



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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[www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)

## January 19, 2020

### Second Sunday After Epiphany



### Next Sunday

#### Third Sunday After Epiphany

**Gal 3:23-29** (What Faith has Brought Us)

**Jn 3:1-16** (Revelation of Christ's Mystery to Nicodemus and the Jewish People)

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 19th 10:30 am

+Farede Ghossien - 40 Day memorial

Monday, January 20th

Available

Tuesday, January 21st

Available

Wednesday, January 22nd

Available

Thursday, January 23rd

Available

Friday, January 24th

+Fouzi Ghosson

Saturday, January 25th

Available

Sunday, January 26th

+Kameel Moammar - 40 Day Memorial

**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.**

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for January 5th - 11th*

Online.....\$1,880.00

Collection.....\$912.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,792.00

YTD Total.....\$2,792.00

YTD Goal.....\$1,846.00

YTD Difference.....\$946.00

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, January 19th

Available

Sunday, January 26th

Available

## Parish / Community Events

**\*\*Manakeesh on January 19, 2020, has been canceled\*\***

### 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

### St. Sharbel MYA (Maronite Young Adults) Group

The group for ages 18+ is restarting monthly meetings at the Parish. They will meet the first Sunday of the Month.

Meetings will take place after mass in the Upper room of the church at 12pm.

### The Cedars of Saint Sharbel Youth Group Discussion Schedule:

All meetings held in upstairs classroom immediately following Sunday Mass.

<b>JAN:</b>	<b>12th</b> - Truth vs. Tolerance <b>26th</b> - Church Authority: What is It? and Apologetics
<b>FEB:</b>	<b>9th</b> - Youth and Young Adult Saints <b>23rd</b> - Mary : Her Motherhood, her Apparitions, the Rosary
<b>MAR:</b>	<b>8th</b> - Sacraments and Mysteries : Their meaning, Grace <b>22nd</b> - TBA
<b>APR:</b>	<b>19th</b> - The Truth About Human Sexuality and God
<b>MAY:</b>	<b>17th</b> - Social Event: TBA

# Reflection

## Second Sunday After Epiphany

Jn 1:35-42

This Sunday continues the Season of the Epiphany. An important question to ask is why do we have an entire season dedicated to the feast? It is not because someone was trying to fill the calendar between now and Lent! Epiphany is an extremely important feast because, just as Christ entered the world at His birth on Christmas to save us from sin, our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, appeared to the whole world to complete the plan of salvation on Epiphany, the Baptism of Christ. God willed that the death that Adam brought into the world through his sin (Rom. 5:12) be washed away that anyone who loves Him might live forever with Him (John 11:25).

Because our Triune God is three Persons, but one single God, salvation was granted to mankind by the Trinity as one. Though the Son, having become man, was visible, the Father and the Spirit were always with Him. Christ's own baptism testifies to this when the Father called out and the Spirit appeared like a dove, a visible sign (Matt. 3:16-17). Christ, Who is our all-powerful God and King, became an infant, not because He needed to, but because He wanted to be amongst us and save us from sin. Likewise, the entire Trinity condescended from their hidden glory so that we might know them, even though they did not need to do so. The Father, Whose wisdom is beyond words, lowers Himself to speak words understandable to mankind. The Holy Spirit, Whose beyond physical experience, assumes the form of a dove so that mankind may see His presence. And the Son, Who is pure and sinless, receives the washing of baptism that He might purify the waters for our own baptisms.

What we must understand about salvation is that it is totally freely given to us by God, even though it is mankind that picked and picks sin. But in utter generosity of the hidden and incomprehensible Trinity, He goes even further and has condescended so that we might "come and see" (John 1:39) Him, as Christ says in today's Gospel reading. Christ, our hidden God, wants us to be *bnai rozo*, a Syriac phrase from the Fathers of the Church meaning partakers of His mystery (the same word we use for someone who receives the sacraments – the mysteries, not coincidentally). He has offered us entrance into His mystery by way of baptism. As St. Paul tells us, our old selves are buried in the waters of baptism so that we may be raised with new life with Christ (Rom. 6:4). In partaking in the mystery of

the baptism of the Son, we become children of the Father, and His brothers and sisters ourselves (Heb. 2:11) – if we accept to be partakers of His mystery. Of course, simply partaking does not merit us the life Christ offers us. Judas was a partaker of Christ's mysteries but betrayed Him because he did not "come and see," but instead decided for what he wanted to use Christ.

With childlike guilelessness let us "come and see" as sincere partakers of His mystery. The God of all time and creation has made His secrets available to us in His very flesh and blood in the Eucharist. Let us seek to see Him, and not betray Him. And when we cannot receive Him in flesh and blood, let us call upon Him in Spirit in prayer, even if it is 10 minutes a day driving to the store, for He has admitted us to be sons and daughters of the Father. Knowing the generosity of salvation He has shown us time and time again, let us ask **Him**:

O Unformed Former, You joined with the form of Your beloveds, and were baptized by a formed servant to form anew the form of His hands and renew the corrupted image by His baptism. Now, my Lord, renew our oldness by Your renewal, and form our form anew by the beckon of Your will. Create in us a new heart through the working of Your Holy Spirit that we may newly and purely offer glory and thanks to You, and to Your Father, and to Your Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (From Syriac Maronite Prayers for Epiphany)

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish



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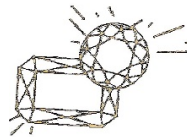
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