

Saint Maron Catholic Church

First Sunday of Epiphany

JANUARY 13, 2019

"Lord, I come to do your will". The refrain of the Psalm seems to anticipate the journey of Jesus towards the Baptist (Jn 1:29) and towards humanity in need of love and redemption. John recognizes in the man of Nazareth the Lamb of God (v.29), the servant on whom God will manifest his glory (Is 49,3). Both the image of the servant and of the lamb refer to the full availability of the Son to fulfill the Father's will, that is to reveal to all that God is on the side of the created, ready to save everyone and above all not to judge anyone. Thanks to the availability of the Lamb, therefore, John is able to understand the wonderful plan of love of God: to compromise each person to the reality of the imminence of the kingdom and to the transformation of history in the time of the Son.



"Here is the Son of God" (Jn 1:34). Christian life is characterized by the fact that it is not an ideology but an encounter with a person, a personal God; an "I" approached to a "you" who turns every day so that man can respond and dialogue. From this dialogue-encounter faith is born, a gift bestowed on everyone. We could then say that Jesus continues to walk towards us, as He did with the Baptist: it is a person who approaches and we recognize him for His love, for His willingness to save us, because it warms our frozen hearts from the criticism of the hypocrites, from the prejudices of those who consider themselves Christians.

In fact, our encounter with Christ takes place in a specific place, through concrete signs that manifest the presence of God. The place is the Church, composed of people, of Christians gathered in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The signs are ordered according to gestures and elements such as water, oil, bread, and wine, which reach man thanks to the action of the Spirit. It is the Spirit who, acting in the Church, makes present in man's day the encounter with Christ. This meeting, however, must not remain before the altar: the peace and joy of the meeting must be transformed into concrete actions towards neighbors, those in need of love; in other words, it is necessary to be witnesses of Jesus, of Truth made flesh. Through our sincere witness, who asks nothing in return, we will see the face of Christ in the many faces we will encounter on our journey. Amen.



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LITURGY INTENTIONS

Sun. Jan. 13: First Sunday of Epiphany

- 9:30 am [Lector: Robert Safadi]

Liturgy for all the Children living in poverty and suffering

Liturgy for all for all the youth in the world who are struggling with their faith

- 11:30 am [Lector: Alex Agbay]

Liturgy for Lucine Kassis, 40 day mass, by her son George and his family

Liturgy for all the youth in the world who are struggling with their faith

NEXT WEEK

Thursday 17: Feast of St Anthony the Great

- 10:00 am Liturgy for all parishioners holding the name of St Anthony

Sun. Jan. 20: Second Sunday of Epiphany

- 9:30 am [Lector: Robert Safadi]

Liturgy for Theresa Josef Abood, 2 year remembrance, and deceased relatives, by family

- 11:30 am [Lector: Alex Agbay]

Liturgy for Saide Barker, 2 year remembrance, by Marie Anne Barker

Liturgy for Lucine Kassis, by Louis and Antoinette Dasaro

JANUARY CALENDAR FEASTS

01 - 15 Our Lady of the Seeds

01 - 17 St. Anthony the Great of the desert

01 - 24 St. Francis De Sale

01 - 25 The Conversion of St. Paul

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER

God reveals His Name

God revealed himself to his people Israel by making his name known to them. A name expresses a person's essence and identity and the meaning of this person's life. God has a name; he is not an anonymous force. To disclose one's name is to make oneself known to others; in a way it is to hand oneself over by becoming accessible, capable of being known more intimately and addressed personally.

God revealed himself progressively and under different names to his people, but the revelation that proved to be the fundamental one for both the Old and the New Covenants was the revelation of the divine name to Moses in the theophany of the burning bush, on the threshold of the Exodus and of the covenant in Sinai.

The living God

God calls Moses from the midst of a bush that burns without being consumed: "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." God is the God of the fathers, the One who had called and guided the patriarchs in their wanderings. He is the faithful and compassionate God who remembers them and his promises; he comes to free their descendants from slavery. He is the God who, from beyond space and time, can do this and wills to do it, the God who will put his almighty power to work for this plan.

"I Am who I Am"

Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."

In revealing his mysterious name, YHWH ("I AM HE WHO IS", "I AM WHO AM" or "I AM WHO I AM"), God says who he is and by what name he is to be called. This divine name is mysterious just as God is mystery. It is at once a name revealed and something like the refusal of a name, and hence it better expresses God as what he is - infinitely above everything that we can understand or say: he is the "hidden God", his name is ineffable, and he is the God who makes himself close to men.

Saint Maron Catholic Church

Collections

Collection Dec. 30	\$ 1,170
Donuts and Coffee of 30	\$ 45
Collection Jan. 1	\$ 261
Coffee Jan. 1	\$ 19
Candles	\$ 366

BREAD AND WINE

Please contact the Rectory to donate the Host and Wine for \$50.00/month, we will be accepting donations from three different families each month.

- **Bread and Wine** for the month of January 2019, in loving memory of **Nader and Fayez Shaer, by Amal Shaer**
- **Bread and Wine** for the month of January 2019, in loving memory of **Tabet and Fleifel families, by Nouha tabet**
- **Bread and Wine** for the month of January 2019, for a **Special Intention, by Aziz Bou Chaaya.**

Parish Staff

Arabic classes director	Mr. Tony Geara
Choir Director	Mrs. Hasna Geagea
Church Accountant	Mr. Peter Jabbour
Director of Public Relations	Dr. Daher Rahi
English Soloist	Ms. Mary Anderson
Hall Manager	Mr. Rudy Jabbour
History & Archive Coordinator	Ms. Veronica Asmar
Ladies Altar Society President	Ms. Veronica Asmar
Maronite Young Adults	Mr. Chris Saleh
Maronite Youth Organization	Mr. Elias Hazkial
Organist	Ms. Rita Shemmai
Religious Education	Mrs. Julie Gharios
Ushers Coordinator	Mr. Raymond Mabarak

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday January 25, 2019

Families Night
7 pm at St Maron Hall
(Potluck dinner)

Saturday February 09, 2019

St Maron Feast Day

6.30 Holy Mass presided by

His Excellency Bishop Elias A. Zaidan

7.30 pm Dinner & Party at St Maron Hall

You can help by sponsoring, selling pages for the ad book, and by selling or buying Banquet tickets.

February 15 - 17 , 2019

MYO Regional Retreat

At Saint Sharbel Church, Clinton Twp

SAVE THE DATE!

You are cordially invited to
the Solemn Celebration of
The Divine Liturgy
Celebrated by
His Beatitude Mar Bechara Peter Rai
Patriarch of Antioch and All the East
on
Tuesday, January 22, 2019
6:00 PM at
St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church
43888 Hayes Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038

First Class Relics of Saint Sharbel will be present!

Reception following
St. Sharbel Church Banquet Hall



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