



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

## Sunday of the Glorious Resurrection 2021

April 2021

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## CHRIST IS RISEN!

*Based on ancient prototypes, our icon of The Resurrection shows Christ's triumphant descent into Hades after His death on the Cross on Great Friday. As described in the Apocryphal Gospel of Nicodemus, we see Him freeing those souls held in the bondage of death, and also bestowing freedom on those righteous souls of Adam & Eve & the Fathers who were as yet unable to enter Paradise.*

*'I am the Resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.' John 11:25-26*

**Our Services HOLY MASSES**  
**DAILY:** Monday–Friday 8:00 AM Eng.  
**SATURDAY VIGIL:**  
 4:30 PM English  
**SUNDAY:** 9:30 AM English  
 & 11:30 AM Arabic/Aramaic/English  
**1st Sunday :** 4:30 PM  
 Rosario y la Misa en Español  
**2nd Sunday:** 4:30 PM  
 Tagalog Mass  
**1st SUNDAY** 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM  
**Youth Mass**

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Saturday & Sunday**

all Masses are first come first serve.

35% Capacity

Jesus



10325 RANCHO DESTINO RD, LAS VEGAS NV 89183 **PHONE:** 702-616-6902



Resurrection is the central event of our salvation. Today the Church and her children rejoice for Our Lord and Savior has risen from the dead. The Resurrection is the feast of feasts. Originally the Church celebrated only one feast, the Resurrection itself, which was recalled and renewed each Sunday at the celebration of the Divine Mysteries. In the Maronite tradition, the solemnity of the Resurrection of Our Lord is expressed by a special rite called the "Rite of Peace". Peace was the first word with which the Risen Lord greeted His disciples. His good news to them was, primarily, an announcement of peace. By His Resurrection, He established peace between His Father and the world, and thus brought creation back to its original destiny. Peace, was then the primary teaching that the Maronite Liturgy has retained from the great event of the Resurrection. The Rite of Peace is the rite of exaltation of the "empty" and glorious Cross, to proclaim the victory of the risen Lord, the font of our peace.

**READING:****Philippians 1:1-13****GOSPEL: John 12:12-22****SUNDAY OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION**

**Christ is  
Risen!  
Truly  
Risen!  
Alleluia!**

The week of Resurrection is known by different names in the Maronite Liturgy: Week of the Resurrection, Easter Week, Week of Renewals, Week of Weeks. However, the name most commonly applied is "Week of Hawareyeen." The word reinforces "purity", "white", and "justification". It refers to the angels at the empty tomb who announced His Resurrection, or to the Lord's disciples who believed in His Resurrection and thus, were clothed in "righteousness", or to the newly baptized members of the Church.

**BLIND WOMAN CLAIMS TO BE HEALED AFTER BLESSING AT CHURCH**

A few months ago, Dafne Gutierrez claims, she went blind. She said she would look up into the sunlight, but see only darkness.

"I lost it completely. I went blind," Gutierrez said.

The Gutierrez family still can't believe that she got her sight back after being legally blind.

"It was hard for me not to see my kids' face," she said.

But then she walked through the doors of the Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church, where she met Father Wissam Akiki.

"I blessed her head, both eyes and I asked God to heal her," Akiki said.

Two days after visiting the church, she said, a miracle happened -- she could see again.

"I tell my husband, 'I see you and not only with one eye, I see you with both eyes,'" Gutierrez said. She said her vision returned and it was something that nobody could explain -- even her doctors.

"I couldn't believe it. I didn't want to close my eyes," Gutierrez said. "Right away my kids said, 'God healed my mommy.'"

12 News spoke to Dr. Jimmy Saade, who reviewed her medical reports.

"I have several documents, including one for 2014 that says she's legally blind," he said.

He admits that as a physician, there is still some doubt and disbelief.

"I don't think it can be explained medically," Saade said. "She had another meeting with her ophthalmologist, and her vision is near perfect."

Gutierrez said her doctors were also shocked at what happened.

"One kept repeating, 'No way, no way,'" Gutierrez said.

Going into that church, she said, is a moment she will never forget.

"To be able to read a paper stating that I was going to be blind forever...it's just a blessing," she said.

As she moves forward, now in the light, she offers this advice:

"God does exist. You just have to have faith."



## OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS: COMMON EFFORTS NEEDED IN EDUCATION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Pope Francis highlights the importance of joint, concerted efforts to fight the global phenomena of climate change and poverty during an online forum on Biodiversity organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Pope Francis sent a message to the participants at the recently-held UNESCO Forum on Biodiversity organized to discuss ideas to shape and fuel a dialogue on environmental challenges and their implications for the world.

The virtual event which took place on 24 March, also marked the official launch of the 50th-anniversary celebrations for the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program. The forum was attended by prestigious speakers and biodiversity protectors from around the world.

The Pope's message, read by Archbishop Francesco Follo, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), was centered around the theme of "Climate change and poverty."

The need for a new development model.

Expressing gratitude for the opportunity for discussion presented by the forum, Pope Francis highlighted the importance of the fight against climate change and poverty which he describes as "two complex and interdependent objectives" in light of which it is necessary to redefine a new model of development.

This new model, the Pope explained, is one that places each man and woman, and the whole man at the center "as the fundamental pillar to be respected and protected, while adopting a methodology that integrates the ethics of solidarity and political charity."

Only in this way, he insisted, will it be possible to promote the "truly universal common good and a true civilization of love where there is no place for a pandemic of indifference and waste." Education to tackle climate warming.

Speaking further, the Pope said that it is in this perspective – the same in which the Paris Agreement is inserted – that we are becoming more aware of that climate change is "much more a moral than a technical issue" which can only be tackled by investing in "educating new generations on lifestyles that are respectful of creation which have so far remained unexplored."

"It is particularly important that young people are trained in the safeguarding of creation and respect for others, to be able to engage in the promotion of new production and consumption habits, in order to generate a new model of economic growth that puts the environment and people at the center," the Pope said.

Moreover, the impact of global warming on the poorest people already pushes us to consider the response to the socio-environmental crisis as a unique opportunity to responsibly take charge of the fragility of our common home.

The necessity of joint efforts

Pope Francis added that if we want to effectively combat climate change, "we must act together, taking into account the need to implement a thorough examination of the current development model in order to correct its anomalies and distortions."

"Providing concrete responses to the serious phenomenon of global warming is a moral imperative," he stressed. "Failure to act will have secondary effects, especially among the poorest stratum of society, who are also the most vulnerable to these changes."

In this regard, the Holy Father highlighted the crucial importance of the work of UNESCO which is based on the ethical implications of the climate emergency in order to deepen the scientific aspects.

The Pope also underlined the contribution that not only government representatives, but also civil society, the academic and scientific world, local communities and indigenous people can bring to the fight against climate change. He noted that "these non-state actors, often at the forefront of the fight against climate change, show particular sensitivity in the search for innovative ways to promote a sustainable production and consumption system and thus become interpreters of the cry of the earth and the poor."

Concluding, the Holy Father impressed the urgency of joint action, stressing that "time is running out for the search for global solutions and the current health emergency obliges us to "recover our concern for human beings, for everyone, rather than the benefit of a few." He also expressed hope that the forum may "contribute to strengthening the processes of transformation necessary to counteract the phenomenon of climate change and at the same time fight against poverty, thus promoting true integral human development."



*Young Ugandans demonstrate for changes in environmental policies*



## LEBANON FACING COUP THREAT, OUR MARONITE PATRIARCH CARDINAL BECHARA EL RAI WARNS RALLY

The leader of Lebanon's influential Christian Maronite church has warned that the country is facing the threat of a "full-fledged coup," and called for an international conference to avert "chaos, hunger and oppression."

In an emotional address to thousands of followers on Saturday, Patriarch Bechara Boutros Al-Rai said that he was "drawing red lines for anyone who harbors evil for Lebanon, regardless of their sect."

His comments were widely seen as a veiled reference to Iran-backed Hezbollah along with the Free Patriotic Movement (FPM) and its founder President Michel Aoun.

"We are facing a full-fledged coup attempt," Al-Rai told Lebanese who traveled to the church's headquarters in Bkerke to support his demand for a UN-sponsored international conference to save Lebanon. In response to the patriarch's speech, people chanted: "Hezbollah is terrorist," "Get out, Iran" and "Michel Aoun, leave."

Cries of "Revolution! Revolution!" were also heard.

The Bkerke rally went ahead despite measures to limit gatherings amid the Coronavirus pandemic, with some observers suggesting it could signal an end to the stalemate in Lebanese politics.

**We want to provide support to the Lebanese Army, making it Lebanon's sole defender.**

**-Patriarch Bechara, Boutros Al-Rai**

The FPM, led by Gebran Bassil, did not attend, saying it feared that the gathering "would be used against it," according to affiliated websites.

Sources at Bkerke told Arab News that Al-Rai decided to speak out "because Lebanon is facing an existential threat" following the failure of a string of initiatives, including his efforts to reconcile Aoun and Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri.

Banners unfurled on the dome of the Bkerke church read: "Neutrality, sovereignty, and stability," "Lebanon comes first and last," and "Bkerke for all of Lebanon."

Al-Rai said at the outset of his address: "Long live a single, united and neutral Lebanon that is active, positive, sovereign, independent, free and strong."

He said: "We are demanding this now because all other solutions have reached a dead end, and we have not been able to agree on the fate of our country, nor even to discuss our homeland's affairs. We support finding a solution inside Lebanon."

He added: "To let hunger and oppression destroy the country is something we do not accept in any way. Rejecting the proposed solutions means chaos and seizing the levers of power."

Al-Rai called for an international conference to ensure Lebanon's neutrality, so that it "is no longer a victim of conflicts and wars, and a land of division."



*Lebanon's Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi (or Rai) greets supporters ahead of a speech on February 27, 2021 at the Maronite Patriarchate in the mountain village of Bkerki, northeast of Beirut.*

He added: "We want the state to extend its authority over the entire Lebanese territory. We want to provide support to the Lebanese army, making it Lebanon's sole defender."

Al-Rai said the UN-sponsored conference also should agree on a plan "to prevent the resettlement of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and ensure a safe return for Syrian refugees to their homeland."

He said: "We do not want armies and camps, nor do we want Lebanon to be undermined. Lebanon's borders are not subject to amendment, its Christian-Muslim partnership is untouchable, and its democracy is not subject to veto." The patriarch called on protesters to continue to speak out, saying: "Do not remain silent in the face of corruption. Do not tolerate the theft of your money, the fluid borders, the failure of the political class, the chaos in the investigation into the Beirut port explosion, or the imprisonment of the innocent."

"Do not tolerate the failure in forming a government and implementing reforms."

Participants in the rally, many from different sects, told Arab News that Al-Rai is their last hope. "No politician cares for the collapsing state. Politicians have left us on our own," said one. A Muslim woman in her 50s said: "This is an opportunity to raise our voice. The patriarch's stances are patriotic, and history will remember him. The country is collapsing."

A man in his 40s said: "I have come to Bkerke to say that people suffer from hunger and despair, and there is nothing left to lose."

Internal security forces personnel were deployed on the road to the church's headquarters, and those entering the square were searched. Before the gathering, Hezbollah and FPM supporters took to social media to share tweets opposing the event.



**CHRIST IS RISEN**  
**TRULY RISEN**



## ❖ EASTER WEEKEND

Saturday, April 3

@ 4:30 PM Vigil Mass, English

@11 PM Midnight Mass ( Al-Hajmeh) English & Arabic

EASTER SUNDAY April 4

@ 9:30 AM English (LV)

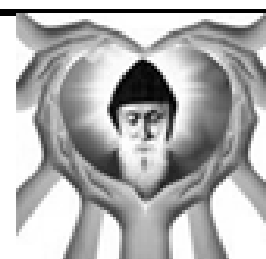
@11:30 AM Arabic



❖ Easter Monday of Apparition of Our Lord, April 5 @ 8 AM Mass

❖ Sunday, April 11 Feast of the Divine Mercy & blessing with st. Faustina's relics

9:30 am English Mass (LV) & 11:30 am Arabic Mass



## OUR MARONTIE CATHOLIC EASTER (WEEK OF HAWAREYEEN) WEEK OF APPARITION OF OUR LORD

The *Vigil of Easter* is the night before Easter spent in prayers and praises of the Resurrected Christ, and was the perfect time to restore the backsliders to faith and administer Baptism to new catechumens who prepared themselves during Lent with prayer and fasting. Our Maronite Church shares this tradition with the Roman Catholic Church. This is a common heritage for all Eastern and Western Churches. However, one of the most important ceremonies and celebrations was the celebration of Easter at Midnight, the first hour of the day.

The ceremony of Easter is the Rite of Peace. Jesus Christ is the King of Peace. By His Death and His Resurrection he brought peace to earth. Saint Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans:

*"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access (by faith) to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us"* (Romans 5:1-5).

The Rite of Peace is celebrated at Midnight Liturgy and/or Easter Sunday morning during the Divine Liturgy when the priest blesses the congregation with the Cross. Easter Sunday is the day of Peace. May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ Risen from the dead be with you all: "In the for knowledge of God the Father, through sanctification by the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling with the blood of Jesus Christ: may grace and peace be yours in abundance (1 Peter 1:2). Today's theologians and researchers are discovering the profundity and the richness of our Eastern Tradition and they are teaching it in all western and European schools and institutions of Philosophy and Theology... I hope that this brief description and explanation of the theology and the spirituality of the Maronite Church all through the Holy Week will increase in your hearts the love of the Church and participation in all her ceremonies, liturgies and prayers of this blessed week. I hope that you understand better why this week is so important, and why it is necessary to learn more and more about our Maronite Tradition and our Eastern Catholic Churches. The more you discover the richness of our Syriac Tradition, the more you will love your Church, and the more you will be proud to belong to the Eastern Churches.

**المسيح قام حقًا قام**

**Christ is Risen! He is truly risen!**  
**Χριστος Ανεστη! Αληθως Ανεστη!**



## MIRACLE IN BALTIMORE

We, Catholics, believe in the Real Presence, we have no doubt about it. But still, when we come across a miracle confirming this Truth, our Catholic souls always rejoice.

I read this many years ago and I have kept this to share with you today.

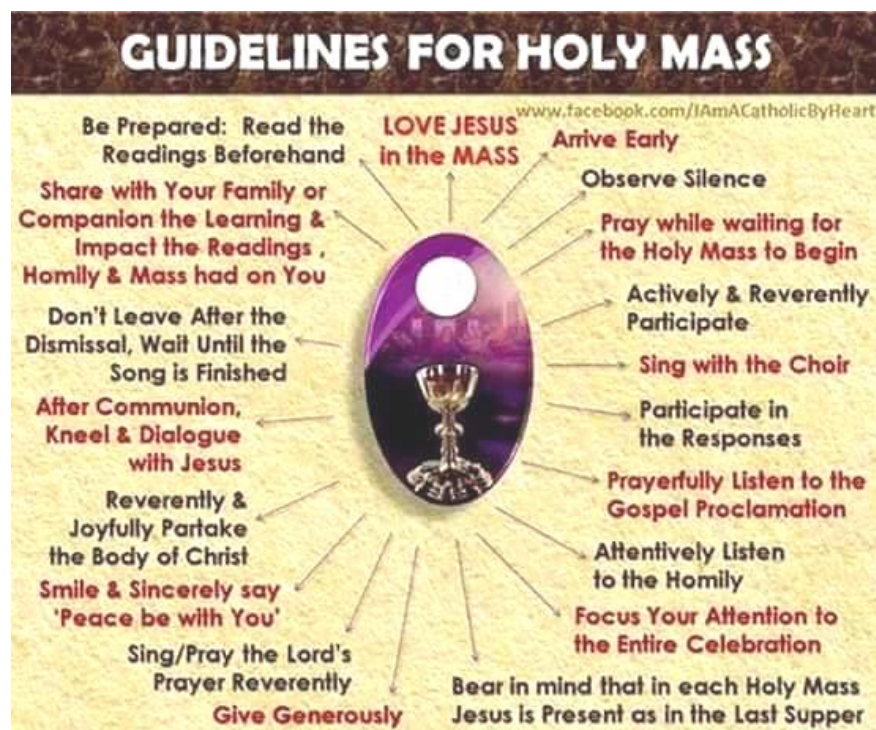
The story I read was from Father Albert J. Byrne, and the title of the article was Nature's Evidence of the Real Presence.

Here is the story:

On the evening of the last day of his October 1995 visit to the United States, Pope John Paul II was scheduled to greet the seminarians at Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. It had been a very full day that began with a Mass at Oriole Park in Camden Yards; a parade through downtown streets; a visit to the Basilica of the Assumption, the first cathedral in the country; lunch at a local soup kitchen run by Catholic Charities; a prayer service at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in North Baltimore; and finally a quick stop at Saint Mary's Seminary.

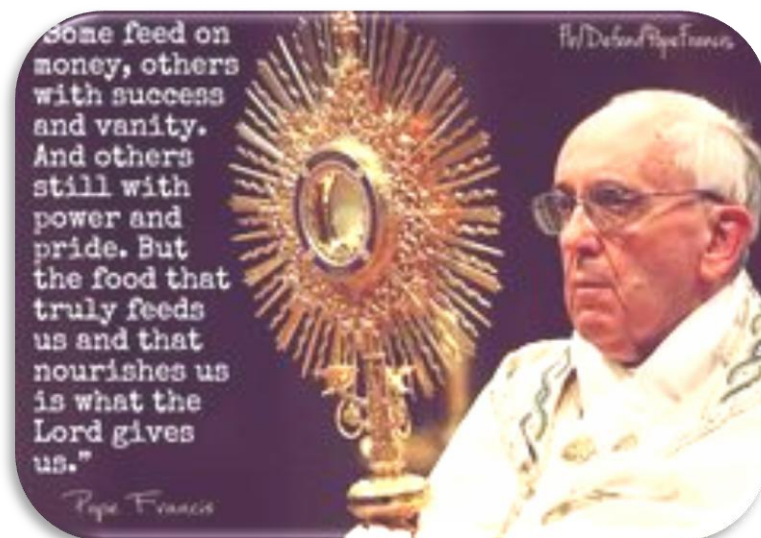
The schedule was tight so the plan was simply to greet the seminarians while they stood outside on the steps. But the Pope made his way through their ranks and into the building. His plan was to first make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. When his wishes were made known, security flew into action. They swept the building, paying close attention to the chapel where the Pope would be praying. For this purpose, highly trained dogs were used to detect any person who might be present.

The dogs are trained to locate survivors in collapsed buildings after earthquakes and other disasters. These highly intelligent and eager dogs quickly went through the halls, offices and classrooms and were then sent to the chapel.



They went up and down the aisles, past the pews and finally into the side chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. Upon reaching the tabernacle, the dogs sniffed, whined, pointed, and refused to leave, their attention riveted on the tabernacle, until called by their handlers. They were convinced that they discovered someone there. We Catholics know they were right—they found a real, living Person in the tabernacle!

Every time I read this story I feel uplifted. God is often testing our Faith, but from time to time He gives us a pearl like this to boost our Faith and help us move onward and upward in our spiritual journey



# *Beautiful Faces & Places*



*The bans of marriage  
between Amanda Saade  
& Jorge Olivas will be  
taking place in two months.*



*Congratulation to Joshua & Milena  
Leonard on the baptism of their son  
Christian Jared Leonard*

*Oldest Maronite  
that lived  
in the USA*

*Born October  
1914  
Died February  
2021*



*Mary Ann Aragi was born in Shelton, Connecticut, October 1914 to her parents Hannah Aragi and Amelia Barakat Aragi both from Zghorta.*

*They immigrated to the US in 1912 and went to Italy and France trying to get a passage on the Titanic but it was sold out so they sailed on another ship from Marseille France. Mary had 10 brothers and sisters. 2 were born in Lebanon and 8 in the USA. Mary went to college and obtained her Register nursing degree in 1938.*

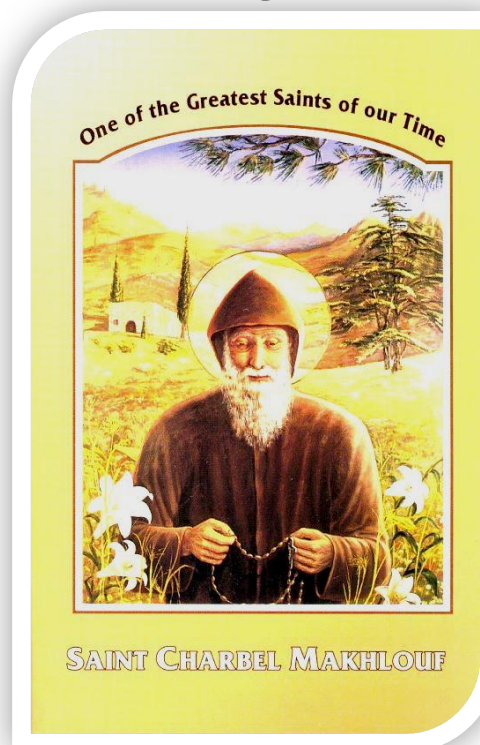
*In November of 1938 her father sent her to Lebanon to be a guardian to her younger brother Joseph who was in College des Freres. She was married in April 1939 to Joseph Salim Roumanos and had five children. She returned to the USA after 23 years in 1961 since her oldest son Robert was finishing his service duty in the US army.*

*She has 17 grandchildren, 26 great grandchildren, and over 100 nieces and nephews.*



## HEALING OF SAINT SHARBEL: Georges Wehbeh

After nine years of marriage, Georges didn't have babies due to sterility. He visited the tomb of Saint Charbel and asked his intercession in order to have a baby. The saint answered his prayer and Georges had a son after nine months and he named him Charbel. He came once again to the convent in order to get this miracle registered.



*Life of  
Saint  
Sharbel  
Book &  
DVD  
available  
at the Gift  
Shop*

***Saint Sharbel Healing Oil of Gladness & Novena  
are available at the St. Sharbel Grotto.  
If you have received graces of healing & blessing  
through St. Sharbel, write or email us***

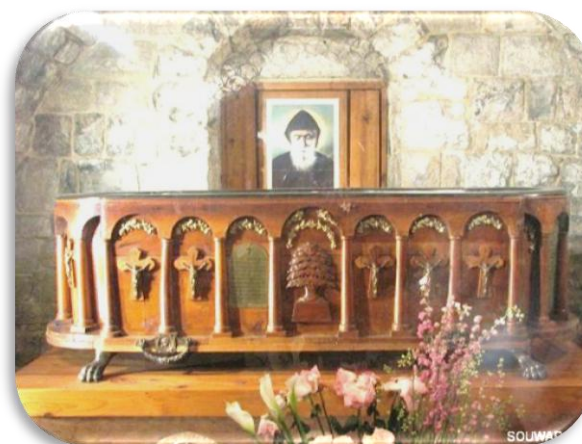
## **ST. SHARBEL IN PHILIPPINES**

A girl from Philippines who works as a maid at a house of a Christian family in Beirut called her mother in Philippines to check on her, her mother cried and said to her: I am going to die before I see you, I'm very sick and living my last days.

The girl cried so bitterly for it was very difficult for her to travel to Philippines, the trip was very expensive and she was poor, she also had signed a 2 year work contract, plus the couple she works for both have jobs and they need her to take care of their two little children. She cried so hard and the couple did not know what to do to comfort her. They then offered to take her to visit St. Sharbel, she accepted thankfully.

When she got to Annaya, she knelt for 2 and half hours near St. Sharbel's tomb and prayed fervently saying: St. Sharbel please look at my situation with clemency & heal my mother, I want to see her before she dies, and you know how poor and helpless I am, I can't go to her, then she returned with the family, her eyes were so red for she was crying for hours.

As soon as she got to Beirut her mother calls her saying: thank you daughter for sending me a doctor from Lebanon who healed me.



***The Tomb of Saint Sharbel in Annaya, Lebanon where  
thousands of devotees come from all over the world to seek  
intercession from the incorruptible body of the Holy Hermit.***

The girl answered: I never sent anyone!

The mother insisted saying: yes, you did, he told me that you sent him to me from Lebanon!

Then the girl asked her mother: how did he look like? What was he wearing?

The mother answered: he was wearing a black cloak and he had a white beard.

The girl was shocked and asked: what time did he come?

The mother said: at 1:15 PM

The girl cheered and said to her mother: this was Saint Sharbel, he visited you after I knelt before him, and this was the time I was praying before his tomb, he was healing you in Philippines.

***GOD IS GLORIFIED IN HIS SAINTS***





# Filipino News



## OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS APPOINTS CARDINAL ADVINCULA AS NEW MANILA ARCHBISHOP

Pope Francis has appointed Cardinal Jose Advincula of Capiz as the new archbishop of Manila.

The appointment was made public in Rome at 12 noon (7:00 p.m. in Manila) on Thursday, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord.

Advincula will succeed Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples in the Vatican.

The archdiocese has been without an Archbishop since Tagle left for Rome in February 2020.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines congratulated Advincula on his appointment as the 33rd Archbishop of Manila.

"We wish the Archbishop-elect God's abundant blessing in his new mission and offer him our continued prayers and support," said Archbishop Romulo Valles, CBCP President.

Born on March 30, 1952 in Capiz's Dumalag town, Advincula was ordained a priest for the archdiocese in 1976.

The 68-year old cardinal was the spiritual director of the St. Pius X Seminary, where he was also professor and dean of education.

He subsequently began his studies in psychology at the De La Salle University of Manila, and in canon law at the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas of Manila and at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas-Angelicum in Rome, obtaining a licentiate in canon law.

Back home, he served in the seminaries of Vigan, Nueva Segovia and in the regional seminary of Jaro.

In 1995, he was appointed Rector of the St. Pius X Seminary of Capiz and became the Defender of the Bond, promoter of justice and finally Judicial Vicar of the archdiocese.



**Cardinal Jose Advincula, the newly appointed archbishop of Manila**

Advincula then became parish priest of Saint Thomas of Villanueva in Dao in 1999.

He was appointed bishop of San Carlos in July 2001 and was transferred to Capiz in 2011, after the retirement of Archbishop Onesim Cordocillo.

In October last year, the pope named Advincula as among the Church's 13 new Cardinal. He was elevated at a consistory on November 28, 2020.

On Dec. 16, 2020, the pope also appointed the Filipino Cardinal as member of the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy, the office responsible for the formation, ministry and life of priests and deacons.

## GOV'T ALLOWS ONCE-A-DAY CHURCH SERVICES OF 10% CAPACITY FOR HOLY WEEK

The government's Covid-19 task force reversed its earlier policy on religious gatherings, and allowed once-a-day church services at 10 percent capacity for the Holy Week.

The decision of the Inter-Agency Task Force for churches in Metro Manila and nearby provinces was announced by Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque on Friday.

"The IATF has allowed once-a-day religious gatherings from (supply the date) April 4. They have to follow the maximum indoor capacity of 10 percent at all times," Roque said.

However, he said that gatherings outside churches are prohibited to prevent mass goers from crowding.

Roque also said that the policy is not limited to the Catholic Church but also for other religious denominations.

The government also encouraged recorded singing over live singing during the Mass.

The IATF has earlier banned mass gatherings including worship services in NCR and in the provinces of Rizal, Laguna, Cavite and Bulacan to stem the surge of Covid-19 cases.

Church officials then appealed to authorities to allow at least 10 percent attendance especially during the Holy Week.

The Manila archdiocese encouraged people to join Masses and other church activities online.

"We encourage people to join online as we are aware of the situation," said Fr. Genardo Diwa of Manila archdiocese's Commission on Liturgy.

"Even if we are allowed 10 percent, we will still ask our people to join us online and social media," he said.



**Catholics wear face masks and face shields as they attend Mass at the Manila Cathedral on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021**

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



During the Mass of canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000, the year of the Great Jubilee, Pope John Paul II proclaimed:

"It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of

God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church, will be called Divine Mercy Sunday." The readings on that Sunday are always about mercy, trust and the forgiveness of sins.

By the words "the whole message," the Holy Father was referring to the strict connection between the "Easter Mystery of the Redemption" -- the suffering, death, burial, Resurrection, and Ascension of Christ, followed by the sending of the Holy Spirit -- and this Feast of Divine Mercy, on the Octave Day of Easter. This feast adds so much more meaning to the Easter celebrations. It was Jesus, Himself who asked for it to be celebrated on this particular Sunday following Easter.

There has been much confusion as to how this feast is to be celebrated. To know how to celebrate the Feast, one must only look at the two decrees that were issued by the Holy See and the words of Our Lord in the diary of St. Faustina, which the Church has accepted, as reliable and worthy of belief. The first decree which established the Feast states that the normal readings for that Sunday are always to be used. They are already perfect as they are and reflect what the Image of Divine Mercy portrays.

The second decree is for the plenary indulgence for Divine Mercy Sunday that was issued on June 29, 2002. This decree also states what the specific duties of Priests are to be, which can be found in the last paragraphs: inform the parishioners, hear confessions, and lead the prayers. The indulgence decree also asks Priests to gently encourage the Faithful to practice works of charity or mercy as often as they can, following the example of Christ.

The words of Our Lord in the diary are very clear, Jesus said, "I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it. By means of the Image, I shall be granting many graces to souls; so let every soul have access to it." (Diary 341, 570) The Image should be placed in the church so that everyone can see it, perhaps in the sanctuary area and at all the Masses on that day so that everyone may venerate and know about it and come to trust in the Lord.

Our Lord also said, "I desire that priests proclaim this great mercy of Mine towards souls of sinners. Tell My priests that hardened sinners will repent on hearing their words when they speak about My unfathomable mercy, about the compassion I have for them in My Heart. To priests who proclaim and extol My mercy, I will give wondrous power; I will anoint their words and touch the hearts of those to whom they will speak." (Diary, 50, 1521) Easter Sunday is the best time to proclaim God's mercy.

## How to Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday

Many dioceses have special organized Diocesan wide celebrations and have advertised in diocesan publications and the mass media. Because Our Lord said that the feast is to be a "refuge for sinners" it is most important to use the mass media to encourage fallen away Catholics to return to the practice of their faith and seek repentance. The promise of the total forgiveness of sins and punishment is the best motivational tool that we could ever find to get souls to come back to the practice of their faith.

Our Lord Jesus said, "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." On that day all the Divine floodgates thru which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.... Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy." (699) The plenary indulgence that was issued for Divine Mercy Sunday does not change the promises of Our Lord. Rather it provides the Church's highest mark of approval and endorsement and gives souls more time to go to Confession.

Priests have remarked "I have the highest regard for it. A gift and a great privilege for all. An extra gift that Our Lord chose St. Faustina to bring to the world for our times." and, "We will have the Image at all Masses and we will have a solemn Mass at noon. It is appropriate to celebrate it on this day where the readings already speak of the forgiveness of sins and mercy." Many parishes have optional devotions at 3pm (the hour of mercy, as Jesus referred to it) with Confessions available for those that need to go.

Our Lord also said, "The first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy....I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me." (Diary, 742) It is clear that Our Lord wants mercy to be shown to others and this can be done by telling everyone about the special promise of the total forgiveness of sins and punishment that He has graciously given to us.

In the Holy Father's homilies, he often refers to the words of Our Lord that are found in the diary. In his homily on Divine Mercy Sunday in 2001 in Rome he said, "It is the appropriate and incisive answer that God wanted to offer to the questions and expectations of human beings in our time, marked by terrible tragedies. Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity." He often quotes Our Lord by starting with "Jesus said to St. Faustina." He spoke of the Image of The Divine Mercy saying "The two rays, according to what Jesus Himself told her, denote blood and water. The blood recalls the sacrifice of Golgotha and the mystery of the Eucharist: the water makes us think of Baptism and the Gift of the Holy Spirit."

So as we can see, the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday is quite simple, in fact, outside of having an image of The Divine Mercy in the church to venerate, preaching about Trust and Mercy, and leading the prayers after the Masses for the plenary indulgence, there really isn't anything else to do on that day itself. It is Jesus Himself that does all the work on that day. Most of the energy should be focused on getting people to come back Church on Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus will do the rest. All that we need to do is to tell everyone about the plenary indulgence and urge them to go to Confession. We can not forget that Easter Sunday is the best time for us to talk about mercy, because the churches are so full of people in so great a need.





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# **HOLY MASS INTENTIONS**

## **WEEKEND**

**Saturday 4:30pm Apr 3**

\*Fritz Coscolluela  
Healing: Vincent Lopez  
+Estella Hernandez  
+Maria Wilmeth  
+Aurora Vicente

**Saturday 11 pm**

**Christ is Risen!  
Truly Risen! Alleluia!**

**Sunday 9:30 am Apr 4**

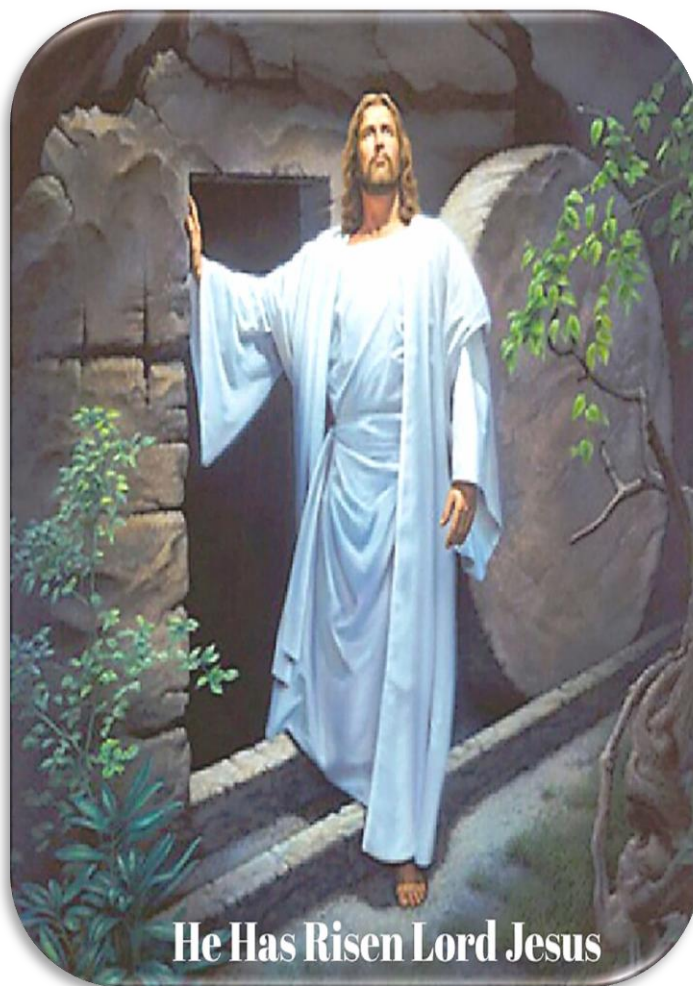
**Christ is Risen!  
Truly Risen! Alleluia!**

**Sunday 11:30 am**

**Christ is Risen!  
Truly Risen! Alleluia!**

**5 pm Misa en Español**

*¡Cristo ha resucitado!  
¡Realmente resucitado! Aleluya!*



He Has Risen Lord Jesus

## **PRAY FOR THE SICK**

## **DAILY 8AM**

**MONDAY**

**Apr 5**

+Teresa Cao

**TUESDAY**

**Apr 6**

\*Gary Pollard  
+Castrence Menesses  
(40 days)

**WEDNESDAY**

**Apr 7**

+Thomas Sr., Mary  
Thomas Jr.  
& Michael Kurey

**THURSDAY**

**Apr 8**

+Carole Morton

**FRIDAY**

**Apr 9**

\*Joanna Pollard

## **El Grupo Guadalupano**

de la Iglesia de San Charbel Te invita a que asistas a la  
Misa y El Rosario que se celebran el primer domingo cada  
mes comenzado,

**DIA: Domingo 4 de Abril**

**HORA: Rosario 4:30pm Misa**

**DONDE: Iglesia Catolica de San Charbel  
10325 Rancho Destino Rd,  
Las Vegas, NV 89183**

Despues de la Misa te invitamos a que nos acompañes a una pequeña  
recepcion donde compartiremos: café, postres, y bocadillos con todos los  
asistentes. Si tienes alguna duda communicate con: Oficina de la Iglesia 702-616-6902

