



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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

## November 26, 2023

**Announcement to Mary**



**Next Sunday**

***Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth***

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

**Lk 1:39-45** (Mary Visits Elizabeth)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for November 12th - 18th*

Online.....\$278.00

Collection.....\$722.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,000.00

YTD Total.....\$83,672.88

YTD Goal.....\$106,168.00

YTD Difference.....-\$22,495.12

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 26th, 11:00am

*Unavailable*

Monday, November 27th

*Available*

Tuesday, November 28th

***Mackenzie Mcadoo***

Wednesday, November 29th

***Adam Fuller***

Thursday, November 30th

***Frederick Johnson***

Friday, December 1st

***Emma Johnson***

Saturday, December 2nd

*Available*

Sunday, December 3rd

***+Chorbishop John Trad & 40 day  
Memorial Agopos Ghosshein***

***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.***

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, November 26th

*Available*

Sunday, December 3rd

*Available*

## Parish Council

Chair: Lydia Massaad

Charlie Ashou

Eva Bekahi

Ben El Hajj

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Michael Layoun

+Doug Raab

+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Peter Rizk

Mitch Siekmann

Gibran Zogbi

+Finance Committee



## Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

November 22, 2023

Dear Msgrs. and Fathers,

Greetings and Peace!

This time of year, we reflect on what we have to be thankful for in our lives. We thank our Almighty God for the gift of life and health, we thank our families for their love and support, and we thank our friends for their assistance and care.

Today, I would also like to thank all of you for your ministry of love and care to all of our Maronite people across the United States. Your work is vital to keeping our faith and heritage alive as well as continuing our Maronite tradition for future generations. You are the shepherds of God's people at the local level and your guidance is what keeps our parishes thriving. On a personal note, I am deeply grateful to each one of you for your love and support.

Please know that I am keeping you in my prayers, as I hope that you will keep me in yours.

Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving! May our merciful and loving God guide you and bless you all the days of our life.

With sincere best wishes and prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ,

+A. Elias Zaidan

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

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

Next Collection:

**December  
3rd**

Maronite  
Patriarchal  
Charities





# Parish Programs

## Maronite Young Adults (MYA)



MYA is a local chapter of a national Maronite organization for single and married men and women ages 19+

## NEXT MEETING: TBA

For more info on the MYA, contact [Claude@trazzafoods.com](mailto:Claude@trazzafoods.com)

## Wanted ONE Holy Hour per Week!



Contact Nadia Redmond  
503-671-0440

-or-

Email: [n.redmond@comcast.net](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net)

More info at:

<https://sevensistersapostolate.org/>

## PRAY THE ROSARY



EVERY SUNDAY BEFORE MASS  
WE PRAY THE ROSARY AT  
10:30AM.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PERSON OR  
WITHIN YOUR OWN FAMILY  
TO PRAY THE ROSARY  
TOGETHER.

SUNDAYS 10:30AM

DECEMBER 10

JANUARY 14

FEBRUARY 18

MARCH 10

APRIL 14

MAY 5

SAINT SHARBEL

## Youth AGES 12-17

"CEDARS OF SAINT SHARBEL"  
Youth Catechesis

Gennifer Karam

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



## 2024 REGIONAL RETREATS

### MIDWEST

JAN 12 -14, 2024

DAMASCUS CATHOLIC MISSION - CENTERBURG, OH

### WEST COAST

FEB 2 - 4, 2024

PAIL RETREAT - RUNNING SPRINGS, CA

### SOUTH

FEB 23 - 25, 2024

TEJAS CAMP & RETREAT - GIDDINGS, TX

EPARCHY OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON MYO



## Religious Education

To ALL Families with children between Ages 6-11

For Information about family catechesis and sacrament preparation

Contact Nadia Redmond, Coordinator of Religious Education, [n.redmond@comcast.net](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net)

Please continue to pray for our parish and ministries.



*“And he [Gabriel] came to her and said, ‘Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!’ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.” (Luke 1:28-9)*

This week we celebrate the second visit of the archangel Gabriel to bring news from God to a human. This time he is sent by the Father to announce the conception of Christ to the Holy Mother of God, Virgin Mary. And she is frightened and confused by this – but why is she not punished like Zechariah was for questioning Gabriel when she responds, “How can this be? (Luke 1:34). Like Zechariah, she was a devout Jew, and would have heard the entirety of the Scriptures read every year in the Temple. But precisely because she was familiar with the Scriptures she was confused by this greeting – as the Church Father Origen tells us, nowhere before was anyone addressed by the title “Full of Grace” in the Bible. Mary is confused because this new greeting addressed to her indicates a radically new plan of action on the part of God, Whose messenger Gabriel is. After all, Mary is a virgin and never before has a virgin given birth to a son, but exactly because God set aside this great work to indicate His coming, perhaps most clearly foreshadowing it when He said spoke through the prophet Isaiah, “A virgin will conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel [God is with us]” (Isaiah 7:14). Gabriel references this in his greeting when he says “the Lord is with you” and perhaps that might add to the shock of her unique title.

But whom exactly is Mary told she will conceive? We imagine Gabriel to say, “Upon your knees you will carry Him Whom the angels of dreadful fire on high fear to look upon,” (Morning Prayer for the Annunciation) and “Do not fear – the One Whose palm holds the width of the heavens has come and dwells in your pure womb” (Diaconal Proclamation for the Annunciation). It is a great and incomprehensible thing indeed! God the Ancient of Days and Creator of All has chosen this young girl, Mary, from before all ages to dwell within her and take flesh to become man. But why did God choose Mary?

God chose Mary from amongst all women because she is the holiest amongst every generation. And this holiness is from two means, ultimately both from God. The first means of her holiness is that which is purely gifted to her by God. Holiness is being set aside for the sake of God, and God sanctified Mary from the very beginning of her life. Our Tradition teaches us that she was consecrated a Temple Virgin from the beginning of her life, which meant she lived in the sanctuary and dedicated her life to prayer. But the second means of her holiness was her cooperation with God’s plan – in fact, we often depict the Annunciation occurring while she is praying in the Temple. Her sanctification did not take away her free will, but she was chosen because she persisted perfectly in a life of holiness and dedication to God. And when Gabriel revealed to her the seemingly impossible plan of God, that He would become man, that He Who is fire would dwell in flesh or the One Who governs legions of angels would lower Himself to become a child, what is her response? “Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). Mary is the perfect example of a Christian, because in the face of what seems to be absurdity, she trusts that God knows what He is about. And because of her trust we say to her “You are the mediator between divinity and humanity, and in you both sides were reconciled” (Diaconal Proclamation). The rift caused by the offenses of Adam were repaired quite literally in Mary, and she became the very meeting point of God and man. As such, let us ask our greatest intercessor to beseech her Son on our behalf all the days of our lives, for no man knows Him better.

—Article Credit St. Rafka Parish



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