



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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

## December 19, 2021

The Genealogy of Jesus



### Next Sunday

*Sunday After the Birth of our Lord  
Praises to the Mother of God*

**Eph 1:3-14** (The Father's Plan of Salvation)

**Lk 1:46-55** (The Canticle of Mary)

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 19th, 11:00am

**+The soul of Kameel Mouammar &  
Gaby Bassili**

Monday, December 20th

**Kyle James Gilbert**

Tuesday, December 21st

**Kyle James Gilbert**

Wednesday, December 22nd

**Kyle James Gilbert**

Thursday, December 23rd

**Kyle James Gilbert**

Friday, December 24th

**Denise M. Gilbert**

Saturday, December 25th

**For the Souls in Purgatory**

Sunday, December 26th

**Available**

**Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 10:00  
am before the morning Liturgy.**

**Confession every Sunday 10:35-10:50am  
before the morning Liturgy.**

**Also join us to pray the Rosary on Sundays  
at 10:30 am before the Liturgy begins.**

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for December 5th - 11th*

Online.....\$1,520.00

Collection.....\$290.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,810.00

YTD Total.....\$97,310.47

YTD Goal.....\$92,300.00

YTD Difference.....\$5,010.47

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, December 19th

*Redmond Family*

Sunday, December 26th

*Available*

# Parish / Community Events

## Parish Council

Bruce Ashford  
Charlie Ashou  
Gus Bekahi  
Nick El Hajj  
Agopos Ghossein  
Adib Karam  
+Claude Karam  
Anne Marentette  
(Secretary)  
+Doug Raab  
+Thaddeus Rask  
Nadia Redmond  
Mitch Siekmann

Ex Officio  
+Deacon Tony  
+Deacon Wadih

+Finance  
Committee

**Christmas Eve Vigil: December 24, 2021**

**Kids Concert/play will be at 5:00pm, Mass will start immediately after**

**Christmas Day: December 25, 2021 11:00 am**

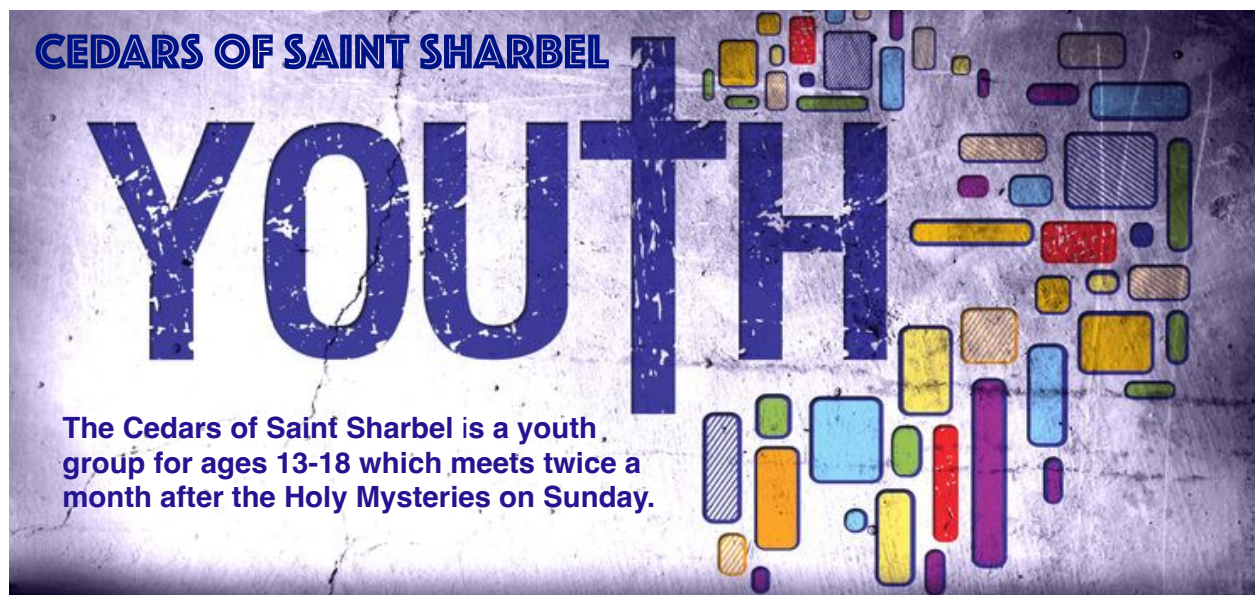
**Feast of Circumcision: January 1, 2022 11:00am**

## St. Sharbel Sunday School Program (Ages 6-12):

All meetings are held after the Divine Liturgy in the Parish Hall downstairs, unless otherwise noted. All participants will be required to wear a mask and practice physical distance. For more information contact Nadia Redmond at [n.redmond@comcast.net](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net).

## UPCOMING CLASSES AND EVENTS:

**December 19** - Preparation/rehearsal for *Children's Christmas Eve Pageant*



We will be meeting in person, God willing. Meetings will immediately follow mass, in the downstairs basement. All participants will be required to mask and social distance.

## 2022 Meetings (Subject to Change)

*January 9*

*January 23*

*February 6*

*February 20*

Meeting dates are posted here and sent out in email. For more information, contact Gennifer Karam: [jmjkaram3@gmail.com](mailto:jmjkaram3@gmail.com)



The MYA is a group of men and women ages 18-40 (ish) which meets once a month for fellowship, prayer, and social activities. If interested, please contact Claude Karam at [claudio@trazzafoods.com](mailto:claudio@trazzafoods.com)

Next Meeting Date TBA



# To All St. Sharbel Children, ages 4 to 17

Want to be part of our special Christmas Eve pageant on December 24th?



Sign up and try a part this Sunday, December 19 after Divine Liturgy in the Church parish hall (downstairs)

**Parts:**

*Readers of the First Christmas*

*Shepherds*

*Kings (or Wise men)*

*Angels*

**[Joseph and Mary are reserved for 2022 First Communicants]**

Contact Nadia Redmond at [n.redmond@comcast.net](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net) for more information.

## *You're Invited!*

*With Gratitude to Almighty God  
and to our Blessed Mother, Mary,*

*The Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles announces  
and the Kaldawi family invites you to the*

*Ordination to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ  
of Deacon Wadih Z. Kaldawi*

*Through the invocation of the Holy Spirit  
and the Imposition of hands by  
His Excellency Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, D.D., M.L.M.*

*On Saturday, January 29, 2022 at eleven o'clock in the morning*

*At St. John Maron Maronite Catholic Church*

*300 Flower St. Orange, California*

*A lunch reception will immediately follow  
in the Church banquet hall.*

*Father Wadih will celebrate his first Divine Liturgy at*

*St. John Maron on Sunday January 30, 2022 at*

*twelve fifteen o'clock in the afternoon.*

*A lunch will be served after the Divine Liturgy in the church hall.*

*Please respond by January 10, 2022 to Mona Kaldawi*

*(503) 313-6403 or email Monzak21@Hotmail.com*



## THANK YOU!



To ALL who made Christmas Ornaments, and earrings too. Last weekend fundraiser for the Maronite Monks was a success!

We raised **\$1,465** for the monks. God bless you, all!

## Reflection

The banquet was laid at the Consecration and Dedication of the Church, the guests were called through the Announcements, and now we are almost at the moment we have been awaiting for a long time - the Birth of Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is appropriate, then, that our period of long expectation should be concluded with Genealogy Sunday, named for the fact that the reading from the Gospel today lists Jesus's family descent from Adam, the first man, through his paternal side (that is, Joseph). And just as was seen last week with the reflection for the Revelation to Joseph, Christ's coming has been awaited for millennia!

Everything in the Old Testament bears witness to awaiting Christ. If we look at Genesis, the first book of the Bible, we find even Jacob, from the third generation of the forty-two listed in today's Gospel, expressing his hope for the coming of Christ. In Genesis 49:9-11, Jacob predicts a king from the children of Judah, who is also in the genealogy, that will be unmovable like a lion, universal in authority, and whose garments shall be soaked in what appears to be blood (similar to Is. 63:3). Jacob expresses his hope for the coming of Christ in his final earthly words - both His universal kingship and His salvific death.

Elsewhere in Scripture, a numberless amount of descriptions of the Lord to come is given by all the various prophets through the ages. Does this mean Jesus likes to keep His people waiting endlessly for the sake of suspense? Of course not. But since the Fall of Adam great damage was done to the relationship of God and man. The entire Old Testament details all the preparations for healing that damage - which is why the Old Testament is still very relevant to the Christian of today! It is not simply history past, but speaks to our relationship with Christ presently.

The idea of the application of Scripture both as a historical event and to our current relationship with God is known as typology. St. Ephrem and the Syriac Fathers used this very often. They sought out the images in the Old Testament, like those in Jacob's words, which give us insight into Christ. St. Ephrem said they are as endless and nourishing as a natural spring of water when we meditate upon them. One of the most common typology used by the Syriac Fathers is the Son of Man who appears in a furnace in Babylon when three saints of God are thrown into the same furnace by a pagan king, and the Son of Man (i.e. Jesus) protects them from harm (Dan. 3:25). The rich image speaks of Christ protecting us from spiritual and physical harm daily, as well as the fire of hell, from which He wishes to spare us.

A list of typologies that express the coming of our true Hope, Jesus, would fill volumes (as even St. Ephrem in his hundreds of works is unable to exhaust them all). But they can all be summarized by the St. Athanasius's words from his book *On the Incarnation*, "God became man so that man can become god," just as the priest says every mass, "You have assumed what is ours, and you have given us what is yours." God Who is incomprehensible and inexpressible lowered Himself in His mercy to human nature to not only restore what Adam lost, but offer participation in the divine nature, which we call *theosis*.

Since Adam mankind has awaited Jesus our God to united in relationship once again. But the coming of Christ did even more than we could have hoped - it united us in nature, elevating our humanity, granting us eternal life with Him when He comes again if we seek Him now. Let us give thanks to Him for His life-giving and saving Incarnation.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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