




Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

Sunday of the Prodigal Son "My Son was Lost and now He's Found"



March 2024

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"I will get up and go to my Father and I will say to Him: Father, I have sinned against heaven & before You." (Lk 15:18)

There are three characters in this parable: the Father representing God, the older son-the Pharisee. But who is the younger son? Is he the sinner or just a man? The younger son wants freedom and thinks many times, that God takes it away and His presence has become a burden to him.

But the son returns. Having become aware of his slavery, he takes the road back home. The father sees him at a distance and runs out to meet him, throws his arms around him, kisses him, gives him a robe (a sign of honor), a ring (a sign of authority), and shoes (unlike slaves who do not have shoes). And then they begin to celebrate his return home.

But the older son, who obeyed with a closed heart and hand, has served in the hope of being rewarded, or at least, of being seen as superior to others, He is unable to welcome sinners or to participate in the feast of Christ, because, in fact, he does not know how to love.



But God the Father is with all of us in our experiences of good and evil. Thanks to His only Son, Jesus, who represents the love of the Father who cared for the two sons. The prophet Isaiah said: "Can a woman forget her baby, even if she were to forget, I shall not forget you" (Isaiah 49:15). The Father who Isaiah calls "Mother" is Jesus who compares Himself to a mother, when He cries for Jerusalem saying: "How often have I wished to bring all of you together, just like a mother hen gathers her chickens under her wings".

Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid, MLM

READINGS:

Zechariah 3:1-71 2

Corinthians 13:5-13

GOSPEL:

Luke 15:11-32

Pastor: Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid

Our Services

DAILY: Monday-Friday 8:00 AM English

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 @ 5 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

Stsharbel.lv@gmail.com

COOPERATION AND SERVICE AT HEART OF PRIESTLY MINISTRY, SAYS OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS

In an address to deacons preparing for the priesthood in the diocese of Rome, Pope Francis highlights faithful cooperation, service to the People of God, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as key aspects of priestly ministry.

In an address prepared for deacons preparing for priestly ordination, Pope Francis reflected on three aspects of priestly ministry highlighted in the Rite of Ordination: Faithful cooperation with the Bishop, service to the people of God, and guidance by the Holy Spirit.

Although a scheduled meeting was postponed on account of the Pope's health, the Holy Father's remarks were published on Saturday by the Holy See Press Office.

Faithful cooperators

Pope Francis reminded them, first of all, that the Church does not ask them primarily to be leaders, but to be cooperators with the Bishops. Priests, he said, are called to be witnesses to the "mystery of communion" that is the Church, especially through fraternity, fidelity, and docility.

In short, he said, priests are meant to be members of a choir, "not soloists"; brothers in the presbyterate and priests for all, not only for a particular group.

Serving the people of God

The second aspect of priestly ministry, the Pope said, is service to God's people. He noted that the priesthood is rooted in the diaconate, which does not cease after priestly ordination. Priests, he said, are called to be conformed to Jesus, who "did not come to be served, but to serve."

This service, he continued, cannot be an abstraction, but must be concrete: "To serve means to be available, to renounce living according to one's own agenda, to be ready for God's surprise... it is a constant attitude of acceptance, compassion and tenderness."

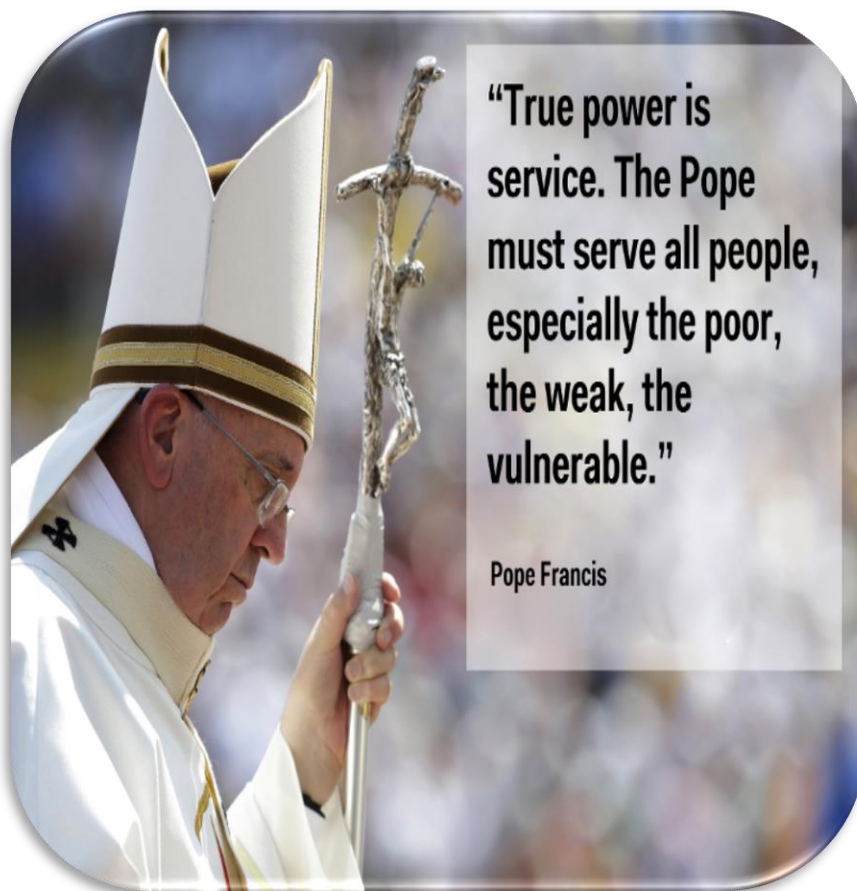
Guidance by the Holy Spirit

Finally, Pope Francis insisted that priests must always give "primacy" to the Holy Spirit, who will descend upon them. "If this happens," he said, "your life... will be oriented to the Lord and by the Lord, and you will truly be 'men of God'."



This comes through a "daily anointing" from Jesus "when we stand in His presence, when we worship Him, when we are intimate with His Word." And this, in turn, the Pope said, "enables us to intercede before Him for the Holy People of God, for humanity, for the people we meet each day."

Pope Francis concluded his remarks by thanking Rome's transitional deacons for their "yes" to God and asking them to pray for him every day.



"True power is service. The Pope must serve all people, especially the poor, the weak, the vulnerable."

Pope Francis

LEADING BISHOP URGES U.S. TO SEND HUMANITARIAN AID TO UKRAINE, TWO YEARS INTO WAR

A leading Maronite Catholic bishop this week urged ongoing humanitarian support for the suffering people of Ukraine, two years after the start of Russia's full-scale invasion.

Bishop A. Elias Zaidan of the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon, which encompasses a large portion of the western United States from California to Ohio, said in a **Feb. 23 statement** that he urges "the U.S. government do all they can to provide much-needed humanitarian assistance quickly."

Zaidan, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, noted that **according to a recent U.N. report**, the number of civilians killed and injured since February 2022 exceeds 30,000. Separately this week, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy **said** an estimated 31,000 troops have died in the conflict.

"Schools, hospitals, apartments, and basic infrastructure supplying power have been hit by missiles. In the face of such destruction and death, people are repeatedly displaced, insecure as to where to find safety," Zaidan wrote.

"The Catholic Church, including many Catholic welfare organizations, [is] trying to meet these enormous needs both within Ukraine and in other countries impacted by this war, which has raged on for two full years. The USCCB's **national collection** for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe has been critical in providing much-needed aid to the region."

People of faith have been targeted in the conflict, Zaidan said, with reports of religious communities, particularly **the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church**, "being attacked by Russian forces in territories they have seized," Zaidan noted. "Over 600 religious structures have been damaged, some occupied by Russian forces and turned into military bases. Clergy have been harassed, persecuted, kidnapped, and even killed."

Zaidan noted that **Pope Francis** earlier this year **said of the war in Ukraine** that "one cannot allow the persistence of a conflict that continues to metastasize, to the detriment of millions of persons; it is necessary to put an end to the present tragedy through negotiations, in respect for international law."

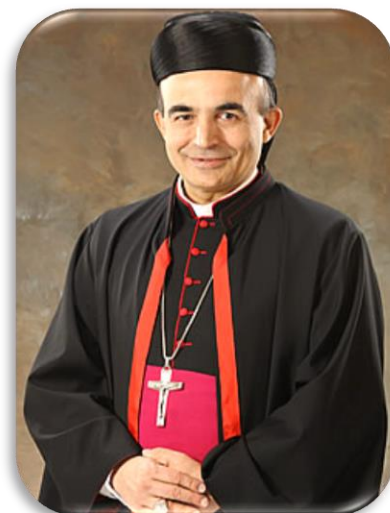


He concluded by calling for people of goodwill to set aside Feb. 24, the anniversary of the start of the war, as a "solemn day of prayer, fasting for the end of the war, and for peace to come to this war-torn land."

Though the U.S. bishops have **continually supported** humanitarian aid to Ukraine amid Russia's war, U.S. lawmakers remain divided over the way forward in terms of military support for the embattled nation.

President Joe Biden, a Catholic, has repeatedly appealed in recent weeks to Congress to fully pass a **new aid package with \$60 billion in military aid to Ukraine**, which the Senate sent to the House nearly two weeks ago. Most recently, Biden is set to convene the top four congressional leaders on Tuesday to urge them to send the measure to his desk, **CNN reported Monday**. The measure faces opposition in the House, particularly from Speaker Mike Johnson, who has said he will not bring the bill to the House floor in its current form.

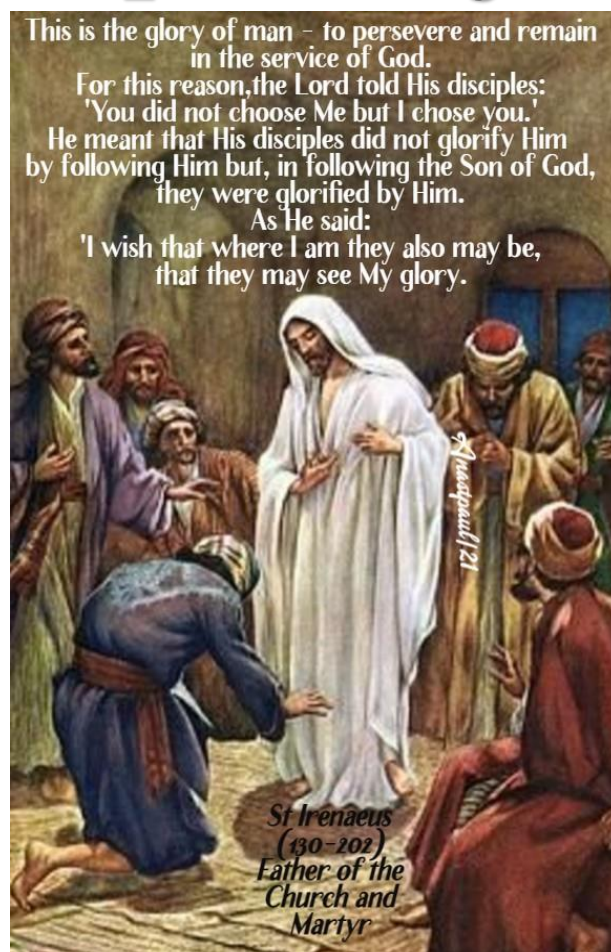
Bishop Abdallah Elias Zaidan of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles serves as chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace.



Let Us Keep God's Temple Holy

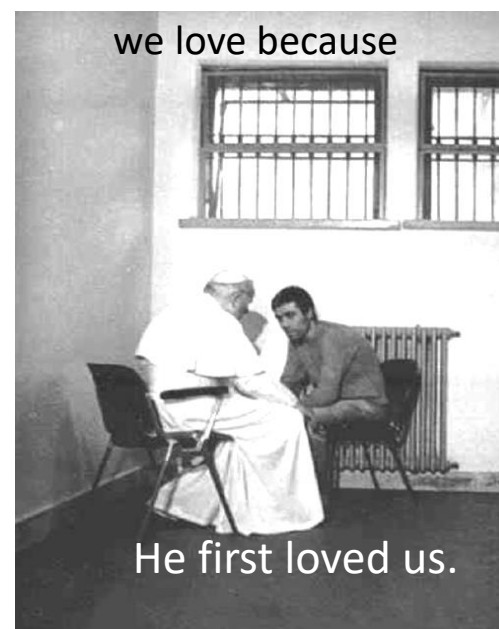
Today's Gospel passage reminds us that Jesus Christ is God's most holy temple. It also reminds us of the sacredness not only of all places of worship but also of every human being, especially those who have been baptized. We are God's temples because He has imprinted in us His most sacred image in creation, and has consecrated us for His service at our baptism.

We desecrate ourselves whenever we commit sin. And we desecrate others when we fail to respect their dignity or lead them to commit sin. When this happens, Jesus becomes even more indignant than when he drove the traders out of the Temple area in Jerusalem. In this Eucharist, let us renew our commitment to keep all of God's temples holy in every way and at all times.



Late Pope John Paul II talks to Turkish Mehmet Ali Agca, who attempted to kill him, in Agca's cell in Rome's Rebibbia prison on December 27, 1983.

"Forgiveness happens inside the person doing the forgiving. It heals our pain and resentment before it does anything for the person we forgive; they might never know about it."



"Fr. Sojan Mathew, an Indian Catholic priest, embraces his journey with cancer, serving the Church from his wheelchair with unwavering faith.

"I see cancer as a part of God's greater plan for me," he shares. 🙏



#Inspiration #Faith #CancerWarrior

MIRACLES OF SAINT SHARBEL: MELFI ANIS NASIR

Mrs. Melfi Anis Nasir is married to Mr. George Nayef Majdalani. She was born in Beirut in 1942 and currently resides in Beirut. She is of the Greek Orthodox sect. As she tells about her health condition:

"I, Melfi am Melfi Majdalani, was diagnosed with severe anemia and was treated at Hotel Dieu Hospital by Dr. Aline Tohme. After imaging and tests, it was discovered that I was suffering from hemolysis due to a spleen disease. I was prescribed a long-term treatment with cortisone for a year and a half.

Later, I visited Saint Sharbel in Annaya and asked him to be my doctor and intercede for me before the Lord Jesus to heal me from my illness. On April 29, 2022, while I was asleep, I felt footsteps beside my bed, and Saint Sharbel's hand touching my body until it reached my hand. He began to press my arm forcefully until the skin peeled off my hand, and I couldn't scream. When blood started to flow from my hand, I managed to scream, and Saint Charbel disappeared.

A week later, I underwent a routine blood test, and the doctor informed me that I was healed from my illness. I came on January 1st to thank Saint Sharbel for my healing, accompanied by my family and the medical report and I recorded the miracle. Thank you, O heavenly physician."



People Visiting the Hermitage of Saint Sharbel in Annaya, Lebanon

Call the Church office to place your
monthly ads in the bulletin.

702-616-6902



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WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 24 & 25

*4 Masses Collection	\$4,587
*General	<u>\$2,075</u>
	\$6,662
*Weekly Expense	\$8,750
Shorfall	- \$2,088

*Building Fund	\$455
*Helping Hands	\$927
*Second Coll. (Lenten)	\$1,342

The weekly shortfalls are covered by the monthly Auto Pay. Its consistent and guarantees to keep us going. To avoid shortfall please give through Auto Pay.

2024 LENTEN APPEAL

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Our goal last year of **\$246,000** was spent according to the list below. We raised an additional **\$3,525** which was spent on the areas of greatest need. We are sincerely thankful to all those who generously gave to help our Eparchy.

REPORT ON 2023 LENTEN APPEAL USE OF FUNDS (\$246,000)

** Amounts raised are not enough to fully cover the expenses of the different areas. The Eparchy continues to subsidize and cover additional expenses as needed.*



1. SEMINARIANS AND RETIRED PRIESTS



Our Eparchy is currently preparing five men as celibate seminarians and six married men for **Sacred Priesthood**. It cost our Eparchy **\$451,000** in expenses this past year including their education, housing, formation, and living expenses. In addition to the seminarians, our Eparchy supports eight retired priests at a cost of approximately \$228,000 per year. **35% of this year's Annual Appeal** proceeds will support Seminarians and Retired priests.

2. MISSIONS AND PARISHES IN NEED



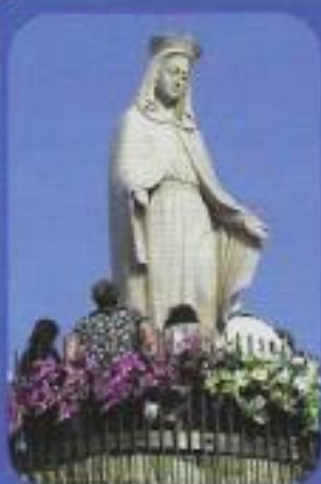
Our Eparchy consists of thirty-five (35) parishes and ten (10) missions with over 46,000 Maronite Catholics across 34 states. In recent years, our Eparchy has opened missions in Seattle (WA), Fort Bend (IN), and Nashville (TN). Many missions require financial support from the Eparchy with critical expenses such as insurance and utilities. Your contributions will support our missions to reach our beloved Maronite faithful across the country. **25% of this year's Annual Appeal** proceeds will support Missions and Parishes in need.

3. MINISTRIES



From regional youth conferences to thriving Catechism programs, our Eparchy serves thousands of children, youth, and young adults. In addition, we have a flourishing Family Life Ministry in conjunction with our Subdiaconate and Diaconate Ministries. The future of our Eparchy is very bright! **15% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will assist the Eparchy's Ministries.**

4. BASILICA AND NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON



Founded over 55 years ago, our Eparchy is proud to sustain this spiritual home of renewal and rejuvenation for all faithful across the country. We welcome pilgrims and visitors 365 days a year, especially during the Assumption Pilgrimage in August. **10% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will assist the National Maronite Shrine.**

5. CHARITABLE OUTREACH



As our Eparchy asks the faithful to be generous, we also strive to be generous to those in need. Our Eparchy helps the less fortunate in the United States, Lebanon, and the Middle East. Many religious institutions depend on our support to meet their basic needs and sustain their ministries to help the poor. **15% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will go to charity.**

Eucharistic Adoration



- Do you want 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 **7 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

If you need to report child
or vulnerable adult sexual abuse by a Cleric (Priest
or Deacon), Member of a Religious Congregation,
Lay Employee or Volunteer in the Eparchy of Our
Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles contact

Dr. Laura Kahwaji
Victim Assistant Coordinator
(323) 428-6815



NUESTRO NOTICIAS DE LA COMUNIDAD ESPAÑOLA

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 3 de Marzo del 2024

HORA: Rosario 4:30 pm Misa 5 pm

**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



Ruega por nosotros

MILAGROS DEL SAN CHARBEL

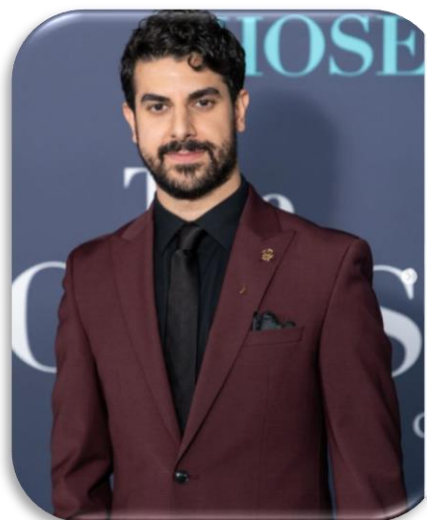
Testimonio de Maria G Foley (Luisiana, EE. UU.)

Quisiera contar el más asombroso “suceso” que me ocurrió ayer (12/11/2020), mientras compraba en la organización *Mary's Helpers* (Auxiliares de María). Pregunté acerca de uno de mis santos más amados: San Chárbel. La primera vez que oí acerca de él fue a través de una íntima amiga mía, hace años, así como a través del boletín de noticias de *Mary's Helpers*. Llegué a saber acerca de innumerables sanidades a través de él en el Líbano y en todo el mundo. Yo anhelaba conocer más acerca de él y estaba deseando adquirir su autobiografía. Me sentí eufórica cuando me dijeron que tenían dos libros acerca de su vida. Fui a ver la tapa de uno de ellos. Ni que decir tiene que me quedé totalmente en estado de shock. Él estaba mirándome directamente, con ojos estaban realmente vivos. Me dije a mí misma que esto no podía estar ocurriendo. Puse rápidamente a trabajar mi cerebro para encontrar una solución rápida. Después de colocar el libro sobre el mostrador, pensé que probablemente la editorial había manipulado la foto para que pareciera en este libro que estaba mirando hacia el frente. En todas las demás fotos estaba siempre piadosamente mirando hacia abajo, pero no dije nada. Una vez en casa, sacando mis compras volví a quedarme en shock. ¡La foto de San Chárbel en la tapa del libro está mirando hacia abajo! Bien, me compuse y no pude dejar de dar gracias por esta “señal”, por el regalo que me había concedido. Rezo diariamente por su intercesión y utilizo también su aceite sagrado. Le pido especialmente que guíe y proteja a mis dos jóvenes sobrinos, cuyo padre falleció hace no mucho tiempo. Él también era libanés.

No he dejado de sonreír y darle gracias a San Chárbel desde mi feliz “suceso”. Decidí contar mi historia porque es bueno compartir, para animarnos los unos a los otros y saber que San Chárbel está aquí para atendernos con nuestras peticiones.

(El libro me parece muy inspirador. Es una guía excelente acerca de nuestro caminar en la tierra, pues aprendemos humildad, amor y cómo ayudar a nuestro prójimo).





MEET THE LEBANESE ACTORS ON THE POPULAR SERIES “THE CHOSEN”

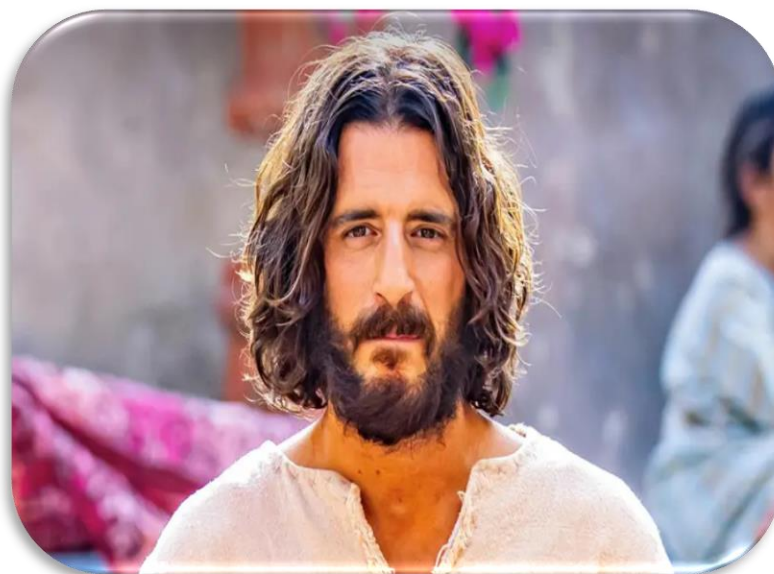
During an interview on the 700 Club with Ashley Key, Shakoour revealed how his portrayal of Zebedee provided him with a unique perspective on fatherhood, despite not having children himself. He also discussed his upbringing in Beirut, Lebanon, within the Greek Orthodox Church, where his grandfather served as a priest.

Nick's journey into performance began in the 4th grade when his PE teacher, Rudy Benton, noticed his knack for impersonating faculty members with comedic flair. Impressed, Benton arranged an impromptu assembly where Nick showcased his talent for the first time.

Since then, Nick's career has soared. He's appeared in the Oscar-qualifying film “MADARAN (Mothers),” and recurred on NBC's “State of Affairs” as Aleek Al Moosari lent his voice to various characters in interactive games, feature films, and animated series—including Grumpy Bear and Tenderheart Bear in “Care Bears: Unlock The Magic”—and portrayed Zebedee in “The Chosen” TV series.

Nick Shakoour's performance as Zebedee in the popular series “The Chosen” has garnered widespread praise, enriching the acclaimed TV show with his talent. Through his portrayal, Shakoour brings authenticity and emotional resonance to the character, contributing to the series' success. “The Chosen” continues to captivate viewers, with Shakoour's portrayal of Zebedee playing a significant role in its popularity.

Joey Vahedi is another Lebanese-American actor in the series, portraying Thomas. He is known for The Chosen (2017), Lucifer (2016) and I Think You Should Leave with Tim Robinson (2019).



The third Lebanese actor in the series is Jonathan Roumie, born on July 1, 1974. He is a prominent American actor recognized for his portrayal of evangelist Lonnie Frisbee in the 2023 film “Jesus Revolution” and his iconic role as Jesus in “The Chosen”. Alongside his acting endeavors, Roumie also excels as a voice artist. Roumie's heritage is rich and diverse. His father hailed from Egypt, being a first-generation descendant of Syro-Lebanese ancestry, while his mother has Irish roots.

Noting that “The Chosen” portrays the historical narrative of Jesus and His contemporaries. Amidst the Roman rule in ancient Palestine, the series offers an authentic portrayal of Jesus' life and teachings, showcasing His revolutionary impact.

The first 3 seasons of The Chosen are available to watch for free anywhere in the world directly on Angel Studios' website. Season 4, which was just released early this month, is currently available at select theaters in the US. The team of The Chosen hinted that it will be available on their website for free around Easter.





Our Filipino Community News



SYNODALITY TAKES SPOTLIGHT IN GUMACA DIOCESE'S 39TH ANNIVERSARY

Priests, religious, and lay people of the Diocese of Gumaca gathered over the weekend to celebrate 39th founding anniversary of the youngest of the three dioceses in the province of Quezon today.

With the theme, “Diyosesis ng Gumaca: Napakikinggan, Nararamdaman, Natutugunan”, the celebration gathered delegates from the dioceses 29 parishes and four mission stations at the San Diego de Alcala Cathedral in Gumaca town on Feb. 3.

The event featured a talk on the “Synodal Church” by Dr. Estela Padilla, a lay theologian and one of the delegates at the Synod on Synodality in Rome.

Representatives from different sectors such as laborers, farmers, vendors, indigenous people, solo parents, women, government employees, businessmen, political leaders, OFWs, youth, LGBTQ+, and senior citizens also participated in group sharing.

The results of each group sharing were collated and relayed to all the attendees before the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Ramon Uriarte, diocesan administrator of Gumaca.



The Diocese of Gumaca celebrates its 39th founding anniversary on Feb. 3, 2024

“Our shared vision, active participation to our programs, and deep faith in God define our being as a synodal Church,” Uriarte said in his homily.

“Sincere listening, enlarging our tents, and being servant-leaders are what we need as a local church journeying towards our 50th anniversary,” he added.

The exact anniversary of the Diocese of Gumaca is January 29. Its celebration is moved annually to the first Saturday of February.

The diocese has been “sede vacante” since March 2023 after the passing of Bishop Victor Ocampo.

ST SHARBEL NEW CHURCHES

Cuba
India
Turkey



WEEKEND

Sat. 4:30 pm Mar 2

+Concepcion A. Ramos-1 yr
+Gregorio Tolentino
+James L. Salvador

Sun. 9:30 am Feb 3

+Merlie Docuyan
+Lusia Dee Co
+Angel Villaluz - 40 dys
+Gregorio Tolentino
+James L. Salvador

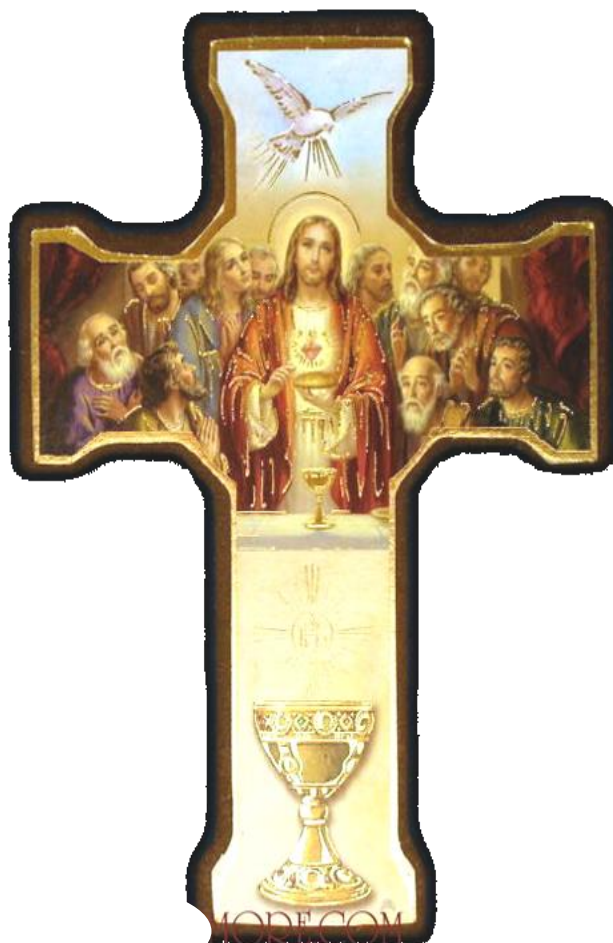
Sun. 11:30 am

+Fouad Ziade – 40 dys
+Violette Ghafari - 3 yrs
+Najla Serhal – 3 yrs

Sun. Spanish 4:30 pm

Para los todos Padres

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS



DAILY 8AM

MONDAY Mar 4

+Merlie Docuyan
+James L. Salvador

TUESDAY Mar 5

+*Dolores Clinton
+James L. Salvador

WEDNESDAY Mar 6

**Healing-Ruby Parra
& Tyroon Bang**
+James L. Salvador

THURSDAY Mar 7

+James L. Salvador

FRIDAY Mar 8

+James L. Salvador
Unborn Babies

1. TUESDAY: 5:00 P.M. Rosary and reflection followed by Anointing the sick.

2. SECOND COLLECTION: Lenten Appeal Collection for God's Poor. God Bless you for your generosity.

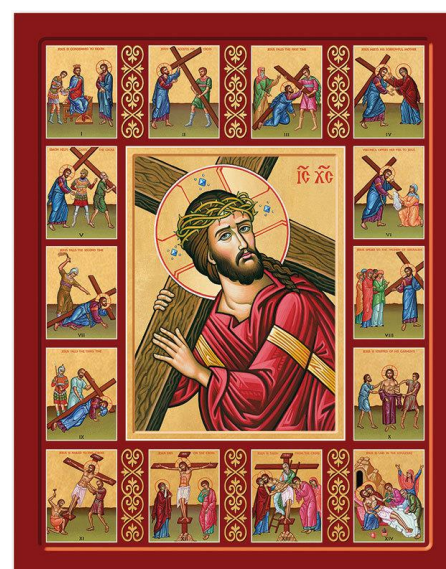
3. GOD OUR FATHER DEVOTION: This Sunday after the 9:30 AM Mass.

4. MONTHLY SPANISH MASS: This Sunday, at 5:00 PM and Rosary at 4.30 PM.

5. PARKING LOT ACROSS FROM THE CHURCH Will be closed and gate locked at 12:30 PM.

6. BLESSING OF ASHES, USE OF GARDEN AREA, BAPTISM, FUNERALS, MEMORIAL MASS & HOUSE BLESSINGS – The Office must be called in advance so that we can check Father's calendar for availability. All necessary paperwork must be filled out to reserve the date.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS **EVERY FRIDAY DURING** **LENT:**



- **5:30 PM Arabic**
- **6:30 PM English**