



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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

## December 20, 2020

### The Genealogy of Jesus



### Next Sunday

*Sunday After the Glorious Birth*

2 Cor 11:1-9 (Preaching Without Charge)

Mt 23:29-24:2 (Denunciation of the Scribes & Pharisees)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for Dec 6th - Dec 12th*

Online.....\$1,356.00

Collection.....\$5,482.00

Weekly Total.....\$6,838.00

YTD Total.....\$97,830.83

YTD Goal.....\$90,454.00

YTD Difference.....\$7,376.83

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 20th, 10:30am

*Available*

Monday, December 21st

*Available*

Tuesday, December 22nd

*Available*

Wednesday, December 23rd

*+Choucri Foulia*

Thursday, December 24th

*Available*

Friday, December 25th

*Available*

Saturday, December 26th

*Available*

Sunday, December 27th

*12:00pm: +Bob Wilkens*

*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, December 20th

*Redmond Family*

Sunday, December 20th

*Available*

# Parish / Community Events

## 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

## Christmas 2020 Schedule

### CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2020

4:30pm (52 Spots)

6:00pm (52 Spots)

### CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2020

10:30am (52 Spots)



Sign Up Link will be in your inbox Saturday morning,  
12/19, at 8am!

## YOUTH GROUP

Calling All Youth ages 13-18!!

The Cedars of Saint Sharbel is a "family" of young people who will meet in virtual meetings to discuss real life and how it relates to our faith in God and His tremendous love for humankind. We'll dig deep to answer some of life's greatest questions while developing friendships and having fun at the same time.

The next meeting will be January 9, 2021 at 1pm via Zoom

Watch for invitation in your inbox

Please email Gennifer Karam for questions or to sign up for the email list:

[jmjkaram3@gmail.com](mailto:jmjkaram3@gmail.com)



Sunday, December 20th, 2020, 10:30am

Youtube Channel Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi8CEQIEnX-VeERKBMqhKRA>

We'll be using this same link every week since it connects to St. Sharbel's Youtube Channel. Once there click on the appropriate date for mass.

### **In-Person Mass Sign Ups**

We are switching over to using Sign-Up Genius for our weekly in person sign ups. The system will allow you to access at any time and register or alter a reservation. It is able to update in real-time, where as I am not.

**Here is the link in case you need to check or alter your reservation.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EA9AF23A4FC1-mass1>

### **COVID MASS POLICIES**

- You will need to come with a mask. Mask may be removed to receive Communion obviously. We don't have masks to give you so please bring one.
- I cannot give Communion outside of Mass – this means in your cars, on the sidewalk, etc. Communion for the homebound is suppressed also at this time.
- Sit only in spot marked on pews. Remain physically distant as you enter and exit the church through the basement entrance only.
- No lingering after Mass, you will need to leave directly.
- If your name is not of the sign up list the ushers cannot allow you to come in. We will need to be strict about this and apologize in advance for problems that might arise.
- I request you only use the downstairs entrance, below the main stairs, the other doors will be closed, this will help us to be able to clean commonly touched surfaces.
- We will not allow use of missals, or other books in the pews. Do your best with the responses.
- Only people who are members of the parish are eligible at this point to attend our limited Masses. If you have been coming regularly, and are not registered elsewhere but have not registered with us, now is the time to do this. Archbishop has asked that we keep people going to the parishes they are registered as a way to respect fair and equitable access to all.

# Reflection

Historically, the line of succession for a monarch is extremely important: a king's father should be a king, whose father was also a king or at least noble. It is no different in Middle Eastern culture – we often discuss people's family and their line of descent as saying something about who they are. For royal persons, the proof of their royalty was shown by their genealogy, the record of their family through generations. This week we read the genealogy of Jesus from the Gospel (Matt. 1:1-17).

But what exactly does the reading mean? One would guess that the Lord of All, our Almighty God, would have the most prestigious genealogy when He willed to become man. However, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, chose to make himself “nothing by taking the very nature of a servant” (Phil. 2:7). So that Christ might raise up our fallen nature, the Most High took the lowest and humblest place on Earth. He Who is robed in fire in the courts of heaven chose to be born in a cave and placed in a trough of animals wrapped in rags. And His genealogy attests to His own lowering of His Lordship to humility.

Rather than examining each and every person mentioned in the 42 generations, it serves to look at just one as an example: Rahab. Rahab is mentioned in the beginning of the Old Testament in the Book of Joshua when the Hebrews are trying to establish themselves as a nation. This descendent of Christ is explicitly mentioned to be a prostitute. Though He could have chosen to have only royal ancestors, God chose to enter into the entire lowliness of the human race that He might sanctify and purify it entirely. If one of us were to be told our ancestor was a prostitute we would likely be embarrassed – but our God has chosen to become a lowly man that He might allow us to participate in His divine nature (what Eastern Christianity calls divinization or *theosis*).

Our Syriac Fathers emphasize often that the King of Kings, Jesus Christ, was not born to a great house but to a poor, young virgin, Mary, and Joseph, a working man. This is demonstrative of God's love for mankind, in that the Rich One would become poor to enrich us. When Christ became man, He united to His divinity to our humanity and therefore we were given access to His divinity. Our prayers for the Sunday Before Christmas recount this:

O Richest One, You became poor for our sake that You should make us rich. You dawned from the Holy Virgin and appeared in the world while legions of angels sang praises with their clamor on this day of Your birth, saying, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good hope to mankind.” O Lord, enrich us by the gift of Your divine graces and, with the heavenly hosts, may we offer glory and thanks to You, and to Your Father, and to Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen.

The Hidden One became manifest as man that we might not only see Him, but that we too might participate in the wealth of His holiness and immortality. Christ has come to save us, not because we did something to deserve His salvation but because of His gratuitous love.

By the descent of Christ, He has raised us up to be greater than the angels in that if we follow His will and receive what He has given us in His earthly dispensation we truly become the likeness of God as He made us (Gen. 1:27). Christ has suffered every abasement, condescension and abasement that He might lift us up from the shame of our sin to His own glory. Let us give thanks to Him in His humility and glorify Him for His love, which moved Him to elevate us by His birth.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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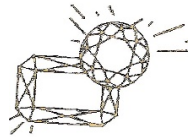
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