



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

Sunday of the Birth of John the Baptist 2020

December 2020

Index

Page

Church Events	1
Birth of John the Baptist	2
Pope Francis/Lebanese News	3
10 Secrets of Happiness	4
Immaculate Conception	5
Saint N'imtallah	6
Beautiful Faces & Places	7
The Maronites on Mission	8
Filipino News	9
Information	10
Reminders in attending Mass	11
Holy Mass Intentions	12



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

Jesus

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Saturday (4:30 pm) &

Sunday (9:30 & 11:30 am)

all Masses are first come first serve.

Limit 50 people



LIVE STREAM SUNDAY 9:30 AM ONLY

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



Sunday of the Birth of John the Baptizer

Reading: *Galatians 4:21-5:1*

Gospel: *Luke 1:57-66*

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways.” (Luke 1:76)

The Church does not usually celebrate the earthly birthdays of the saints, but rather their birthdays in heaven. We celebrate John the Baptizer's earthly birth, because this serves as an announcement that the birth of Christ is imminent.

John's birth was the cause of much rejoicing for his family and his people. He would be great in the sight of God. He would be the forerunner of the Savior. He would make the doubtful see the wisdom of the just and in this ways prepare them for the teachings of the Lord. John is the bearer of the lamp illuminating the path which Christ would take.

What does the birth of John teach us? It gives us a message that when a child is born, it comes to prepare the way of God, and that each of us has a mission in this life to continue the work of God.

Rev. Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid



LET US PRAY:

O God, come and touch our lips:
to praise and glorify only Your name.
We praise and thank You God for all the gifts
You have given us, the grace of life,
children, good health and especially the
things that we take for granted.
Give us strength to carry on
to continue Your work. Amen.

Prepare for the Coming of the Lord!

Whenever we experience the bites of suffering, we raise our voices to God asking Him to “show His kindness and grant His salvation.” Such was also the prayer of Israel, especially in the long period of the Exile. But for such wonder to happen, the prophet Isaiah told them that they had to “make straight in the desert a highway for their Lord” (Is 40:3). This same call to repentance and conversion was made by John the Baptist to the entire people of Israel when the time came for God to send them the promised Messiah. ***This call of the “fiery prophet” spans the centuries and reaches us today,*** as urgent as ever. We, too, need God's help and forgiveness. ***But in order to enjoy this, we have to do our share – we have to go back to Him.*** Today, the second Sunday of December, we also observe Catholic Handicapped Day and National AIDS Sunday. We offer all Masses in the Philippines today for all the handicapped as well as for those who take care of them. We pray, likewise, for all those affected by AIDS and those who extend help to them. The Church has been at the frontlines of the battle against AIDS, helping and supported by many NGOs alongside the government. But we must all do our share to stop the alarming rise in HIV/AIDS cases that threaten the very foundation of our society: the family.



At the end of Mass for Christ the King on November 22, 2020, Pope Francis had some important reflections on World Youth Day (WYD).

First, he greeted youth from Panama and Portugal, present to transfer the symbols of WYD from the last venue to the next, Lisbon in 2023. Second, he announced a change in how WYD will be observed at the diocesan level.

“And as we prepare for the next intercontinental edition of WYD, I would also like to renew its celebration in the local Churches,” the Holy Father said. “Thirty-five years after the establishment of WYD, after listening to various opinions and consulting the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life, which is responsible for youth ministry, I have decided, beginning next year, to transfer the diocesan celebration of WYD from Palm Sunday to Christ the King Sunday.

“The center of the celebration remains the Mystery of Jesus Christ the Redeemer of Man, as Saint John Paul II, the initiator and patron of WYD, always emphasized.”

OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS CHANGES DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF WYD FROM PALM SUNDAY TO CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

Pope Francis at
World Youth Day 2013

“You too, dear young people,
can be joyful witnesses of his
love, courageous witnesses
of his Gospel, carrying to this
world a ray of his light.”

MARONITES: MONSIGNOR YOUSSEF ANTOINE SOUEIF IS TRANSFERRED TO THE SEE OF TRIPOLI

The Synod of Bishops of the Patriarchal Church of Antioch of the Maronites accepted the renunciation to the pastoral government of the Arch-Eparchy of Tripoli of the Maronites, Lebanon, tendered by H.E. Georges Bou-Jaoude, C.M., Lazarist, announced the Vatican on Sunday, November 1, 2020.

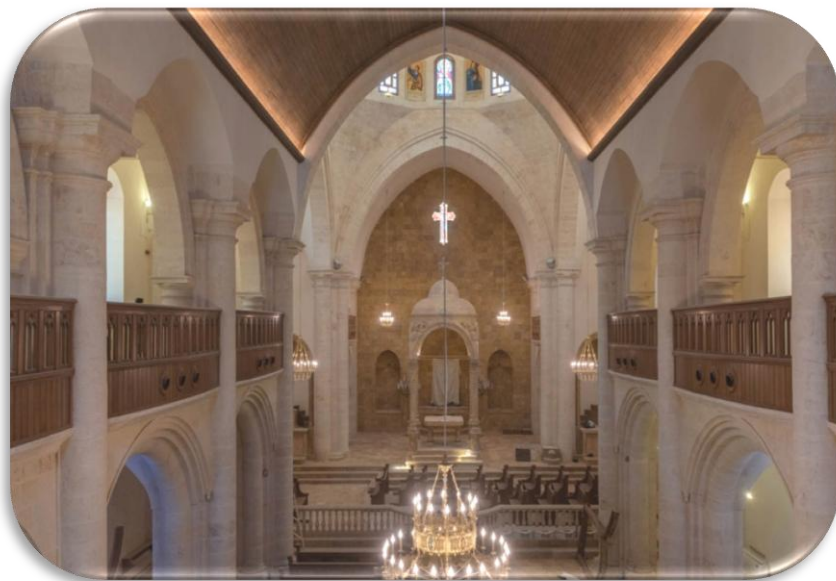
Cardinal Bechara Boutros Rai, Patriarch of Antioch of the Maronites, with the consent of the Synod of Bishops of the Maronite Church and after informing the Apostolic See, transferred H.E. Youssef Antoine Soueif of the Arch-Patriarchal See of Cyprus of the Maronites to that of Tripoli of the Maronites (Lebanon).

S.E.R. Youssef Antoine Soueif was born on July 14, 1962, in the Eparchy Batroun of the Maronites (Lebanon). After attending the small Seminary of Ghazir, he was admitted to the grand local Seminary, pending studies in Philosophy and Theology at the University of the Holy Spirit of Kaslik.

He was ordained priest on September 3, 1987 for the Arch-Eparchy of Tripoli of the Maronites, and continued his studies in Rome at the Pontifical Oriental Institute, receiving a Doctorate in Liturgy.

During his years of ministry as priest, he held the following posts: Vice-Parish Priest of Tchekka, Animator of Missionary Activities, parish priest of Saint Maron at Tripoli, *Protosyncelle* (name of Vicars and Bishops of the Patriarchate, n.d.r.) and Vice-President of the Patriarchal Commission for the Liturgy, *Syncelle* for pastoral care and for the implementation of Synodal Acts. He was also President of the League of the Clergy in Lebanon.

He taught Liturgy at the Universities of Kaslik and La Sagesse. He is the author of several works on liturgy, spirituality and pastoral care.



Maronite Cathedral Of St. Eljiah After Restoration

Published on October 29, 2008 was his election as Archbishop of Cyprus of the Maronites. He received episcopal consecration on December 6 of the same year.

On October 11, 2018, he was appointed Apostolic Visitor of the Maronite faithful residing in Greece. He was also Vice-President of *Caritas Internationalis*.

In addition to Arabic, he speaks French, English and Italian and understands Syriac and modern Greek.

POPE FRANCIS' TOP 10 SECRETS FOR HAPPINESS

In an interview published in part in the Argentine weekly "Viva" July 27, the pope listed his Top 10 tips for bringing greater joy to one's life:

1. "Live and let live." Everyone should be guided by this principle, he said, which has a similar expression in Rome with the saying, "Move forward and let others do the same."

2. "Be giving of yourself to others." People need to be open and generous toward others, he said, because "if you withdraw into yourself, you run the risk of becoming egocentric. And stagnant water becomes putrid."

3. "Proceed calmly" in life. The pope, who used to teach high school literature, used an image from an Argentine novel by Ricardo Güiraldes, in which the protagonist — gaucho Don Segundo Sombra — looks back on how he lived his life.

"He says that in his youth he was a stream full of rocks that he carried with him; as an adult, a rushing river; and in old age, he was still moving, but slowly, like a pool" of water, the pope said. He said he likes this latter image of a pool of water — to have "the ability to move with kindness and humility, a calmness in life."

4. "A healthy sense of leisure." The pleasures of art, literature and playing together with children have been lost, he said.

"Consumerism has brought us anxiety" and stress, causing people to lose a "healthy culture of leisure." Their time is "swallowed up" so people can't share it with anyone.

Even though many parents work long hours, they must set aside time to play with their children; work schedules make it "complicated, but you must do it," he said.

Families must also turn off the TV when they sit down to eat because, even though television is useful for keeping up with the news, having it on during mealtime "doesn't let you communicate" with each other, the pope said.

5. Sundays should be holidays. Workers should have Sundays off because "Sunday is for family," he said.



6. Find innovative ways to create dignified jobs for young people. "We need to be creative with young people. If they have no opportunities they will get into drugs" and be more vulnerable to suicide, he said.

"It's not enough to give them food," he said. "Dignity is given to you when you can bring food home" from one's own labor.

7. Respect and take care of nature. Environmental degradation "is one of the biggest challenges we have," he said. "I think a question that we're not asking ourselves is: 'Isn't humanity committing suicide with this indiscriminate and tyrannical use of nature?'"

8. Stop being negative. "Needing to talk badly about others indicates low self-esteem. That means, 'I feel so low that instead of picking myself up I have to cut others down,'" the pope said. "Letting go of negative things quickly is healthy."

9. Don't proselytize; respect others' beliefs. "We can inspire others through witness so that one grows together in communicating. But the worst thing of all is religious proselytism, which paralyzes: 'I am talking with you in order to persuade you,' No. Each person dialogues, starting with his and her own identity. The church grows by attraction, not proselytizing," the pope said.

10. Work for peace. "We are living in a time of many wars," he said, and "the call for peace must be shouted. Peace sometimes gives the impression of being quiet, but it is never quiet, peace is always proactive" and dynamic.

WHAT IS THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION?**Answer:**

The Immaculate Conception refers to the condition that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from Original Sin from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne. We celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8; nine months before is December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate

Fr. John Hardon, S.J., in his *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, notes that "Neither the Greek nor Latin Fathers explicitly taught the Immaculate Conception, but they professed it implicitly." It would take many centuries, though, for the Catholic Church to recognize the Immaculate Conception as a doctrine, and many more before Pope Pius IX, on December 8, 1854, would declare it a dogma.

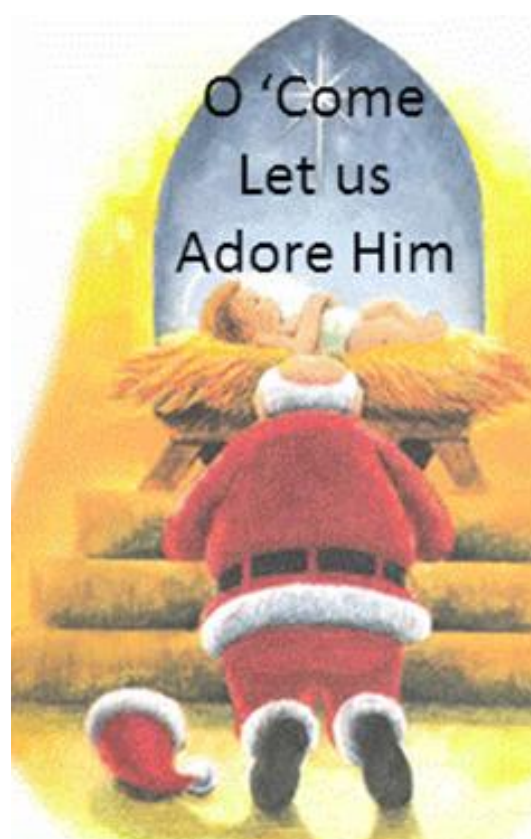
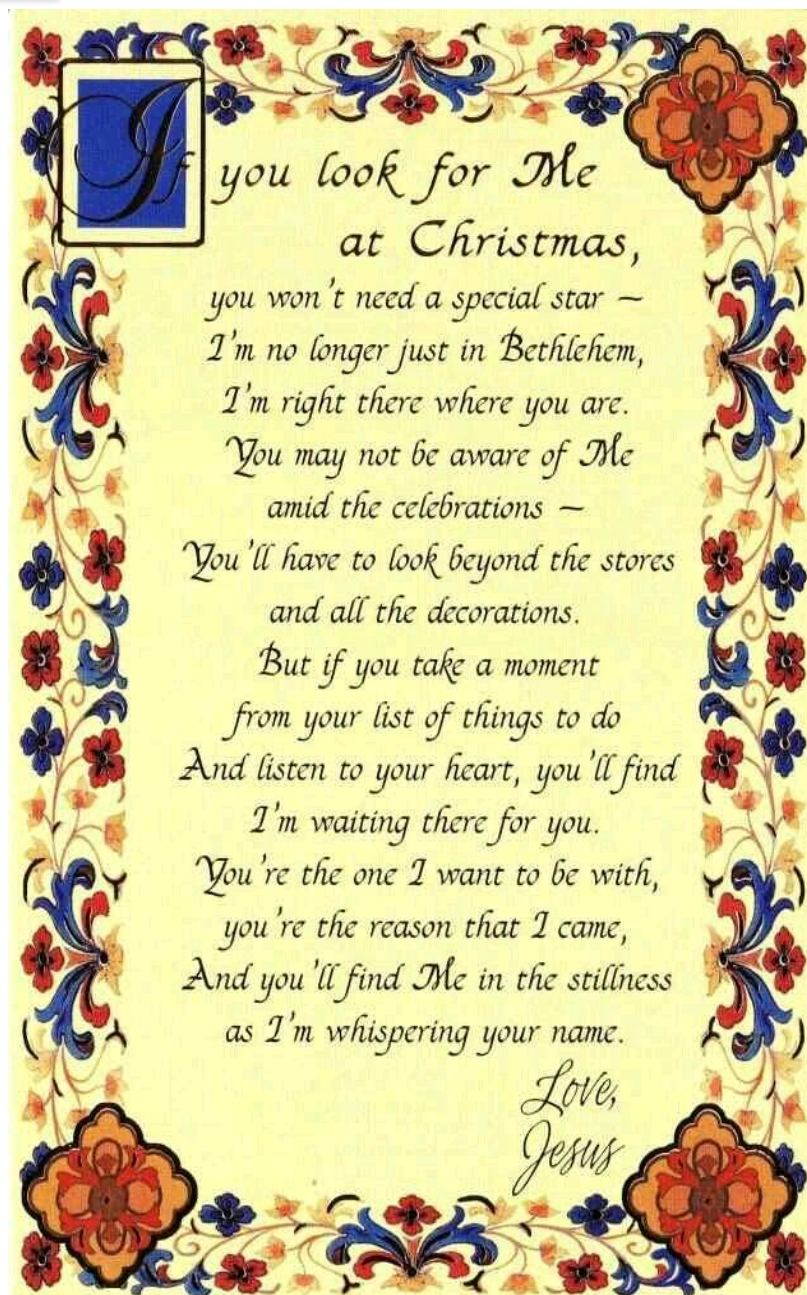
In the Apostolic Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*, Pope Pius IX wrote that "We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful." As Father Hardon further writes, the Blessed Virgin's "freedom from sin was an unmerited gift of God or special *grace*, and an exception to the law, or *privilege*, which no other created person has received."

Another misconception people have is that Mary's Immaculate Conception was necessary to ensure that Original Sin would not be passed on to Christ. This has never been a part of the teaching on the Immaculate Conception; rather, the Immaculate Conception represents Christ's saving grace operating in Mary in anticipation of His redemption of man and in God's foreknowledge of Mary's acceptance of His Will for her.

In other words, the Immaculate Conception was not a precondition for Christ's act of redemption but the result of it. It is the concrete expression of God's love for Mary, who gave herself fully, completely, and without hesitation to His service.

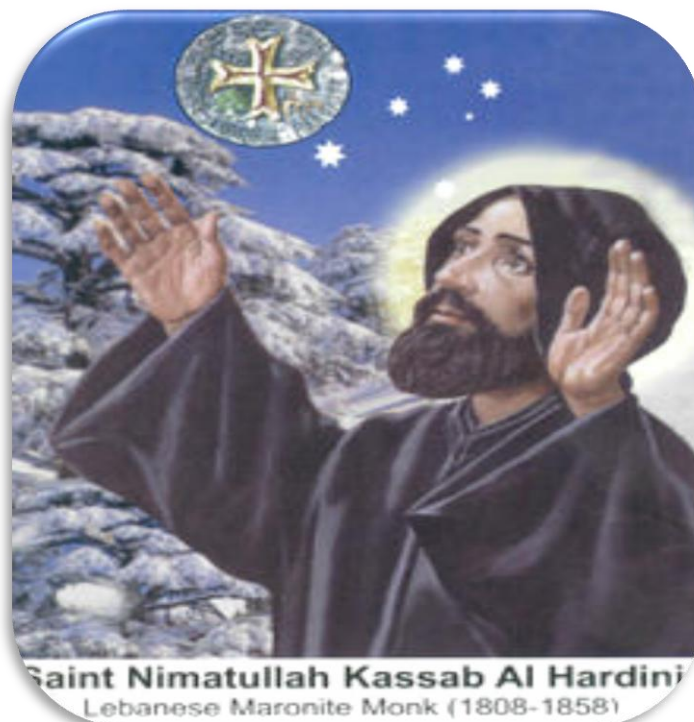
Question: What Is the Immaculate Conception?

Few doctrines of the Catholic Church are as misunderstood as the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Many people, including many Catholics, think that it refers to the conception of Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. That event, though, is celebrated at the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25, nine months before Christmas). What is the Immaculate Conception?



SAINT N'IMTALLAH – GRACE OF GOD (1808–1858) SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME IN ADORATION BEFORE THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Yousef (Joseph) Kasaab was born at Hardine – Batroun in 1808. In 1828 at the age of twenty, he left and entered the religious life at the Monastery of St. Anthony in Qozhaya where he pronounced his religious vows on 14 November 1830. In 1833, he was ordained to the priesthood and on 25 December, was appointed spiritual director of the young novices and students of his order. Among his pupils from 1853 until 1858 was Fr. Sharbel Makhoul who was canonized a saint in 1977. After his ordination, N'imtallah was appointed three times as assistant to the Superior of his order. (1845-1848), (1850-1853), (1856-1858). This holy man performed many miracles during his life-time and was revered as a "saint" both before and after his death on 14 December 1858. Many astonishing miracles and cures were obtained through the intercession of St. N'imtallah, especially raising a child from the dead. He was canonized on 16 May 2004.



FEAST DAY: December 14

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION DECEMBER 8

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:

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed will be 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 Microsoft Word .doc format, 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.

Beautiful Faces & Places



Congratulation to Ryan & Meliza Reyes on their daughter's baptism in November

- ❖ Weddings
- ❖ Anniversary Blessings
- ❖ Baptisms
- ❖ 1st Communion/Confirmation
- ❖ Funeral Services
- ❖ House Blessings



Please contact the office 702-616-6902
Monday – Friday / 9 am – 3 pm
to schedule and
complete the necessary forms

Christmas & New Year Schedule

Thursday Christmas Eve

Vigil December 24 at 4:30 pm

Midnight Mass at 11 pm

Friday Christmas Day

**Masses December 25
at 9:30 am & 11:30 am**

Friday New Year Day

Mass January 1, 2021 at 8 am only



THE INITIATIVES THAT MARONITES ON MISSION CURRENTLY OFFERS

1. Food runs - every Thursday night in the city (Woolloomooloo and Martin Place, we cater for approximately 150 people. We have a full roster for this run and are not accepting any new volunteers at this stage)
 - Every Thursday we prepare sandwiches and other food for the evening distribution. We start at 9am and finish at approximately 11am
 - Every Sunday afternoon, we feed the homeless / less fortunate at Prince Alfred Park in Parramatta. We cater for approximately 50 people. Volunteers usually turn up to the youth house at St Charbel's Church at 3:30pm to help prepare sandwiches etc. We usually get to the park about 5pm and usually are done by about 5:45pm. Volunteers can meet us at the park at 5pm if they live in the Parramatta area. All volunteers must be over 18 years of age. Volunteers are rostered on approximately once a month.
 2. Home Visits: Maronites On Mission also has a home visits program where we visit struggling families once a month or once a fortnight depending on need at their house. We provide them with some companionship and food packs (also see if we can help them in other ways). At present we look after 15 families. A pair of volunteers meet at St Charbel's Church to pick up the food pack before they head to the family's home. Volunteers make their own way to the family's home which could be anywhere in the Sydney metropolitan area, usually spend 20 minutes or so with the families and they have to provide a report to the coordinator after the visit is complete.
 3. International Missions: Maronites On Mission goes to an international mission to the Philippines every January. We work with a religious order (Missionaries of the poor (MOP)) to help the poorest of the poor in the slums of Naga. We take over 20 volunteers split into 4 different teams (medical/dental, building, educational and general) to assist the MOP in serving the poor. Last year, we also had a small group headed by our bishop to help Syrian refugees in Lebanon. This year we are trying to plan a mission to Iraq to work with a French organization that helps Christians in the middle east.
 4. Counseling Service: We are also currently in the process of starting a counseling service for our community as well as for the poor people that we come across.
 5. Nursing Home Visitations: We also visit nursing homes, Children's hospital wards, disadvantaged youth, etc. as part of our Christmas initiatives.
- MOM relies on the generosity of the people and the volunteers to fund all our activities. We do not have any paid employees and basically our only overhead is the van maintenance costs. The premises at St Charbel's Church is used as our base to store and prepare food, etc. There are no rental, power or water bills. All is covered by St Charbel's Church with only an annual fundraiser to help our local and international work

MIRACLE OF SAINT SHARBEL: NAJI ZEIDANE



Come and visit the Miraculous Relic of Saint Sharbel at the Grotto Chapel & receive Oil of Saint Sharbel

Naji is from Roueisset El Balout in Baabda. When his wife Agnes was on the ninth month of pregnancy, the baby's movement stopped for 15 days. When she went to see her doctor, he decided that she should undergo a surgery to save her from poisoning.

Her husband went to the monastery of Saint Charbel to implore him to save his son and promised to name him Charbel and baptize him. Miraculously, the baby regained his movement and the mother gave birth normally, the baby weighed 4 kg and was named Amir Charbel as his father promised. Concerning the baptism, the bishop of the diocese asked for the permission to baptize the child. The miracle was registered on 02/09/2012.



Filipino News



NEW APOSTOLIC NUNCIO ARRIVES IN PHILIPPINES

Archbishop Charles John Brown arrived in Manila on Sunday to assume his duties as the new Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines. The Vatican ambassador arrived at the NAIA Terminal 2 on board Philippine Airlines from his home city, New York, at around 7:20 a.m. Brown was welcomed by Bishop Pablo Virgilio David of Kalookan, the Vice President of the Philippine bishops' conference, and Bishop Jesse Mercado of Parañaque. He was also greeted by some government officials and staff of the Apostolic Nunciature in Manila upon his arrival at the airport. From the airport, the archbishop also prayed at the Mary, Mother of Good Counsel Parish Church in Parañaque City, his first visit to a church in the country. Brown had become a devotee of Our Lady of Good Counsel when he was assigned in Albania, his last assignment before coming to the Philippines. Pope Francis appointed Brown as Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines on Sept. 28, 2020. He replaced Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, who now heads the Holy See's Permanent Observer Mission in the United Nations in New York. As papal envoy, he will represent the Vatican State to the Philippine government, while also playing a crucial role in representing the pope to the Catholic Church in the Philippines. In many Catholic countries like the Philippines, the nuncio is also the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. The papal nuncio is expected to present his credentials to the Philippine government next month.



Archbishop Charles John Brown, the new Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, prays at Mary, Mother of Good Counsel Parish Church in Parañaque City Nov. 29

Archbishop Charles John Brown, the new Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, is greeted by some church and government officials upon his arrival at the NAIA Terminal 2 on Nov. 29.



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 balls.

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.

ST. JUAN DIEGO**Feast day: December 9****Birth: 1474****Death: 1548****Beatified By: Pope John Paul II****Canonized By: Pope John Paul II**

Juan Diego was born in 1474 in the calpulli or ward of Tlayacac in Cuauhtitlan, which was established in 1168 by Nahua tribesmen and conquered by the Aztec lord Axayacatl in 1467; and was located 20 kilometers (14 miles) north of Tenochtitlan (Mexico City). On December 9, 1531, a native Mexican named Juan Diego rose before dawn to walk fifteen miles to daily Mass in what is now Mexico City. Juan lived a simple life as a weaver, farmer, and laborer. That morning, as Juan passed Tepeyac Hill, he heard music and saw a glowing cloud encircled by a rainbow. A woman's voice called him to the top of the hill. There he saw a beautiful young woman dressed like an Aztec princess. She said she was the Virgin Mary and asked Juan to tell the bishop to build a church on that site. She said, "I vividly desire that a church be built on this site, so that in it I can be present and give my love, compassion, help, and defense, for I am your most devoted mother . . . to hear your laments and to remedy all your miseries, pains, and sufferings."

The bishop was kind but skeptical. He asked Juan to bring proof of the Lady's identity. Before Juan could go back to the Lady, he found out his uncle was dying. Hurrying to get a priest, Juan missed his meeting with the Lady. The Lady, however, met him on his path and told him that his uncle had been cured.

She then told Juan to climb to the top of the hill where they first met. Juan was shocked to find flowers growing in the frozen soil. He gathered them in his cloak and took them at once to the bishop.

Juan told the bishop what had happened and opened his cloak. The flowers that fell to the ground were Castilian roses (which were not grown in Mexico). But the bishop's eyes were on the glowing image of the Lady imprinted inside Juan's cloak.



Soon after, a church was built on the site where our Lady appeared, and thousands converted to Christianity. Our Lady of Guadalupe was declared the patroness of the Americas. He died on May 30, 1548, at the age of 74.

Juan Diego deeply loved the Holy Eucharist, and by special permission of the Bishop he received Holy Communion three times a week, a highly unusual occurrence in those times.

Pope John Paul II praised Juan Diego for his simple faith nourished by catechesis and pictured him (who said to the Blessed Virgin Mary: "I am a nobody, I am a small rope, a tiny ladder, the tail end, a leaf") as a model of humility for all of us.

In His Footsteps: Juan walked fifteen miles to attend Mass every day. Participate in Mass one day this week that is not a Sunday Mass. If this is impossible, take a long walk outside and notice the miracles of God's love during that walk. You may not see roses in the snow or hear music, but there is plenty to praise God for!

Prayer: Blessed Juan, you faced the skepticism and rejection of a bishop and the crowds to bring Mary's message to Mexico. Pray for us that when we are faced with obstacles to our faith we may show that same courage and commitment. Amen.

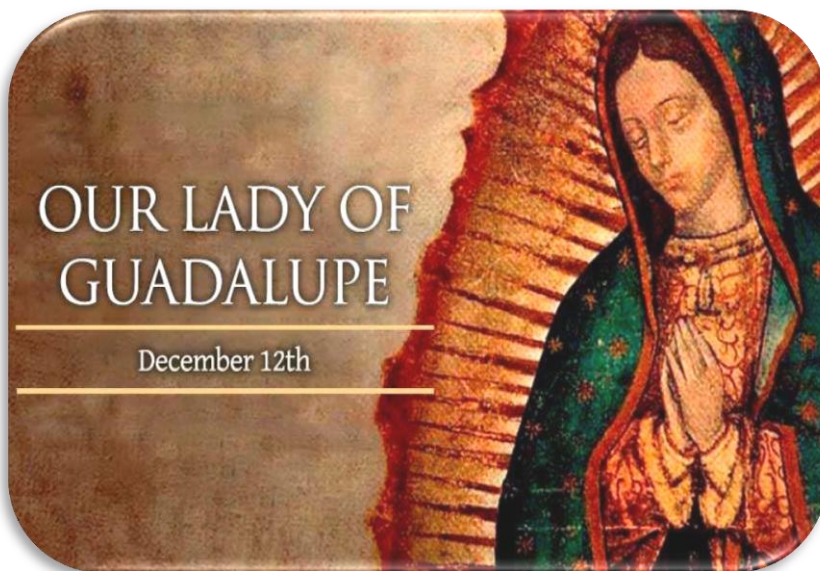
El Grupo Guadalupano

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 6 de Diciembre**HORA: Rosario 4:30pm Misa**

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

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





Knight of Columbus would like to
Thank everyone that participated in the coat
 and blanket drive last month. We collected over
 20 boxes and delivered them to an organization
 that distributed them to unfortunate people
 in our county.

Your donation helped many families that could
 not afford to purchase these items.

This season of giving is very important that we
 assist one another.

As Jesus stated that whoever clothe a person is
 like clothing me.



SIMBANG GABI NOVENA COME AND JOIN US



Date / Time	Celebrant	Psalms
Tuesday December 15 @ 6:30 PM	Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid	Lord come and save us
Wednesday December 16 @ 6:30 PM	Fr. Ricardito Salditos	Teach me your ways, O Lord
Thursday December 17 @ 6:30 PM	Fr. Joel Aquino	Justice shall flourish in His time and fullness of peace forever
Friday December 18 @ 6:30 PM	Fr. Ricardito Salditos	Justice shall flourish in His time and fullness of peace forever
Saturday December 19 @ 4:30 PM	Fr. Nick Assi	My mouth shall be filed with your Praise, and I will sing Your glory
Sunday December 20 @ 6:30 PM	Fr. Joel Aquino	Let the Lord enter; He is the King of Glory
Monday December 21 @ 6:30 PM	Fr. Ricardito Salditos	Exult, you just in the Lord! Sing to Him a new song
Tuesday December 22, 6:30 PM	Fr. Joel Aquino	Let the Lord enter; He is the King of Glory
Wednesday December 23 @ 6:30 PM	Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid	Lift up your heads and see; your Redemption is near at hand

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

WEEKEND

Saturday 4:30 pm Dec 5

+Eloise Gomez

Sunday 9:30 am Dec 6

Deacons & Priests

Sunday 11:30 am

Our Holy Father, the
Cardinals & our Bishops

Misa en Español 5 pm

Para Obispos y
sacerdotes en la Iglesia
Catolica.

**Mary,
Seat of
Wisdom**



**PRAY
FOR THE SICK**

DAILY 8AM

MONDAY Dec 7

Victims of Pearl
Harbor

TUESDAY Dec 8

Thanksgiving to our
Blessed Mother Mary

WEDNESDAY Dec 9

Cancer Patients

THURSDAY Dec 10

Unborn Babies

FRIDAY Dec 11

*Edna Penuela

MARONITE MAGNIFICAT



SUNDAY LITURGY

Fr. Nadim has now completed his book entitled "Maronite Magnificat" for the Maronite Rite. He is now taking it to print and would like to explain the new book at all Masses this weekend. His new book has the complete readings, Theme, Intercessions and Thanksgiving prayers which will help assist all of us.