opportunity” (Ephesians 5:15-16). I urge you to make the most of your time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+A. Elias Zaidan

Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

Reflection

The Announcement to Zechariah

Lk 1:1-25

Announcement, annunciation, greeting, and good news (that is the Gospel) all share a common root in Syriac Aramaic, our liturgical language. Starting today for the next few weeks, the Maronite Church, along with all the other Syriac Churches, will celebrate a period often called the Season of Announcements. On each Sunday, an announcement, a greeting, the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is announced to mankind, first by Gabriel Whom the Father sends from heaven. The reason for the Father sending Gabriel to deliver this good news is to make Himself better known to us, just as previously mentioned with the establishment of the Church, so that we can come to be near Him, and rejoice with Him.

Particular to this Sunday, God sends the archangel Gabriel to Zechariah, the father-to-be of John the Baptist and high priest at the time in the Temple in Jerusalem. The Gospel tells us that Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, were obedient and followed all of God's commands, but were both barren and old (Luke 1:6-7). Nonetheless, they prayed devoutly that God would grant them a child – apart from Zechariah's office, Zechariah and Elizabeth were devout Jews and so would have heard the Old Testament read out entirely at very least once a year, listening to how God began His covenant of an intimate relationship with Abraham by granting him a son, even though he and his wife were old and barren. This demonstrates God's entire dealings with Israel are the pure gift of His initiative, mercy, and love that overcome the expectations of the world. Knowing this, Zechariah and Elizabeth had the confidence to ask that God do it again.

God in His mercy heard their prayer and answered by sending Gabriel to announce the birth of John. After all, nothing is impossible for God, which is why He chooses to work what seems to be the impossible at times. In fact, the birth of John foreshadows Christ's own birth, Whom Isaiah says will be a "shoot from the stump of Jesse" (Is. 11:1). Israel at this point has been destroyed, conquered by Rome, and any rebellion thoroughly crushed – the monarchy's lineage, that of Jesse, has been lost. Humanity would expect nothing to come from this now "dead" stump – but God works unexpected wonders, and comes Himself from this supposedly dead stump by His birth. We call John the Forerunner and Proclaimer of Christ, as he was sent ahead to "make ready for the Lord a people prepared" (Luke 1:17) like Gabriel tells Zechariah. His first message is his extraordinary birth from barren parents, demonstrating God shall make even the dead alive in Him, and He shall come from this stump. Gabriel tells Zechariah not only has God answered his prayer, but his son will be the preparing the world for the coming of God.

But Zechariah doubts what the archangel Gabriel is telling him – instead of rejoicing at the good news, which John is being sent to specifically proclaim, he cheapens it with dispute. Though he knew the Scriptures so well he doubted the generosity of God and that He would work such a miracle in his life because it simply does not seem likely by his expectations. Of course, God has given us reason to use, but He also gives us faith and knowledge of Him in His revelation. All things are a gift from God; even the tongue that enables us to speak was given to us by God, for which we should be thankful, and the tongue that does not thank God is essentially useless – Zechariah learned this by being made mute until his son was born. But we must also remember we ask for the intercession of *Saint* Zechariah because, though he failed at one moment, he loved God and continued being faithful as he was before. So today with St. Zechariah, let us praise Jesus Christ our God by remembering when we pray and professing with our tongues that He is the "Hope Who has given hope to the hopeless, and makes a way for the impossible, the Maker of great miracles, and Giver of beautiful gifts, the Creator Who, by the beckon of His Creatorship, His will exists in those Who He willed to make – everything is easy for His love..." (Evening Prayer for the Announcement to Zechariah).

**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

2925 SE 73rd Avenue
Hillsboro, OR, 97213
Bus 503-649-9514 Fax 503-649-1612
gibran.zogbi.qdmq@statefarm.com



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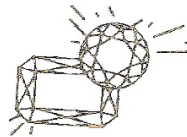
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