



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

December 2022

SUNDAY OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST



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A rabbi, priest, and minister where discussing the theological question: "When does life begin?" The priest claimed it was at the moment of conception. The minister argued it was at birth. The rabbi nodded and told them that he understood their points of view. "But", he added, "after considerable thought and experience, I've come to the conclusion that life begins when the children leave home."

A child is born, John the Baptist, and for his parents life truly begins. Welcome to today's Gospel. A few weeks from now we will celebrate the birth of Jesus. Days after that the Church recalls all those babies slaughtered under the orders of Herod. Christmas is the time of Jesus birth who came into the world as a baby, to share in the life of children.

The Gospel passage in Luke describes the birth of John the Baptist as a village affair, with neighbors and relatives all coming to offer congratulations (just like the Lebanese). A child is a gift to all and this is reflected also in the aboriginal culture where the women of the tribe collectively took care of all the children so that the word "mother" and "auntie" are the same word in the aboriginal tongue.

Children are the fruit of love between parents as the Church declares. Children are those gorgeous creatures that run around and play havoc with the furniture, shed crocodile tears in an effort to get their way and then reward you for your attention with a big hug and a slobbery kiss. But on a more serious note, it is in being around children that our Christian spirit comes forth. Children make it so easy to love and laugh, to smile and care, forgive and help. Perhaps by spending more time with children, we can learn to become more compassionate and generous.

Jesus came as a baby and was circumcised. Jesus was a child among teachers of the Law in the temple. During Jesus' life children had a special place. In His mission Jesus welcomed little children to Him and blessed them. He reminded His listeners that unless they become like little children they will not enter the kingdom of heaven. So as we celebrate the birth today of *In the 4 Run r* (that's John the forerunner in the language of today's children), let us bring out the child within each of us. Amen.

Pastor: Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid
Our Services

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

Tuesday @ 6 pm Rosary & Bible

Anointing of the Sick every 1st Tuesday

10325 RANCHO DESTINO RD

LAS VEGAS NV 89183

PHONE: 702-616-6902

www.stsharbellsvegas.org

READING:

1 SAMUEL

1:9-11, 19B-23

GALATIANS 4:21-5:1

GOSPEL:

LUKE 1:57-66



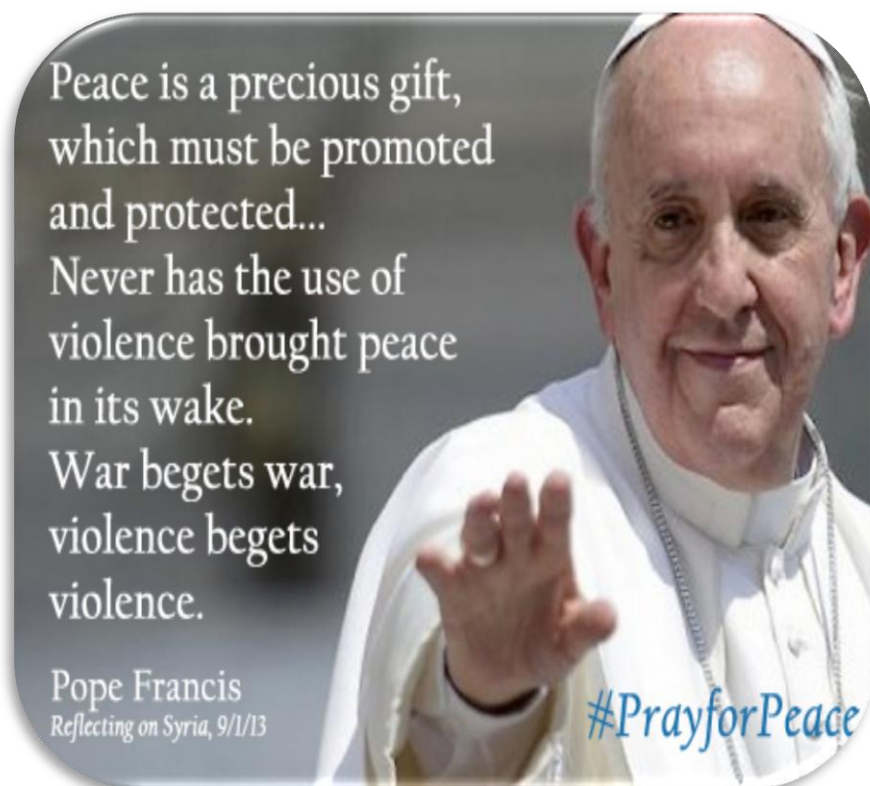
OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS APPEALS FOR ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE

Expressing concern over the increase in violence and clashes taking place in the State of Palestine and Israel, Pope Francis called on authorities there to find ways to move dialogue forward to build mutual trust for a lasting peace.

After leading the recitation of the Angelus prayer on Sunday, Pope Francis said he is following with concern about the increase in violence and fighting that has taken place in the State of Palestine and Israel over the past months. He recalled last Wednesday's appalling attacks in Jerusalem that killed a young Israeli boy and injured many others, while noting that a Palestinian boy died in armed clashes the same day during clashes in Nablus.

The Pope pointed out that violence kills the future, shattering the lives of the young and weakening hopes for peace. He called on everyone to pray "for these young men who died and for their families, especially their mothers."

The Pope also expressed his hopes that the Israeli and Palestinian authorities "will more readily take to heart" the search for dialogue and building mutual trust, essential if there is to be peace in the Holy Land.



St. Sharbel Helping Hands Project *Assisting 300 needy families 2022*

Food Donations were given to the following Churches & Villages:

1. Our Lady of Sahil Father Elias Chatawi / 20 boxes
2. St. Doumit Nabaa Father Antoine Baz / 50 boxes
3. Our Lady of Rosary Ghadir Father Robert Deccache / 20 boxes
4. Our Lady of perpetual help Jounieh / 10 boxes
5. The Forgotten Charity Father John Khalifee / 100 boxes
6. Silfia / 3 boxes
7. St. Maroun Jaroujoua / 7 boxes
8. St. Elias Mlikh / 5 boxes
9. Rmeish Rabih / 10 boxes
10. Hemleya / 5 boxes
11. Gaby & slim / 60 boxes
12. Saidi / 10 boxes



WHAT CAN THE MARONITE RITE OFFER THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL? HERE'S WHAT TWO MARONITE BISHOPS SAY

What can the Maronite Catholic Church offer to aid the U.S. bishops' Eucharistic Revival that is currently underway in the United States?

The two Maronite bishops in the United States say the answer is the Maronite liturgy, with its deep reverence and focus on Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist.

The U.S. bishops' National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative by the U.S. bishops to inspire Eucharist belief, follows a 2019 Pew Research study that suggested that only about one-third of U.S. Catholics believe the Church's teaching that the Eucharist is truly the body and blood of Christ.

"I think what we have to offer, of course, is the liturgy, which is the focus of our Eucharistic reverence and amazement," Bishop Gregory Mansour of the Maronite Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn told CNA at the U.S. bishops' conference in Baltimore Nov. 16.

Mansour said that his parishes offer Eucharistic Adoration and added that when on retreats the priests will adore the Blessed Sacrament for one hour each night.

He added that he thinks the Maronite way of receiving Communion by intinction — when the priest dips the Lord's body into his precious blood and places it on the communicant's tongue — is a "very healthy way" to receive.

"It's almost a way of receiving Communion that you have the best of all the worlds. You have it receiving on the tongue; you have it receiving the body and blood; and you have it where you have a moment just to receive Our Lord and reflect on him," he said.

"So I like that practice, and I notice some in the Latin Church have copied it, although I don't think it's the norm," he said.

Bishop Abdallah Elias Zaidan of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles said that "the Eucharist must constitute our identity," noting that "all of us are members of that body of Christ."

Zaidan, who was also at the bishops' conference, said that the suffering, the needy, the brilliant, and the intelligent are all part of the body of Christ and "we have to share and put everything in common to help others."

"From that point," he said, "in our Maronite liturgy, we have that beautiful reverence to the Eucharist. In everything we do, we go back to the source and summit of our faith as well. Christ's presence, forever present." Mansour said that to aid Catholics in their faith in the Real Presence, "I feel strongly it's good for us to see what we can do to bring people back to church."

"So we have to have beautiful liturgy, good choir, good preaching, welcoming, youth programs, young adult programs, organization, and we can't just assume that because the church doors are open, people are going to want to come," he said.

Mansour said that he thinks the Maronite Church had success during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions because his parish doors were left open while abiding by state and local ordinances.



Bishop Abdallah Elias Zaidan of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles spoke with CNA about the Eucharist in the life of the Maronite church. Joe Bukuras

"And I think because we did that, people came from outside and even our own people as well as non-Maronites came in and found a wonderful treasure. The Maronite Church is a treasure and they made their home there," he said.

"So I think the Maronite Church has to just keep doing what she's always done over the ages. That is just to be a church, be an aesthetical, monastic, prayerful, strong witness to Christ, to the world," he said.

Mansour said that the laity can inspire faith in others by having a devotion to Jesus, "especially in the presence of the tabernacle."

"You can come early to Mass and stay a few minutes after to give thanks. You can participate in the liturgy. When the parish does have Eucharistic Adoration, you could be one of the first to be there and to really believe it. I think your witness is such that you could inspire a few people just by being a faithful man or woman," he said of the laity.

As far as his role as a bishop, Mansour said that he can inspire Eucharistic devotion by being devoted to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

"I've learned a few things over the years from others. One of them is an older bishop that I could see every time he'd celebrate the liturgy. He'd kneel after liturgy, in front of the tabernacle, just to give thanks," he said.

He added that he didn't cultivate a strong devotion to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament when he was in the seminary, but he eventually did, and said that "it became such a powerful force in my life."

"I want to be close to Christ's presence in the Eucharist everywhere I go. So that's why I've asked all of our priests to put the tabernacle back in the center of the churches. A very clear sign of Christ's presence," he said.

Mansour said that one of his predecessors, Archbishop Francis Mansour Zayek, "used to say the life of the priest is like a vigil candle in front of the sacrament. His life is consumed in drawing attention to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. That's the role of a priest."

Mansour said that the Blessed Virgin Mary can be an inspiration for all to be "a tabernacle for God's presence" just as she was when Jesus was in her womb. He said he encourages praying the rosary as well.

Zaidan holds the same sentiments about the Mother of God, noting that "there is always a special mention of her in our prayers" in the Maronite Church.

He said that Marian devotions such as the rosary and the Miraculous Medal can aid Eucharistic devotion as well. Zaidan said that all of the Maronite patriarchal sees are always placed under the patronage of the Blessed Mother.

"And if you go to every hometown in Lebanon, if the Blessed Mother is not the patroness of that town, you'd see special shrine [to her] or something honoring her" he said.

"She senses our needs in so many ways and she knows in her heart to intercede on our behalf as well," Zaidan said.

Bishop Gregory Mansour, of the Maronite Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn shared with CNA what the Maronite Church can offer the U.S. bishops three year Eucharistic Revival. Joe Bukuras



ADVENT: A JOURNEY OF TWO LOVES

Spiritual authors have compared the season of Advent to a journey toward the grotto of Bethlehem where we can behold the radiant face of Baby Jesus. This is a beautiful image that can be of great help to us who wish to live this holy season with purposeful intensity. But this is only half of the story. The greater and more important half is the “better half” of God’s journey toward us. This is what has made Christmas a reality, for *CHRISTMAS IS THE CONVERGING POINT OF TWO JOURNEYS: GOD’S JOURNEY AND OURS!*

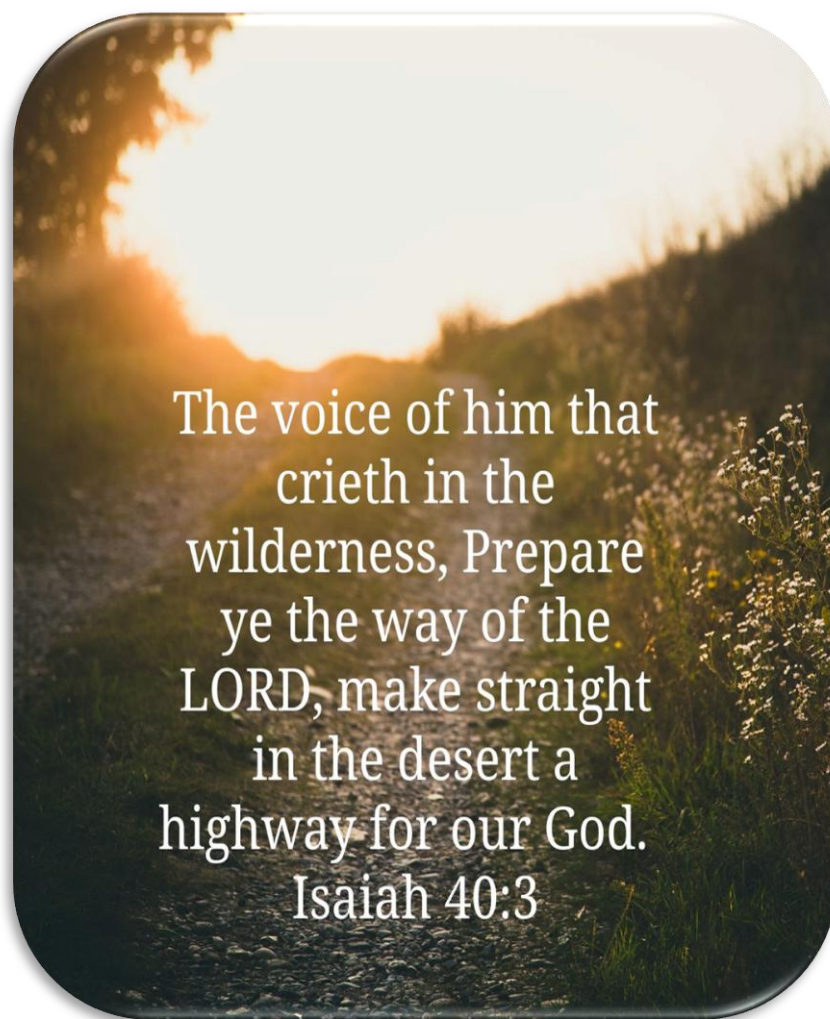
God’s journey is the journey of the shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine sheep in their safe pen and goes in search of the one that got lost – a journey that started millennia back in time and which exposed the shepherd-God to so many disappointments and rejections. He did not have to subject Himself to those hardships. *It was His divine love for all human beings which impelled Him to undertake that journey.*

It was the journey of God to Ur to look for Abram and snatch him away from the claws of paganism; the journey that led the Lord to cross the desert and look for Moses in order to wrest His oppressed people from the slavery of Egypt. It was the journey of God’s eternal Word into the limitations of human nature when he became one of us – the journey of the God who is all-sufficient, cannot suffer and immortal, into the fetters of the human condition that is characterized by suffering, misery, and death.

But God’s long and pain-filled journeys will not be beneficial to us, sinful human beings, if we, too, do not journey toward Him.

We must realize the wretched situation in which we have thrust ourselves through our unwise choices, our pride, our lust, our lack of honesty and of everything that is good and holy. And having realized that, like the prodigal son, we should rise and walk the road of conversion that leads to the house of the Father.

Our journey back to God means severing our ties with the web of sinful habits that may have enmeshed us, and aiming decisively to live the life of freedom as God’s children.



The voice of him that
crieth in the
wilderness, Prepare
ye the way of the
LORD, make straight
in the desert a
highway for our God.
Isaiah 40:3

We must bridge the gap between our good intentions and consequent actuations. We must turn our back on the fogginess of an aimless and uncommitted existence, and move toward a life of dedication to living the demands of our baptism. For some, this may even mean to step out of the darkness of a sinful existence and *forge ahead into the radiance of a life lived in joyful obedience to God’s law.* In short, *our life must be a journey toward the rising Sun of God’s presence,* seeking the light of His grace, the balm of His forgiveness, the warmth of His embrace, the joy and peace of His friendship. As for those who may honestly feel that they are not great sinners, Advent has a challenge for them, too – the challenge to open their hearts, in imitation of Mary Most Holy, and let the Holy Spirit mold in them the Word-made-flesh. This is the essential condition for Christmas to happen, for *Christ will be born only in the lives of those who open wide their hearts to Him as Mary of Nazareth did.* This is where the two journeys end and the great encounter/embrace begins.

Today is a Holy Day of Obligation in the United States, a day on which we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary (the Immaculate Conception has been, since 1846, the Patroness of the United States). Note that it is *she*, Mary herself, who is the Immaculate Conception; the day does not refer to Mary's conceiving Jesus by the Holy Ghost, but to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne, by Mary's father, St. Joachim. What makes her conception immaculate is not that she was conceived by the Holy Ghost of a virgin, as was Christ Our Lord, but that from the very moment of her conception, she was filled with grace by God, Who knew, in His omniscience, that she would say "yes" to the Angel Gabriel and become the Mother of the Savior. Exactly nine months from now, on September 8, we will celebrate Mary's birthday.

Most of what we know about Mary's parents, SS. Anne and Joachim, is derived from the apocryphal Protoevangelium of St. James and the Gospel of the Nativity of Mary. St. Anne is the patron of childless people, pregnant women, and grandmothers (her Feast Day is 26 July); St. Joachim is the patron of grandfathers. (In the painting above, St. Anne sits in the chair, and her husband stands at her right. Cleophas is seen in the right-hand corner reading, and Jesus, Mary and Joseph are in front).

As said, at the very moment of Mary's conception in St. Anne's womb, God filled Mary with grace and preserved her from the stain of sin so she might be a pure vessel by whom Christ could enter the world; "Immaculate Conception," then is a title for Mary -- a title reflecting her being and which reveals that the New Adam saved the New Eve from the stain of original sin in an act foretold in the first Book of Scripture:

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

DECEMBER 8

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel. Adam and Eve, Mary and Jesus -- the only four persons with human natures who were, *in their first moments*, without sin (and, of course, Mary and Jesus remained sinless).

Mary is the All Holy, and it had to be this way: Christ took from her *His very Flesh and Blood* -- the Flesh that was scourged for us, the Blood that was spilt for us, the Bread of Life that saves us!

Symbols for the day are any of the usual Marian symbols (the color blue, her crown of 12 stars representing the 12 Tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles), but especially those which emphasize her purity, such as lilies and her Immaculate Heart.

There are no special practices today that I know of, but, as with all Marian Feasts, it is a good day to pray the Magnificat, the Litany of Loreto, the Little Crown of the Blessed Virgin, the Akathistos Hymn to the Theotokos, the Ave Maris Stella (Hail, Star of the Ocean), the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, etc. (You can download the Litany of Loreto in English or in Latin.)

The Epistle reading today will be from Proverbs 8:23-25, the Gradual will be Judith 13:23, the Tract will be Psalm 86:1, and the Gospel will be Luke 1:26-28.

A Prayer for Peace in the Middle East

God of all nations and all people, we come to you, for you, working through your people, are the source for a just peace in the Middle East. We are exhausted by the screaming headlines that announce death tolls, bombing raids, and acts of terror in Iraq, Israel, Palestine and now Lebanon. We are worn out with grief for the innocent and the desperate, for the needless destruction of cities and livelihood, and for the burgeoning refugees.

We are weary of the powerful who give "windows of opportunity" for destruction and death. Where, oh God, are the powerful who give "windows of opportunity" for peace?

We are disheartened over the voices of revenge and fear who shout: "Evacuate your cities if you value your life! Prepare the way for war!" Where are the loud voices crying in the wilderness: "Come to the table of belonging. Prepare the way for lasting peace?"

Sustaining God, pour out your Spirit on the Christian community in Lebanon who have upheld your face and life in the land of our spiritual ancestors. Protect them and all the innocent who seek peace, reconciling justice, and simply sustenance for each day in your much-loved land.

Redeeming Christ, forgive us our cynicism and our perceived helplessness that only belittles your church and us and betrays our calling to be your hands and feet in your world.

Sustaining God, use us in our circles of influence to be the voice of Jesus who knew that war has no victors, not one.

Spirit of Peace, move us from the inside out into acts of prophetic compassion and non-violent struggle which honor every man, woman, and child. Give us the strength to face the suffering of all those who are made in your image and to reach out with your love.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



LATEST SAINT SHARBEL MIRACLES

ST SHARBEL INTERCESSION HEALS THE BOY RYAN FROM HIS CRONIC ILLNESS

The blessings of St. Sharbel have been flowing in the town of Kahala in Lebanon. For fifty-five days, oil has been oozing from the statue of St. Sharbel at the house of Mr. Jameel Bajani. The first of his blessings healed the lady of the house Mrs. Jaquelyn Bajani. Many other people from Kahala and other towns were healed. One of these miraculous healings happened to the twelve year old, Ryan Bajani. Ryan has been afflicted, since he was eighteen days old with a situation that prevented his digestive system and urinary tract from performing properly. He could not eat enough to support his growth.

When his mother, Maryanne, who is a member of the Sisters of The Immaculate Conception Organization, heard of the phenomenon in Kahala, she rushed with her boy to the town and pleaded with St. Sharbel to heal Ryan. Maryanne rubbed a piece of cotton on the statue, took a small part of the cotton, that was still dry, and gave it to Ryan. She told him to swallow it and have faith that he would be healed by the grace of St. Sharbel.

Ryan swallowed the cotton and prayed faithfully. That evening he ate a full, healthy meal comfortably. The next morning he was well and without any side effects. He asked his mother if she noticed any change in his situation and told her that he did not wet his clothes that night.

After thanking God and St. Sharbel, Maryanne took Ryan to the physician who had been treating him for many years. After a thorough checkup, the doctor assured Maryanne that her boy was completely healed.

Ryan gave a testimonial in church about his miraculous healing and that he's seen St. Sharbel in his sleep. It has been noted that St. Sharbel's miraculous healings are still going on. A sample of the oozing oil was taken by the office of the Bishop to the lab and tested. It appeared to be some of the finest, purest olive oil. Another test is underway to prove and confirm the miracles of St. Sharbel in the town of Kahala.



**“The just man will flourish like palm trees,
they will grow like the cedars of Lebanon.”**

Psalms 92,13

SAINT SHARBEL PRAY FOR US



*St. Sharbel died on Christmas Eve
celebrating Mass repeatedly saying:
“Jesus, Mary, Joseph”.*

CHRISTMAS NOVENA:

December 15

6pm Arabic

7pm English



Snow in St. Sharbel
Annaya, Lebanon



ST. SHARBEL YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Message from Las Vegas Catholic Worker

Dear Fr. Nadim, the youth Ministry and
everyone at St. Sharbel Maronite
Catholic Church:

Thank You for assembling 200
sandwiches and providing chips for our
morning meal for the homeless.

Thanks & Blessings
Gary



ST. SHARBEL YOUTH GROUP PRESENTS

Child Haven TOY DRIVE



Please Join Us

PLEASE BRING A NEW UNWRAPPED TOY

**NOVEMBER 01
UNTIL
DECEMBER 11**

**DROP OFF
In Toy Drive Bin
located in the main
church**

OR NEW UNUSED CLOTHES, SOCKS, OR SHOES

All donations will go directly to
Child Haven.

2 Corinthians 9:11
"You will be enriched in every
way for all generosity which
produces thanksgiving to God
through us."

ALL YOUTH INVITED

2023 MYO Regional Retreat

The Maronite Youth Organization
of the Eparchy of Our Lady of
Lebanon invites all youth

January 27-29
Ages 12-17

Pali Retreat Center
Running Springs, CA

Registration starts now. Please sign up with
Candice or Zenia after mass for more info.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

“Stop Checking Your Phone During Mass”: A Note to Myself

I love God and I also love football. You might be able to see why Sundays are, in my opinion, the absolute best day of the week. Being able to consume the Body and Blood of Christ is the best thing you can do any day, but also being able to watch one of the most entertaining sports in the world on the same day is a nice touch to the day. During one particular Sunday, my favorite team was playing while I was at Mass. I was trying my hardest to pay attention to the readings and immerse myself in the Mass but I cracked. **I decided to take a look at my phone before the homily started.** While it took nothing more than a few seconds for me to open my phone, look at the score, and then turn my phone off, my focus for the rest of the Mass was completely gone. **While I was physically in the Mass, my mind was somewhere completely different.** A glance at your phone during Mass may seem harmless enough, but what it does to your attention and connection to the Eucharist is immeasurable.

The Respect of Attention

Our attention is sacred. You probably haven't thought of it as such but undivided attention to one particular subject is a true gift. While it may be great to receive, there are some scenarios where attention is practically expected.

Imagine going to grab dinner with a great friend that you love dearly. You don't get to see this friend as often as you like, so you cherish the time that you do have with them. Right after you order your food and you're about to see how they are doing, their attention has now vanished for an app on their phone. Rude, right? That's what we're doing when we pull out our phone during the Mass.

When we choose to look at our phone during Mass, we're putting our God second, and whatever is on our phone is first. Are we really going to pull ourselves away from a celebration as beautiful as the Mass for pixels on a screen? It doesn't matter what text, tweet, snapchat, or sports update it is; There is no notification on your phone that is more important than what is happening in the Mass.

When our attention and focus leave whatever we're focused on, we also lose some of its importance to us. To go back to the dinner analogy, if someone was to look at their phone during that time, than a little bit of time that should've been between two people is now gone. No matter what happens at that dinner, possible experiences and memories are now gone. The dinner has, more than likely, become less of an experience.

Similarly, when we choose to look at a screen during Mass, our attention is diminished and we might get less out of the Mass. Mass is a celebration but when we look at our phone, we might not get the full message of what that Mass has to offer. In order to get the full effect of the Eucharist, we need to give full attention to everything in the Mass.

Noise-Cancelling

The question in front of us now is “How do we receive the most we can during Mass?” There are two aspects that are important if you want to be paying full attention to the Mass.

The first aspect is having no distractions during the Mass itself. My parish back home (they're the coolest) always reminded the congregation before mass to “turn your phone to prayer mode”. The way that I view that statement is that your phone should be on airplane mode or simply turned off.

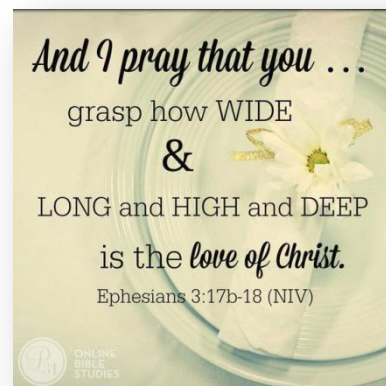
The other aspect of getting better at focusing during the Mass actually takes place outside the Mass itself. I've found that if I go into Mass having read the readings for that day, it becomes much more easier to focus. Instead of encountering a reading for the first time, I can now see how the readings connect with each other or get something out of a particular phrase that I didn't the first time. By taking some time before Sunday and doing some “homework” before Mass, we can be much more attentive to the service and possibly attain more out of it than we could before.

Similarly, using a guide for the readings before a Sunday will immensely help you take in the word of God. For my fellow podcast aficionados, check out [Mark Hart's](#) weekly Sunday reading reflection. Not only are they pretty short (about 7 minutes per episode), but they give some extra context to the readings. If you're feeling extra awesome, then I cannot recommend Ascend enough. It's an incredibly deep guide to the weekly readings that is great to meditate on before you go to Mass.

BRB Gotta See God

Unplugging from society is hard no matter what the situation is. Our attention is important is sacred, so let's make sure that our God has all of it when we do see Him.

Is it hard for me to tune football out for a few hours on Sunday? Yes, but that sacrifice is necessary for me to fully enter the Mass. Our phones might be cool but when the Eucharist is about to be right in front of us, whatever is on our phone pales in comparison to what is about to be on that altar.



Eucharistic Adoration

- Do you want some peace & quiet?
- Do you want to have a date?
- Do you want to be loved?
- Sign up for a date with Jesus!

Then Eucharistic Adoration is for You!

Eucharistic Adoration is a privilege and gift to us here at St. Sharbel from 6 AM – 6 PM DAILY

- Sign up forms are available on the table in the Adoration Chapel
- Check the hours that are available on the picture frame on the table or in the white binder
- If you have already sign up, it is your responsibility to make sure you show up or call someone to cover your hour. Names and telephone numbers are in the white binder.

Questions: Contact the Parish Office or Mylynn Lim at 702 769-2382



FORMED

Christmas Movies & Documentary for the whole family
English and Spanish - Don't Miss it!

Mary (New)

View all

THE 13TH DAY

The 13th Day 1:24:40

1531

A story that is not finished yet...

1531: A Story that is Not Finished Yet 1:16:09

Lourdes

A Story of Faith, Science, and Miracles

Lourdes: Story of Faith, Science, and Miracles 1:04:00

BERNADETTE

Princess of Lourdes

Bernadette: The Princess of Lourdes 30:11

What's Trending

View all

ETERNAL REST

Eternal Rest

DON'T TALK TO YOURSELF LIKE THIS!

X

STEFANICK 33:13

Love yourself: Replace negative self-talk with God's Word

BLACK FAITH MATTERS

Black Faith Matters 17:14

The CHOSEN

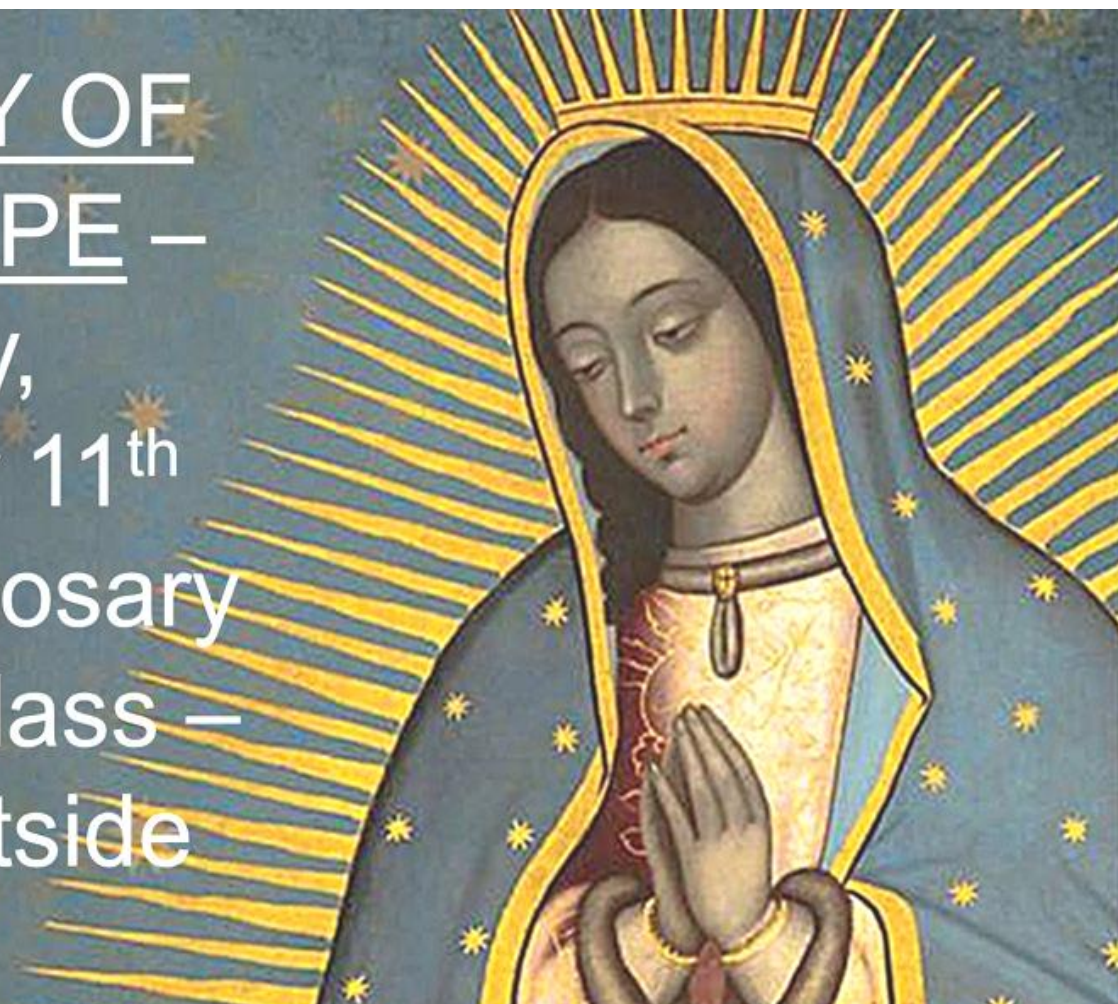
The Chosen

There are 3 easy steps for parishioners to download the FORMED App.

1. Visit the App Store or Google Play Store (search: FORMED Catholic)
2. Download the app to your device (Note, you will need to register at formed.org/signup before logging in to app)
3. Enjoy the content you want, where you want! **Code is 89183**

NUESTRO NOTICIAS DE LA COMUNIDAD ESPAÑOLAOUR LADY OF
GUADALUPE –Sunday,
December 11th

● 4:50 PM Rosary

● 5:30 PM Mass –
Fiesta outside**FOCUS Missionary Named “Servant of God,” Canonization Cause Officially Opened**

In June 2022, news broke that Diocese of Bismarck, North Dakota Bishop David Kagan opened an investigation into the possible canonization of former FOCUS Missionary Michelle Christine Duppong.

On All Saints’ Day, the Bishop announced that Duppong’s canonization cause officially opened and she now has the title, “Servant of God.”

Duppong’s parents, six siblings, and nieces and nephews attended the Mass.

Bishop Kagan said the diocese will investigate and examine Duppong’s writings and verbal communications, and any answered intercessory prayers both before and after her death.

The United States bishops will decide whether or not to advance Duppong’s case from the local level during their fall meeting this week.

Servant of God - Michelle Duppong’s Story

Duppong served as a FOCUS Missionary for six years at the University of Mary. Then from 2012-2015, she spent the final years of her life as the Director of Adult Faith Formation for the Diocese of Bismarck.

Duppong died on Dec. 25, 2015 at age 31 from an unexpected cancer diagnosis.

However, she endured the disease with “perseverance and a patient, cheerful spirit.”

“Michelle was a radiant, joyful woman with the heart of a true servant,” University of Mary President Msgr. James Shea said.

***Michelle Duppong, Facebook***

“For the students on our campus, she was an inspiration and a treasured mentor, teaching them by her example the transformative power of friendship with God,” he added.

“Michelle’s holiness of life and love for God certainly touched us here in the Diocese of Bismarck, at the University of Mary, and throughout FOCUS, but hers is also a witness which should also be shared with the Universal Church,” Bishop Kagan said in June.

“I ask, most especially, for your continued prayers for our efforts,” Bishop Kagan added. “Her life is a life of Christlike goodness, compassion, and **the firmest faith I have ever encountered in any person.**”

“Certainly, in your private prayers, ask for her assistance – her intercession – for you before the throne of grace. You will not be disappointed.”



Filipino News



CEBU'S FIESTA SEÑOR ACTIVITIES TO RETURN NEXT YEAR

The traditional events related to the feast of the Child Jesus in Cebu City will make a comeback next year after largely being put on hold for the past two years because of the pandemic.

The Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño de Cebu announced Tuesday they have decided “to resume all religious activities of Fiesta Señor”.

This, it said, includes the “Penitential Walk with Jesus” on Jan. 5; Novena Masses from Jan. 5 to 14; and “Penitential Walk with Mary” on Jan. 13.

There shall also be the “Traslaciones” to the cities of Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu; fluvial procession; and the procession of the image of Sto. Niño de Cebu on Jan. 14.

Local church authorities urged the devotees and pilgrims to continue adhering to the existing health protocols against Covid-19.

“We appeal to all devotees, pilgrims, and guests to adhere to all protocols, which are being implemented for a safe, orderly, and solemn conduct of our religious celebration. Let us be mindful,” the Basilica official said.

In Manila, some activities related to the Feast of the Black Nazarene in January 2023 remain suspended for the third consecutive time.



Thousands of devotees join the procession of the Santo Niño icon on the eve of the feast of the Child Jesus in Cebu City on Jan. 18, 2020

Fr. Early Allyson Valdez of Quiapo Church earlier said there will still be no “Traslacion” next year but other activities such as the Mass at the Quirino Grandstand would push through.

He added that instead of the traditional “Pahalik,” devotees will be allowed to approach and touch the image of the Black Nazarene.

PASKO: Christmas in the Philippines

The Tagalog word **Pasko** derives from the Spanish word *Pascua*. Although the word *Pascua* means Easter, *Pascua de Navidad* refers to Christmas.

The Philippines is known for having the world's longest Christmas season. The four months that end with the syllable *-ber* are considered Christmas months, which is why stores and households start playing carols on the first day of September! And the holiday season extends beyond December 31st. It doesn't end until the Feast of the Epiphany or Three Kings (**Tatlong Hari**) which falls around January 6.

If Mexico has *piñatas*, the Philippines has its **parol**. Of course, a parol is not something to hit with a stick. It is a Christmas lantern, most commonly in the shape of a five-pointed star. The bamboo or rattan frame is covered with rice paper, tissue or cellophane. Almost every family either builds or buys one to hang by the window or door. Shopping malls construct giant versions of parol. Traditionally, a candle was placed inside for light to shine through; for safety reasons, people now use bulbs or even a flashlight. Families, schools and other places also display a creche or nativity scene called **belen**. Christmas trees made of plastic are decorated with lights, tinsel and ornaments.

MALIGAYANG PASKO!



The Tagalog word for gift is **regalo**, but Filipinos have a special word for “Christmas gift” — **pamasko**. The Filipino version of Secret Santa is called **Monito Monita** or **Kris Kringle**. Students in their classes and office workers all hold gift exchanges during the Christmas season. Children receive fresh bills of money called *aginaldo*, usually when they visit their godparents and elderly relatives on Christmas morning.

Mostly Catholics, Filipinos begin a novena (a series of nine masses) on December 16th. The masses are part of the cherished religious tradition of **Simbang Gabi**, which literally means “Night Worship.” Filipinos go to church at four o'clock in the morning and afterward have breakfast together. A traditional drink during this season is a warm ginger tea called **salabat** and a traditional treat is a flat but thick yellow rice cake called **bibingka**.

On Christmas Eve (**Bisperas ng Pasko**), a few Filipino towns commemorate Joseph and Mary's search for a place to stay with a reenactment called **panunuluyan**, a tradition very similar to the Mexican *posadas*.

What every Filipino looks forward to is **Noche Buena**, the grand family dinner after the midnight mass. Christmas morning is the time for visiting relatives. Filipinos wear new if not their best clothes. Children do **mano**, which is kissing or bringing to their forehead the hand of an elderly person. This is when they receive their **pamasko**, certainly **aguinaldo** from godfathers and godmothers. Christmas lunch and Christmas dinner are with family.

WEEKEND**HOLY MASS INTENTIONS****DAILY 8AM**

Saturday 4:30 pm
Dec 3

Christians All Over
the World

Sunday 9:30 am
Dec 4

+Miguel Caceres
+Manuel Bernabe

Sunday 11:30 am
Peace on Earth



*Pray for Healing
of the Sick*

MONDAY Dec 5

+Lorina Caranto (1 yr)
+Manuel Bernabe

TUESDAY Dec 6

Healing of the Sick
+Manuel Bernabe

WEDNESDAY Dec 7

Faithful Departed
+Manuel Bernabe

THURSDAY Dec 8

Unity of Families
+Manuel Bernabe

FRIDAY Dec 9

Unborn Babies
+Manuel Bernabe

COMMUNITY LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Second COLLECTION this weekend, December 3 & 4 for Maronite Patriarchal Charities.

2. TUESDAY: 6:00 P.M. Rosary in the Chapel followed by Anointing of the sick and reflection with Fr.Nadim.

3. GOD OUR FATHER DEVOTION: Sunday, December 4th after the 9:30 Mass in the Chapel.

4. MONTHLY SPANISH MASS has been moved to Sunday, December 11th.
NO MASS ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 4th.

5. OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE NOVENA begins December 2nd until 10th at 5:00 PM except on Saturdays it will be after the 4:30 PM Mass.

6. FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE – Sunday, December 11th

- 4:50 PM Rosary
- 5:30 PM Mass – Followed by Fiesta outside

7. CHRISTMAS PROJECT – The Youth Group is organizing a Christmas Project for Child Haven. Please donate new toys, electronic devices, shoes & clothing for girls and boys which include teenagers. Please no used clothing!

8. TAGALOG MASS has been moved to Sunday December 18th at 4:30 pm Rosary and 5 pm Mass.