



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord

May 2025

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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

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday:** 4:30 PM

Rosario y la Misa en Español

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:** 4:30 PM

Tagalog Mass

**Tuesday @ 6 pm** Rosary

Anointing of the Sick every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday

#### REFLECTION:

Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" (Lk24:30-32)

This Sunday we celebrate the apparition of Jesus, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. The story of those two disciples is the story of every believer in the community; the Risen Living Lord leads us to the road of life, we walk with Him without recognizing Him, but our hearts are burning. The Lord explains to us the meaning of life, connects our history with the mystery of His life, death and Resurrection. He is also our provision, empowers our faith, and opens our eyes; to know Him, love Him, serve Him and witness for Him.

St. Luke tells us in his writing this true story, in two conflicting parts:

1. The first is negative, as two disciples leaving Jerusalem, do not recognize Jesus on the road, and do not understand the event of His death, nor believe in His Resurrection despite the testimony of the women and some friends.

2. The second is positive, Jesus explains to these disciples that the holy scripture is about Him, and then He breaks the bread before their eyes as the Risen Lord, as he did at the Last Supper. Then they recognized Him and returned to Jerusalem to proclaim the Good News with the rest of the disciples and community.



#### Let us ponder:

Jesus is with us during the Mass. Do we recognize Him? It is at the Eucharist that you recognize the presence of Jesus alive today. How about you? When and where do you recognize Jesus? Whom in your community, resembles Jesus the most? How hard is it for you to recognize Jesus' presence in your family, friends and community?

#### Jesus Met Two Disciples on the Road to Emmaus



They did not recognize the risen Lord Jesus. He said to them, "Why are you so sad?" Cleopas told Jesus of His crucifixion & death, but His body is gone from the grave He is alive! Jesus called them fools for not believing prophecy; He had a meal with them & vanished.

#### READINGS:

**Job 42: 1-6, 12**

**2 Timothy 2:8-13**

**GOSPEL:**

**Luke 24: 13-25**



#### Let us Pray :

Lord, we ask you for the grace today to open the eyes of our faith so that we can recognize You living in the Sacraments especially in the Holy Eucharist. We see you when reading and listening to the living Word in the scriptures and in the face of our brothers and sisters. Amen



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## *Become a pilgrim of hope*

### *Obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence in 2025*



#### **What is an indulgence?**

An indulgence is the remission in the sight of God of the temporal punishment due for sins. The guilt of which has already been forgiven. A member of Christ's faithful who is properly disposed and who fulfills certain specific conditions, may gain an indulgence by the help of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, authoritatively dispenses and applies the treasury of the merits of Christ and the Saints. "An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it partially or wholly frees a person from the temporal punishment due for sins."

When we sin, we commit an offense against God, who is infinite. Thus, the debt (of Punishment) we incur is infinite. Through the saving work of Jesus Christ, our sacramental confession, prayers, sacrifices and good works restore our relationship with God and remove the eternal punishment we owe. That is, we make satisfactions in this life, but any debt that remains at the time of our death must be paid in purgatory. Where our souls are purified before entering heaven. Consequently, the treasury of Jesus' merits, combined with those of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all of the saints, is waiting to be distributed to the faithful. Jesus established the Church with the pope at its helm, to be the steward of these merits. Indulgences are one way the Church accomplishes this.

When, under the right conditions, we carry out an action to which the Church has attached an indulgence, we are drawing on the graces Jesus has already won for us and which He wishes the Church to dispense. How generous, how magnanimous is God! It is desire to be with us is so great that He directs the Church to help us arrive as quickly as possible at eternal life with Him.

- ❖ **Partial indulgences** remove some temporal punishment.
- ❖ **Plenary indulgences** remove all temporal punishment.

#### **How do I obtain a partial indulgence ?**

To gain a partial indulgence, we must:

1. Have the intention to gain the indulgence.
2. Perform the work specified in the manner prescribed. For example, devoutly making the sign of the cross has a partial indulgence attached to it ( Yes-It's true!)

#### **How do I obtain a plenary indulgence ?**

To gain a plenary indulgence, we must fulfill the requirements for gaining a partial indulgence, and we must also:

1. Receive the sacrament of confession (usually with several days of performing the prescribed work).
2. Receive holy Communion (usually on the day of performing the prescribed work).
3. Pary for the intentions of the Holy Father (usually by reciting an Our Father and a Hail Mary).
4. Be completely detached from our sins (including venial sins). If we are not completely detached, we may still receive a partial indulgence.

#### **What are some examples of plenary indulgences we receive every day?**

Praying the rosary as a family, in a group or with the Holy Father (including on the radio or television), spending 30 minutes praying bore the Blessed Sacrament, praying the Stations of the Cross, and reading Scripture for 30 minutes.

#### **Can I give my indulgences to someone else?**

Yes! But not to someone who is still alive. We can apply our indulgences to the Holy Souls in purgatory. This is a work of mercy for which they will be very grateful.



## CONCLAVE. WHO WILL ELECT THE NEXT POPE

*The upcoming Conclave opening on 7 May will be less euro-centric than it has ever been before, with over three-quarters of the 135 Cardinal electors appointed by Pope Francis, who reshaped the College of Cardinals, showing a more generous gaze on the peripheries of the Church.*

The 135 Cardinals Electors of the College of Cardinals hail from 71 different countries across the five continents.

More than three-quarters of them (108) were appointed by Pope Francis, while 22 were created Benedict XVI, and five by St. John Paul II, making them the “veterans” of the Conclave. They French Cardinal Philippe Barbarin from France, Croatian Cardinal Josip Bozanić from Croatia, Cardinal Vinko Puljić from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Cardinal Peter Turkson from Ghana.

During his 12 years of pontificate Pope Francis significantly reshaped the College of Cardinals, making it a less euro-centric and a more international body. This reflected both the late Pope’s personal inclination to shift the center of gravity of Catholicism toward the Global South, with a focus on the “peripheries”, and the broader trend that the Church of the future will likely have an increasingly non-European face.

For the first time, 12 nations will be represented by their native Cardinal electors. They include: Cardinals Chibly Langlois from Haiti; Arlindo Furtado Gomes from Cape Verde; Dieudonné Nzapalainga from the Central African Republic; John Ribat from Papua New Guinea; Sebastian Francis from Malaysia; Anders Arborelius from Sweden; Jean-Claude Hollerich from Luxembourg; Cardinal Virgilio do Carmo da Silva from Timor Leste; William Seng Chye Goh from Singapore; Adalberto Martínez Flores from Paraguay; Stephen Ameyu Martin Mulla from South Sudan, and Cardinal Ladislav Nemet from Serbia.

### 53 Cardinals from Europe

However, Europe still carries a significant weight in the College of Cardinals. The old continent is represented by 53 Cardinal electors (some of whom head Dioceses and Archdioceses in non-European countries or serve as Apostolic Nuncios abroad or in the Curia), with Italy still having the largest number (19), followed by France (6) and Spain (5).

### 37 Cardinals from the Americas, 23 from Asia, 18 from Africa and 4 from Oceania

37 Cardinal electors are from the Americas (16 from North America, 4 from Central America, and 17 from South America), 23 from Asia, 18 from Africa, and 4 from Oceania. Thus, while the European Cardinals still represent the majority of those who will gather in the Conclave, the “rest of the world” now clearly surpasses Europe with the Americas significantly increasing its “weight”.

Although regional representation alone won't determine the outcome of the election of the new Pope, which is also influenced by other critical factors, the geographical aspect cannot be overlooked given the global impact of the Pope's role.

### The ages of the Cardinal electors

Regarding the age of the Electors, the youngest Cardinal in the College is the Australian Ukrainian-born Mikola Bychok, aged 45 while the oldest is the Spaniard Carlos Osoro Sierra, aged 79.

Six Cardinals were born in the Seventies : they are Italian Cardinal Baldassarre Reina, the Vicar of the Diocese of Rome who will turn 55 this coming November; Canadian Frank Leo (1971); Lithuanian Cardinal Rolandas Makrickas, the Coadjutor Archpriest of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major (1972); Indian George Jacob Koovaka, Prefect of the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue (1973), Portuguese Américo Manuel Alves Aguiar (1973) and Italian-born Giorgio Marengo (194), Apostolic Prefect of Ulan Bator in Mongolia, which will be represented for the first time ever in a Conclave.

Other age groups include 50 Cardinals born in the Forties, 47 in the Fifties; 31 in the Sixties. The most represented birth year group is 1947, with 13 Cardinals aged or approaching 78.

### 33 Cardinals belonging to religious orders

Among the Cardinal electors, 33 belong to 18 different religious orders. The Salesians are the most represented with five members: Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, Virgilio Do Carmo da Silva, Ángel Fernández Artime, Cristóbal López Romero, and Daniel Sturla Berhouet. Four belong to the Order of Friars Minor (Luis Cabrera Herrera, Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Jaime Spengler, and Leonardo Steiner) and four are Jesuits (Stephen Chow Sau-yan, Michael Czerny, Jean-Claude Hollerich, and Ángel Rossi). Three are Conventual Franciscans (François-Xavier Bustillo, Mauro Gambetti, and Dominique Mathieu).

Attending the Conclave will also be two Dominicans (Timothy Radcliffe and Jean-Paul Vesco), two Redemptorists (Mykola Bychok and Joseph Tobin), two members of the Divine Word Missionaries (Tarcisio Kikuchi and Ladislav Nemet), and one each from several other Congregations: Augustinian Robert Prevost, Capuchin Fridolin Ambongo Besungu, Discalced Carmelite Anders Arborelius, Cistercian Orani João Tempesta, Claretian Vicente Bokalic Iglic, Pius X Secular Institute member Gérald Lacroix, Lazarist Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel, Consolata Missionary Giorgio Marengo, Missionary of the Sacred Heart John Ribat, Scalabrinian Fabio Baggio, and Spiritan Dieudonné Nzapalainga.

Two absentees

Of the 135 Cardinals eligible to vote, two have confirmed they won't be able to attend the Conclave for health reasons bringing the total down to 133.

ELECTION OF FIRST ARAB RECTOR A ‘MESSAGE OF HOPE’ FOR ISRAEL

Mouna Maroun, the first Arab to be appointed Rector of an Israeli university, speaks to Vatican News about her new role, the ongoing conflict in Gaza, and her Christian faith.

In 2024, Mouna Maroun was appointed Rector of the University of Haifa, becoming the first member of Israel’s Arab minority – an underprivileged group that, according to rights organizations, continues to face structural discrimination – ever to hold the role at an Israeli university.

Maroun is also a Christian, hailing from a small Maronite Catholic village on the slopes of Mount Carmel. Christians make up only around 7% of the total Israeli Arab population, which in turn represents about one fifth of Israel’s total, and Maroun’s tale of success – as a woman, an Arab, and a Christian – is therefore a noteworthy one.



Mouna Maroun at Vatican News' offices in Rome

Her election was “a miracle”, Maroun tells Vatican News, coming as it did only a few months after Hamas’ 7th October attacks and rising tensions between Arabs and Jews within Israel. In April 2024, she had been appointed the University of Haifa's Rector, or chief academic officer, a role second only to the President in the university hierarchy.

Maroun describes her appointment as a “message of hope” and a sign that “things can be different in Israel”, that Jews and Arabs “can succeed together and can live together”.

Academic boycotts of Israel

Maroun hails from Israel’s north, home to a high Arab population, and some 45 percent of the students at her university are Arab.

This is part of the reason Maroun is opposed to the boycotts that have seen some foreign universities cut ties with their Israeli counterparts, as a response to the huge civilian death toll caused by Israel’s war in Gaza.

“A boycott doesn't help anyone,” she says, “especially not an academic boycott, because Israeli academia is doing something amazing to empower Arabs ... and increase their social mobility.”



Mouna Maroun speaks to Vatican News

Maintaining humanity


As an Israeli Arab, Maroun says that she has “sympathies on both sides” of the current conflict in Gaza.

“You don’t have to be a Jew in order to be terrified regarding what happened on the 7th of October,” she says. “And you don’t have to be an Arab to be terrified regarding the humanitarian situation in Gaza, and the killing of innocents.”

Being human, she says, means “having empathy for victims from both sides.”

Maroun also stressed the role that the Church and Holy See ought to play as a “neutral agent” in promoting peace in the region. This should include, she said, collaborating with Trump administration in the US, due to its influence “on both Israelis and Palestinians”.

“This is our faith”, Maroun concludes: “Reconciliation, forgiveness, and peacemaking.”



[Israel] **Mouna Maroun** was born in Isfiya village on the top of the Mount Carmel into Arab Christian family. Completed her studies in Psychobiology at the University of Haifa, she then moved for a Post-doc in Paris XI, Orsay, France in Neurosciences (recipient of the Chateaubriand fellowship from the French government).

She is recipient of the MAOF fellowship from the Higher Council of Education that is designated for the recruitment of excellent Arab researchers in the Israeli Academia. Since 2003, she is the head of the lab for the Neurobiology of Emotions. She is also previous chair of the stress center at the Haifa University and of the Department of Neurobiology.

Mouna is a member founder of the ALMARAM association that aims to promote sciences in schools and universities among the Arab population in Israel.



# Under the Care of a Loving Shepherd

On this Third Sunday of Easter, our attention is focused on the Risen Christ, who appeared to his disciples, and on his confirming of Simon Peter as the chief shepherd.

This appointment is particularly significant because it happened only a few days after Peter had strongly denied being one of Jesus' disciples. Jesus offered Peter the possibility to redeem himself by answering the challenging question: "Do you LOVE me?" The question, repeated three times, elicited a **triple profession of love** from the humbled disciple. As a result of this, Jesus made him the "deputy chief shepherd" – a role that has been inherited by his successors.

This tells us the basic importance of a sincere love for Jesus, not only for the shepherds of the Church, but also for all the members of his flock. Love is the essence, and nothing can make up for its absence.

Today is a good day for all of us to reflect on what really matters to the one who loves, like Jesus, the Loving Shepherd. 14.5



This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.

John 21:14 (KJV)

## BREAKFAST WITH JESUS

JOHN 21:1-19

WEEKLY VERSE:

JESUS SAID,  
"FOLLOW ME."

JOHN 21:19

**LIVE IT OUT:** PUT A FEW INCHES OF WATER INTO A DISHPAN. ADD SOME PLASTIC FISH TO THE WATER. GIVE YOUR CHILD AN AQUARIUM NET TO CATCH THE FISH IN THE WATER. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY WITH YOUR CHILD. THANK JESUS FOR GIVING US WHAT WE NEED.



## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

April 26 & 27



|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| *Weekend Masses Collection | \$4,115 |
| *General                   | \$1,898 |
| *Building Fund             | \$644   |
| *Helping Hand              | \$195   |

### Weekly Church

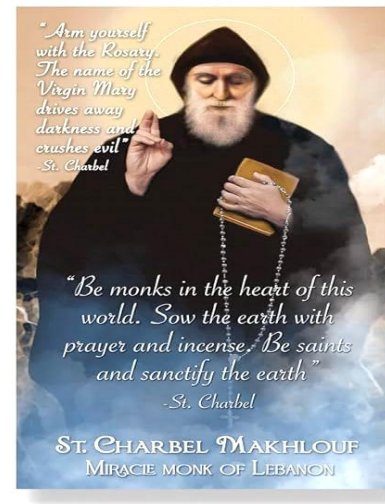
**Estimate Expenses \$ 10,558**

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| *Second Collection | \$1,206 |
|--------------------|---------|



## MIRACLES OF SAINT SHARBEL: MAY JAMMOUL – YOUNG SHIITE MUSLIM WOMAN HEALED THROUGH ST. SHARBEL'S INTERCESSION

In 2021, May began experiencing severe abdominal pain and fatigue, prompting her to seek medical attention. After numerous tests, she was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Despite the initial shock and fear, May found solace in her connection with Saint Sharbel. May's relationship with Saint Sharbel began years before her illness when she visited his shrine out of curiosity, an experience that left a lasting impression on her. During her cancer battle, this connection became her source of strength, and she began praying earnestly to Saint Sharbel, seeking his intercession.



O God, You Who are glorified in Your saints, and Who inspired the holy monk and hermit Charbel to follow Jesus heroically in poverty, chastity, and obedience, we ask You for the grace to love and serve you as he did. And as you have already shown the power of his intercession by many miracles and favors, graciously grant us the favor we ask, if it be Your will. O holy St. Charbel, pray for us. Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

SGC  
PC 24

Patron Saint  
of Lebanon

FEAST  
JULY 24

*This is the Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon built on 1904 in honor of the Immaculate Conception.*

*We have many miniatures: two in South Africa, one In Canada, one in the Jacksonville, Ohio, and in Houston, Texas.*

***"Come with me from Lebanon,  
my bride, Come with me  
from Lebanon."***

***Songs of Solomon 4:8***



***Cedar of Lebanon,  
pray for us***

## May 5: FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON

**Lebanon** is a land of exceptional beauty and history. Situated on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea, the Lebanon mountain range rises majestically from the sea to snow-capped mountain peaks that reach over 10,000 feet. Nestled in the mountains in the north are the famous Cedars of Lebanon, often referred to in the Bible, such as in the Books of Kings, Psalms, Song of Songs, and the Prophet Isaiah.

**Jesus** and **Mary** visited Lebanon during his public ministry.

Lebanon has a special devotion to the **Blessed Virgin Mary**, the Mother of Jesus, and she has become known there as Our Lady of Lebanon. For, while she was living, she visited there with her Son! There is a sanctuary in the south of Lebanon dedicated to the Virgin of **Mantara**, a place where Mary stayed awaiting her Son, when Jesus went to Tyre and Sidon. The Basilica of Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church is located in **Harissa**, a small town about thirty minutes north of Beirut, the capital city. The Blessed Virgin Mary was named the Queen of Lebanon by the Maronite Patriarch in 1908 upon completion of the Basilica. The Shrine was visited by Pope John Paul II in May of 1997 in his effort to support Eastern Catholicism and to evangelize the youth. Located between Jounieh on the coast and Bkerke, Harissa is surrounded by numerous churches and monasteries.

**Jesus Christ** was the first to evangelize the Gentiles when he visited Tyre and performed a miracle for the Syro-Phoenician woman's daughter, as noted in Matthew 15:21-28 and Mark 7:24-30. He then went by way of Sidon on to the Sea of Galilee (Mark 7:31). The Gospel of John 2:1-12 describes Jesus performing his first miracle, when he turned water into wine at the request of his mother Mary at the wedding feast of Cana in Galilee. The Cana southwest of Tyre in Lebanon today was located in the region of Galilee at the time of Jesus. The church historian Eusebius of Caesarea in 339 wrote that Cana of Galilee is the Cana south of Sidon. No one can say for sure in which of the towns named Cana the miracle of the wedding feast took place. But the fact that Jesus went down to Capernaum (John 2:12) suggests the wedding at Cana took place in Cana of Lebanon, for Cana of Palestine is south of Capernaum, and Jesus would have had to go up to Capernaum were its Cana of Palestine! There is a grotto in Qana, Lebanon with large stone water jars as well as a sculpture symbolic of Jesus and the Twelve Apostles.

*Mother of Jesus,  
be my Mother  
today*

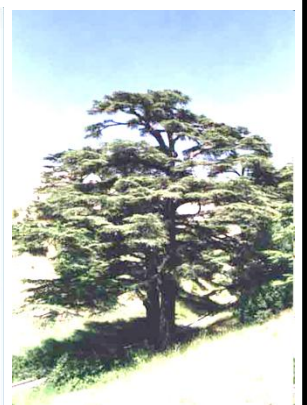


**Lebanon** is the crossroads of the East and West. The Lebanese people are noted for their adaptability and hospitality. The population is both Christian and Muslim. Arabic, French, and English newspapers flourish in Beirut, as many Lebanese speak all three languages. The Lebanese people have migrated all over the world, reflecting their Phoenician heritage. The intellectual ties to the West are reflected in the presence of two major universities, the American University of Beirut, founded in 1866, and L'Université Saint Joseph, founded in 1870. Lebanon is the birthplace of Kahlil Gibran, the author of *The Prophet*, a book of poetry that has sold nearly ten million copies in twenty languages worldwide. The country is unique, for one can go skiing in the mountains in the morning, and swimming in the Mediterranean in the afternoon. All share in traditional Lebanese cuisine, which represents the classic Mediterranean diet. Famous for their health benefits, Lebanese prepared dishes such as grape leaves, kibbeh, tabooli, hummus, falafel, baba ghanouj, and baklava are enjoyed the world over!

**March 25**, the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady, has become a National Holiday in Lebanon, as the Virgin Mary, who is revered by Christians and Muslims alike, provides unity among Lebanese of every faith.

The Eastern Catholic **Maronite** Church of Lebanon originated from St. Maron, a monk in the fourth century who left Antioch for the Orontes River to lead an ascetic life. He soon had many followers that adopted his monastic life. Following the death of St. Maron in 410, his disciples built a monastery in his memory and formed the nucleus of the Maronite Church. The martyrdom of 350 monks, for remaining true to Rome and the Council of Chalcedon (451), led the Maronites to seek refuge in the mountains of Lebanon. The Crusader Raymond of Toulouse discovered the Maronites near the **Cedars of Lebanon** on his way to Jerusalem in 1099. The Maronites, because of their monastic origin, have been able to withstand intense pressure and persecution to preserve their Church and maintain the Christian culture of Lebanon - right to the present day. The Patriarch of the Maronite Church resides in Bkerke, near Harissa, leading his worldwide flock of over three million faithful, in countries such as Lebanon, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and the United States. The Maronite liturgy still celebrates the Mass in **Aramaic**, the language of Jesus.

**Jesus Christ** commissioned his Apostles to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). St. Paul stayed a week in Tyre after his return from his third missionary journey (Acts 21:2-3) and also stopped in Sidon on his fourth missionary trip to Rome (Acts 27:3). The land was still known as Phoenicia at the time Jesus Christ lived.



*Our Lady of Lebanon, please  
pray for peace, peace in our  
hearts,  
peace in our family,  
peace in our land,  
and peace throughout  
the world.*



## 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



## 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 4 de Mayo del 2025**

**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*

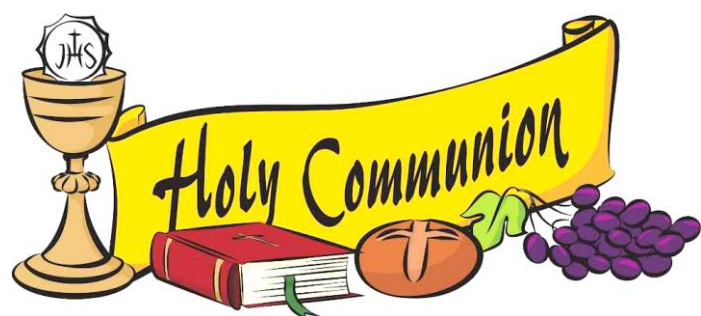


# Congratulations!

*First Communion & Confirmation Recipients*

*May 3, 2025*

*Celebrant Bishop Zaidan & Father Nadim*



*Chloe Abi Nader  
 Izabella El Atik  
 Krystle Hortiza-Uy  
 Yasmina Kleiany  
 Christopher Moussallem  
 Myla Sierra  
 Riley Gregorio  
 Josiah Sabbah  
 Kristelle Manjah  
 Katalina Manjah  
 Adam Jackson  
 Andrew Jackson  
 Sebastian Diaz  
 Chloe Manansala  
 David Rivera  
 Kyla Wesolek  
 Zeith Wong  
 Karam Manjah  
 Oscar Tadeo*



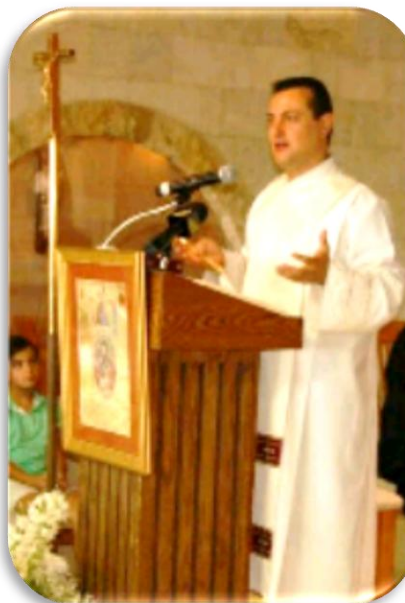
*Scott Arseneault  
 Cesar Martinez  
 Fabrizio Reque*



**SAINT SHARBEL CHURCH FROM THE ARCHIVES**

**Issue 37 August 14th– 20th, 2009 Noursat on the Footsteps of the Oriental Churches in the World The Message of Light A Weekly Newsletter St Sharbel Church, Las Vegas**  
**A Message of light in the darkness of sin Las Vegas is the city of noise and nightlife.**

Sins lurk in its streets. However, the light certainly eliminates darkness. That's how St Sharbel Church started a journey of peace, love and faith facing moral perversion. After renting homes and halls to meet and pray, the Lebanese Maronites decided to build their own church in Las Vegas. Under the auspices and with the blessing of Bishop Robert Shahine, they bought the land in 2001. Many priests contributed in the life of the mission including Fr. Youssef Mwannes and Fr. Nabil Mwannes, parish of San Diego in California. With great cooperation, the project was accomplished in 2008. The Holy See in the Vatican and the Maronite patriarch Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir congratulated the Lebanese for this achievement in the current situation. In July 2008, Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid became the pastor of the church, and continues, with God's help, the mission he began, and turned the wooden building into a church, shrine and hermitage of St Sharbel. He built an altar like the Lebanese Maronite traditional church. The place became holy and the believers visit it to pray, adore the Eucharist and honor Our Lady the Virgin. It contains 250 persons. Outside the church, a 2-meter statue of St Sharbel coming from Lebanon was lately erected. A full- equipped huge hall of 1200 m<sup>2</sup> for ceremonies and meetings was established, in addition to administrative offices subsidiary to the church. Today, and after being about 40, the parishioners reach 300 persons including not only Lebanese Maronite but also Chaldeans, Assyrians, Catholic, Ortho-dox and Syriac. The parish is rich by its different confessions and nationalities including Syrian, Jordanian, Palestinian, Iraqi, Egyptian, Italian, Mexican and American believers. Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid celebrates the Mass in English and Arabic and soon in Spanish. He parish organizes educational activities. There are volunteers who give lessons in Arabic each Saturday to 80 students. The Arab community including Muslims and Druze can also participate in these classes in addition to the Christian Teaching and the preparations for the 1<sup>st</sup> Communion. Entertaining activities are also organized through the American Lebanese Festival that will be revived next October. All American residents, Arab and foreign communities meet with joy the parish which Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid is forming to continue his mission. As well, social activities are organized allowing families and youth to meet together. A year after the foundation of St Sharbel in Las Vegas. Tele Lumiere visited it and filmed a documentary showing this event. Interviews with the parishioners were filmed in addition to the Divine Liturgy that will be broadcast soon on Tele Lumiere.



***Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid,  
the good  
shepherd of  
St Sharbel parish,  
Las Vegas***



***The church Front: The altar, the tabernacle,  
the stone building such as the Lebanese  
Maronite Churches.***



**Visit:**

***<http://noursat.tv/newsletters/Newsletter37-English.pdf>***



## CBCP ASKS PINOYS: DON'T CAMPAIGN FOR TAGLE AS POPE

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday asked the public to refrain from campaigning for Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle to become the next pope.

"It's not prudent for the people to publicly push for Cardinal Tagle as the next pope since it may be misconstrued that the conclave can be influenced by outside forces if and when Cardinal Tagle indeed becomes the next pontiff," CBCP Episcopal Commission on Public Affairs executive secretary Fr. Jerome Secillano said over Radio Veritas.

"The independence of the electors should be respected, and the least that we can do is to pray for Cardinal Tagle and the rest of the cardinal-electors," he said.

The 67-year-old Tagle, who is the Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, has been reported as one of the "papabili" or a contender to be the shepherd of the 1.4 billion Catholics in the world.

He has been dubbed by some as the "Asian Pope Francis."

After Pope Francis' burial on Saturday, cardinals below the age of 80 will gather for the conclave and vote for the next pope.

There will be three cardinal-electors from the Philippines: Tagle, Kalookan's Pablo Virgilio Cardinal David and Manila's Jose Cardinal Advincula.

### Seminary enrollment down

Following the death of Pope Francis and the expected selection of a new leader of the Catholic Church in the coming weeks, a priest and professor is hopeful that more Filipinos will join the religious vocation.

Fr. JD Zaldivar, formator and professor of San Carlos Seminary, confirmed on "Storycon" on One News that they see a downward trend in their enrollment at the seminary.



**Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle joins fellow cardinals in the procession for the transfer of Pope Francis' remains from Casa Santa Marta to St. Peter's Basilica.**

"The numbers are kind of fluctuating. There are years when it will go up, and then there are years that it will drop. But the overall trend is a bit downward. Not a very steep slope, but gradually going down," he said.

"We don't know what the Lord plans for us, maybe in the coming years it will go up again. Usually, what we are seeing is when there is a major event in the church or a religious event, we see an increase in those who are interested to become priests," he added.

Zaldivar noted an increase in their enrollment following the visit of Francis to the Philippines in 2015.

"I'm thinking that with the death of our dear Pope Francis, and maybe a new pope being elected in a few weeks, maybe some people who are witnessing this would feel interested in priestly and religious vocation," he added.

Zaldivar said interest in joining the religious vocation has dropped in the Western world, but he noted the increase among those in the global South.

"Even their baptisms are also increasing," he added. — **Janvic Mateo**



## St. Sharbel Church Black Nazarene Statue

We are bringing back the grace and blessing of our Black Nazarene "Poon Jesus Nazareno", a House-to-House visit to be with you and your family for seven (7) days, Sunday to Sunday. A Novena prayer for your family's petition is available when you pick up the Black Nazarene Statue at St. Sharbel Church, after our Holy Mass on Sunday at 9:30 am. And, for courtesy, please return our Black Nazarene Statue the next Sunday before the 9:30 am Holy Mass, so it will be available for the next family on schedule. Your kind donation (Love Offering) to our Poon Jesus Nazareno intention will be greatly appreciated.

For registration and scheduling, please call the following members of the Black Nazarene Group to assist you:

Teresa Lacape 702-524-1086



**WEEKEND****Sat. 4:30 pm May 3**1<sup>st</sup> Communion & Confirmation recipients**Sun. 9:30 am May 4**

+ Virginia T. Ele

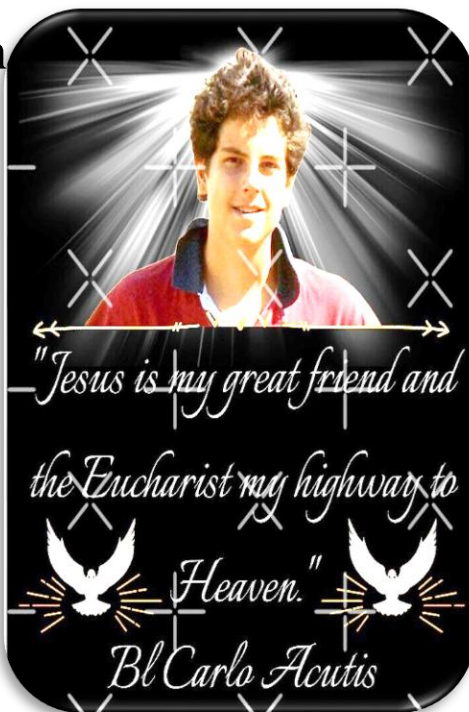
**Sun. 11:30 am**

+ Edouard Karam

+ Elias Haydamous (1 week)

**Sun. Spanish Mass 4:30pm**

Para todos los Inmigrantes de los Estados Unidos

**HOLY MASS INTENTIONS****Pray for Us****DAILY 8AM****MONDAY May 5**

Faithful Departed

**TUESDAY May 6**

Healing of the Sick

**WEDNESDAY May 7**

\*Celuta Elder

**THURSDAY May 8**

Healing-Charito &amp; Peter

Salas Family

\*Ellie Bonofacio

**FRIDAY May 9**

Unborn Babies

**SAINT SHARBEL COMMUNITY LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS****1. TUESDAY:** 5:30 P.M. Rosary followed by Anointing of the sick in the Chapel.**2. SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:** Our Lady of Lebanon National Shrine and Basilica. Please be generous.**3. GOD OUR FATHER DEVOTION:** Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> after the 9:30 Mass in the Chapel**4. MONTHLY SPANISH MASS:** Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM. Rosary & Mass at 5:00 PM.**5. MOTHERS DAY NOVENA:** We will be offering Daily Novena Masses at 8:00 AM for 9-days for all Mothers, Grandmothers and Great Grandmothers living and deceased. Use the Holy Mass Intention Envelope at the entrance of the Church to enroll your love ones.**6. ARABIAN NIGHT AT THE VENETIAN** – will be held on Saturday, May 24 at 9:00 PM. Call the Parish Office for tickets. Limited tickets!**7. THANK YOU TO ALL THE TEACHERS** who made the commitment to teach our children and all the volunteers that help with the Retreat & Program.*Thank You*

Your passion for teaching  
and dedication to your  
students is truly inspiring.  
Thank you for being an  
amazing teacher.

