

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

Sunday of the Commemorations of the Priests

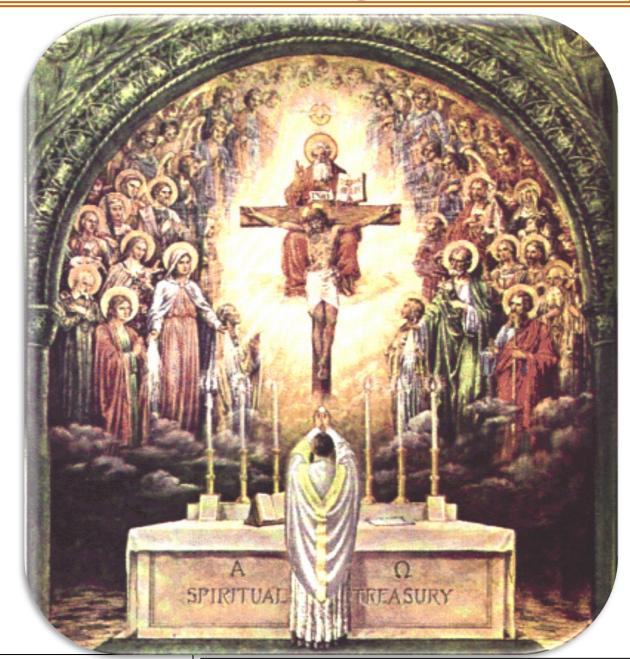


February 2020

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To Keep a Lamp Burning we have to Keep Putting Oil in it. M. Theresa



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Our Services HOLY MASSES

<u>DAILY</u>: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. English <u>SATURDAY VIGIL</u>: **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

Rosary & Tagalog Mass

Sunday Catechism @ 8 am (Classes are Sept – May)

1st SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. & 11:30am

Youth Mass

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Sunday of the Priests

Reading: 1 Timothy 4:6-16
Gospel: Luke 12:42-48

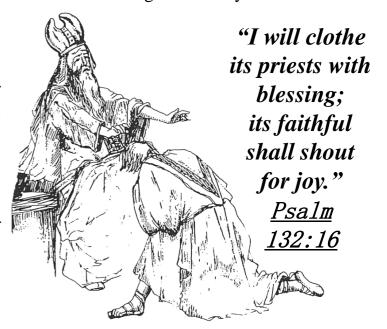
Christ has established the priesthood for His Church and entrusted priests with great responsibilities. The priest is given the task of caring for the spiritual needs of the people of His parish. On this Sunday the people of God come together to pray for those who were entrusted with the Divine Mystery and to carry on with the salvific work of Christ.

Priests are called the salt of the earth and the light and the presence of Christ among the community. He is the faithful servant, and the good shepherd. Priests are the image and hands of Jesus Christ.

Michael Quoist the famous writer said: "Its hard to be alone, alone before everyone, alone before the world, alone before suffering, death, and sin. Jesus said to the priest: my son, you are not alone, I am with you, I am you, to continue My incarnation and My redemption. Out of all eternity, I chose you, I need your hands to bless, I need your lips to speak, I need your body to suffer, I need your heart to love, to save. My son, stay with Me. The priest will answer: 'Jesus, here I am, Lord, here is my body, my heart, my soul, my youth, all my life."

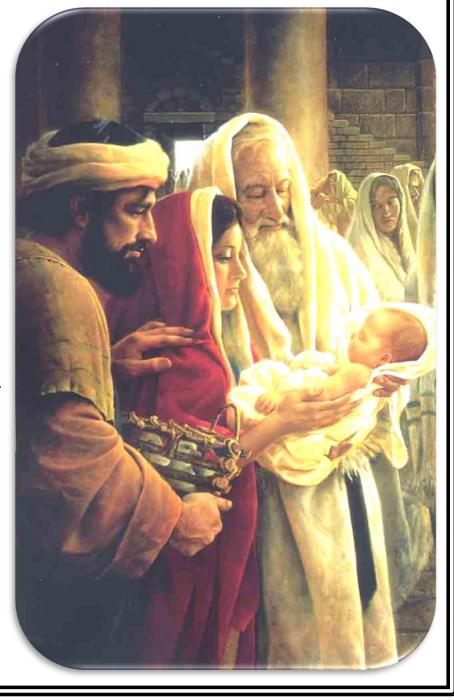
LET US PRAY:

O Lord, we pray for all the priests who served upon Your Holy Altar, died in the faith of Your Holy Church. Who served us with fidelity in all the world, and we ask You to give us many more vocations.



A LIFE VOWED TO GOD

By a series of happy coincidences, today the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time is replaced by the Feast of the Presentation of the Baby Jesus in the Temple, which is also the "World Day for Consecrated Life." We keep also the secular observance called "Pro Life Sunday." The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple invites us to focus on Jesus, the source of our life and the Light of all Nations. This feast reminds us of our own consecration to the Lord on the day of our baptism. Like Jesus, we too, are expected to live in an attitude of constant self-offering in the service of the Kingdom. Like Jesus, we too are expected to appreciate life, do our best to promote it in all its potentials, and to protect it from whatever endangers or destroys it. In this Eucharist, as we observe Pro-Life Sunday, let us renew our commitment to love life and to make amends for all the profanations and attacks it constantly suffers



OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS RECEIVES PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

On January 25, 2020, the Holy Father Francis received in audience His Excellency Mr. Barham Salih, President of the Republic of Iraq, who subsequently met with His Eminence Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin, accompanied by His Excellency Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States.

During the cordial discussions, the good bilateral relations were evoked, and the parties focused on the challenges the country currently faces and on the importance of promoting stability and the reconstruction process, encouraging the path of dialogue and the search for suitable solutions in favor of citizens and with respect for national sovereignty.

Attention then turned to the importance of preserving the historical presence of Christians in the country, of which they are an integral part, and the significant contribution they bring to the reconstruction of the social fabric, highlighting the need to guarantee their security and a place in the future of Iraq.



Finally, the parties discussed the various conflicts and grave humanitarian crises that afflict the region, underlining the importance of the efforts made with the support of the international community to re-establish trust and peaceful co-existence.

MARONITE BISHOPS TO LEBANESE POLITICIANS: DO NOT DRAG COUNTRY INTO CONFLICTS STIRRING MIDDLE EAST

'Freedom has always been...in the heart of the existence of this small country'

Lebanese politicians must do everything possible to strengthen Lebanon's national cohesion and keep the country safe from the new winds of war that are stirring the entire region. The Bishops of the Maronite Church, who met on Wednesday 8 January in the patriarchal see of Bkerkè, under the presidency of Patriarch Bechara Boutros Rai, for their traditional monthly meeting.

In the message issued at the end of the meeting, among other things, the Maronite Bishops expressed concern about the new escalation of violence in the Middle East after the attack with which the US apparatuses killed Iranian general Qasem Soleimani in Baghdad. In the text, reported by Fides News Agency, members of the Maronite episcopate have called on the international community and the governments of nations to do everything possible to prevent further turmoil, in an area of the world which is unstable and tormented by conflicts in recent decades.



The Bishops also recalled the words with which Pope Francis, in his Christmas message "Urbi et Orbi", urged the Lebanese people to rediscover "their vocation to be a message of freedom and harmonious coexistence for all". "Freedom," added the Bishops, "has always been, over the centuries, in the heart of the existence of this small country, in a Levant that always moves away from it, making deleterious choices for everyone".

The **Mystery of Priesthood**, instituted by Christ, the High Priest, at the Last Supper and handed on through the apostles and their successors, the bishops, manifests a continuation of the priesthood of the OT tradition.

The Holy Spirit bestows spiritual powers upon bishops, priests and deacons to preach the Gospel, to worship, and to serve the Mysteries to God's people. This earthly priesthood is an image of the unending heavenly priesthood of Christ. Its main goals are to serve the altar and the Mysteries, and to build up the people of God.

In the Maronite Church, the ordination of the deacon, priest and bishop unfolds in a unique way. All three ordinations take place within the divine liturgy after the bishop and priests have received communion and before its distribution to the congregation. The bishop, standing in front of the altar with the Sacred Mysteries placed near the front as well, then imposes his left hand on the Eucharist and his right hand on the candidate's head while invoking the Holy Spirit. This Maronite Ordination ritual, with its timing unique to the Maronite tradition, reveals a profound between the Eucharist priesthood. For the same Holy Spirit, who Mysteries, overshadowed the now overshadows the candidate through the imposition of the bishop's hands.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said,"and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19

Priesthood in the Syriac Maronite Tradition

Written by Chorbishop Seely Beggiani

For a priestly ordination, the bishop, after vesting the newly ordained minister, and anointing his hands with Myron, presents the new priest with three symbols of his priestly ministry. With each of these symbols the newly ordained priest is led in procession by two brother priests around the church.

First, while <u>Incensing</u> the community the priest is reminded of his ministry to forgive sins through the mystery of reconciliation and to lead the congregation in worship.

Second, while carrying the <u>Gospel Book</u> the priest is reminded of his prophetic ministry of proclaiming the good news.

Third, and perhaps the most compelling symbol, is the placement of the chalice, containing the Eucharist, upon the priest's head as a reminder to dispense the Mysteries on the life-journey for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

The Mystery of Orders, like the Mystery of Crowning, celebrates the divine calling, and divinizes and strengthens those who commit themselves to these Mysteries. The origin, identity and destiny of every human being is *divine*; for we are made by God, in his image and likeness. Our sacred vocation is to love and serve God, revealed in Jesus, by the Spirit in his Church. The context of this divine calling is lived out in various ways; for some in marriage and family life, for others in ordained ministries and religious vows.

Beautiful Faces & Places





Congratulations to all the kids and their Parents who were baptized in the month of January.

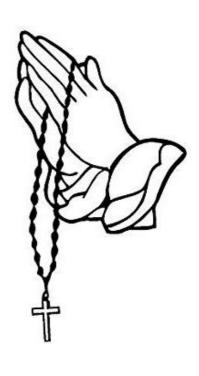


"A friend texted me today
to tell me that a friend of her's
attends the same
Catholic Church as Kobe
and saw him
this morning at Mass.
There can be nothing
more consoling to those
who mourn than to know
that a loved one
worshipped God right
before his death, because
worshipping God
is what heaven is."

- Fr. David Barnes

AREAS 24

We pray to all of the lives that were lost in that tragic accident and we ask our Lord to give Peace and Serenity to all their families. May they rest in Peace with Our Lord Jesus.







2020

Dates For Second Collections, Annual Appeal

January 26, 2020 Eparchial Charities*

February 16, 2020 Catholic Home Missions Appeal

March 1st, 2020 Caritas Lebanon

February 24 - April 12, 2020 Eparchial Development Appeal**

April 10, 2020 Holy Land Collection

May 3, 2020 Our Lady of Lebanon National Shrine and Basilica

May 24, 2020 Catholic Communications-Per USCCB, 50% of

This collections is sent to USCCB-50% is

Retained by the Eparchy for our communication

needs: website, Facebook, etc....

June 28, 2020 Peters Pence-collection for the Holy Father

to assist with helping the needy worldwide

September 6, 2020 Catholic University

October 18, 2020 World Mission Sunday-Propagation of the Faith

91% to Society of the Propagation of the

Faith, 9% to CNEWA

December 6, 2020 Maronite Patriarchal Charities

All Second Collections are due to the Chancery within three weeks of the collection. So that the Chancery can forward these collected funds to their proper places. It is essential that pastors forward these funds within the three-week due date.

^{*}Eparchial Charities - The Eparchy receives many requests from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to assist others. The Latin Church has approximately 18-second collections during the year and fulfills their obligation in that manner. The Eparchy has always limited the second collections not to burden our faithful. The Eparchial Charities Collection will allow the Eparchy to contribute to the most in need causes served by the USCCB.

^{**}Eparchial Development Appeal-In 2020 the annual Eparchial Development Appeal will take place between February 24(Ash Monday) and April 12, 2020 (Easter). Please submit all Eparchial Development Appeal donations no later than May 1st.

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Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles Office of the Bishop

BISHOP'S LETTER ON TREASURE

January 11, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In my previous two letters I addressed "time" and "talent". I now turn my thoughts and reflection to the gift of treasure. One of the most famous sayings of Jesus is found in the Gospel of Matthew: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21). It is interesting to note that in this sixth chapter of the Gospel Jesus first addresses giving alms (to the poor); he then speaks about prayer and teaches his apostles the Lord's Prayer that we all know so well. Jesus then reflects on the gift of fasting and finally he speaks of our "treasures". In reality the gift of "treasure" represents two things: The gift represents the giver; and the gift represents an act of "thanksgiving to God".

In the previous passage, Jesus correctly notes that our earthly treasures will rust, or be stolen or simply lost. As we know, we leave the world at our death the way entered into the world at our birth – with nothing. The Holy Scriptures have literally hundreds of references to material goods and their proper use. We will never be able to outdo the generosity of God as St. Paul tells us, "You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." (2 Corinthians 9:10-11). The proper use of what God has given to us in the form of material possessions must be used in accordance with His will. I believe that, while taking care of ourselves and our families, the will of God is also that we use our material goods for others in acts of charity.

Our Stewardship of Treasure allows for many different possibilities. One central and important way is our support of our local parish. It is in the parish that we come for the blessing of our marriage and where we bring our children to be baptized and receive the Eucharist; it is in the parish that we bring our beloved deceased for Christian burial. The Eparchy is another way we share the material gifts given to us by God. The Eparchy supports directly the work of the parish. Outside of the parish and Eparchy there are many charitable opportunities with organizations and institutions that also do the work of the Lord. Of course, there is also our ability to assist the poor directly, sometimes person-to-person, sometimes through groups that deal directly with the poor and needy. These are all ways to be thankful to God through our generosity.

Remember that, however we choose, we should always respond with an open heart "for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A. E. Zaidan

+A. Elias Zaidan

Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

The Season of Great Lent is a time to fast in order to be able to regain our vision which has been distorted by our inordinate desires, personal sins, bad habits, etc... It is a time to regain sight: to see the face of our Lord and the needs of our neighbors. It is like a trip on a boat from one side to another side, from old life to new life, from death to life, from dark to light.

On Ash Monday, the Maronites in Lebanon and the whole world gathered at churches and received the sign of the cross with ashes on their front. When the priest makes the sign of the cross on your front, he says, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return".

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Why we receive the ashes

Following the example of the Nine vites, who did penance in sackcloth and ashes, our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and reminds us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when we are told

'Remember, Man is dust, and unto dust you shall return."

Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the hair shirts which they were to wear during the forty days of penance, and sprinkled over them ashes made from the palms from the previous year. Then, while the faithful recited the Seven Penitential Psalms, the penitents were turned out of the church because of their sins -- just as Adam, the first man, was turned out of Paradise because of his disobedience. The penitents did not enter the church again until Maundy Thursday after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days' penance and sacramental absolution. Later, all Christians, whether public or secret penitents, came to receive ashes out of devotion. In earlier times, the distribution of ashes was followed by a penitential procession.

The Ashes

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.

SEASON OF THE GREAT LENT

Fasting to Feasting

Lent is a time for fasting but also a season for joyous feasting! During Lent, the Church calls on us to fast from certain things and feast on others.

For example:

Fast from judging others.. .feast on Christ dwelling in them. Fast from emphasis on differences... feast on the unity of life.

Fast from apparent darkness... feast on the reality of light. Fast from thoughts of illness...feast on God's healing power. Fast from words that pollute.. .feast on phrases that purify.



Fast from discontent... feast on gratitude. Fast from anger... feast on patience. Fast from pessimism... feast on optimism.

Fast from worry... feast on divine order. Fast from complaining... feast on appreciation.

Fast from negatives...feast on affirmatives.

Fast from unrelenting pressures... feast on unceasing prayer. Fast from hostility... feast on nonresistance. Fast from bitterness.. .feast on forgiveness.





Fast from self concern... feast on compassion for others. Fast from personal anxiety... feast on eternal truth. Fast from discouragement... feast on hope.

Fast from facts that depress... feast on truths that up lift.

> Fast from lethargy... feast on enthusiasm. Fast from suspicion... feast on truth.

Fast from thoughts that weaken... feast on promises that inspire. Fast from shadows of sorrow... feast on sunlight of serenity. Fast from idle gossip... feast on purposeful silence.



Community Life & Events

- 1. **TUESDAY WITH FR. NADIM**: 6:00 P.M. Rosary, Benediction & blessing with the healing oil of St. Sharbel.
- 2. **GOD OUR FATHER DEVOTIONS** :Sunday, February 2 after the 9:30 Mass
- 3. MONTHLY SPANISH MASS: Sunday, February 2 at 5:00 PM & Rosary at 4:30 PM.
- 4. **1st FRIDAY YOUTH GROUP**: Friday, February 7 @ 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.
- 5. **St. Maroun FEBRUARY 9 :** Feast Day. Shawarma Sandwiches will be sold after all Sunday Masses 9:30 am & 11:30 am.
- 6. MONTHLY TAGALOG MASS: Sunday, February 9th at 5:00 PM & Rosary at 4.30 PM.
- 7. SUNDAY & WEEK OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED February 15 & 16 Masses.

 Please fill out envelopes with names and place it on the Altar.
- 8. NATIONAL YOUTH RETREAT
 - March 13-15, 2020 in Riverside, CA.
 - Fee is \$170 per child
 - Ages 12 to Senior in high school
 - Includes accommodations, food and planned activities.
 - Registration must be completed on-line by February 7
 - www.maroniteyouth.org

Please inform the office that you registered your child.

9. **RAFFLE TICKETS** – 1 Ticket for \$3 or 2 Tickets for \$5.

1st Prize – Silver Picture of Our Lady of **GUADALUPE**

2nd Prize – Wall Rosary

3rd Prize – Medjugorje Picture



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Fax 702.248.0055
donald@ladahlaw.com

Spot Available For Confession Before Mass

FILIPINO NEWS

CHURCH LEADERS IN PHILIPPINES BID FAREWELL TO CARDINAL TAGLE

'We would like to tell the world that he is the gift of the Filipinos to the universal Church and to Rome'

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle is the Philippine's "gift" to the universal Church, the head of the Catholic hierarchy said Sunday as they bid goodbye to the outgoing Manila archbishop, reported CBCP News on January 28, 2020.

The Cardinal Archbishop of Manila is the new Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. The appointment of Pope Francis was announced Sunday, December 8, 2019. The current Prefect, Fernando Filoni, assumes the post of Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulcher in place of Cardinal Edwin Frederick O'Brien, who resigned in April 2019 and turned 80.

CBCP President, Archbishop Romulo Valles, while addressing the farewell ceremony, said that there are more reasons to be joyful than to be sad on Tagle's new mission.

"We would like to tell the world that he is the gift of the Filipinos to the universal Church and to Rome," he said, drawing applause from other bishops.

"We are sad but I think that you will agree with me that one of the wonderful gifts that the Church in the Philippines (has) is in the person of Cardinal Chito," Archbishop Valles said.

The Davao archbishop also regarded the cardinal as the country's "national flag carrier" who carries the faith of Filipinos to the world.

"It is our prayer that the Lord will continue to bless you and keep you joyful in your difficult task," he said.

The farewell dinner was held as more than 90 bishops from all over the country gathered for their plenary assembly in Manila over the weekend.

Bishop Pablo Virgilio David, CBCP Vice President, was also all praises of the cardinal.

The two were together in San Jose Seminary although Tagle was one year ahead of David.

The bishop recalled that one of the things they always look forward to as students of philosophy was the review classes facilitated by Tagle "because he could simplify complicated thoughts".

"That was the rare gift of Cardinal Chito," David said. "His brightness seemed to brighten other people."



For his part, Cardinal Tagle admitted still having confusion in his heart and mind now that he will leave the country for a new mission.

One time, Tagle shared that he was in a chapel to "present this dilemma" and in the end, "the clincher is where can you follow Jesus—the poor, the crucified."

"And it pointed me to that path," he said. "So I really cried and cried there in the chapel but there was peace that the cross was the main criteria in the end."

At one part of the gathering, the bishops surrounded Cardinal Tagle and sung "You'll never walk alone."

On Monday, several bishops, priests, nuns, and laypeople prayed over Tagle as he prepares to leave for his new Vatican post.

During the Thanksgiving Mass at the Manila Cathedral, the cardinal knelt before the congregation as they raised their hands towards him while praying.

In December 2019, Pope Francis appointed Tagle as Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, a powerful department at the Roman Curia.





ST. MAROUN JUBILEE OF HIS DEATH: OUR PATRON SAINT AND FATHER +410 AD - 2020

THE LIFE OF SAINT MAROUN

BACKGROUND

St. Maroun, born in the middle of the 4th century was a priest who later became a hermit, retiring to a mountain of Taurus near Antioch. His holiness and miracles attracted many followers, and drew attention throughout the empire. St. John of Chrysostom sent him a letter around 405 AD expressing his great love and respect asking St. Maroun to pray for him.

THE MARONITE MOVEMENT

St.Maroun is considered the Father of the spiritual and monastic movement now called the Maronite Church. This movement had a profound influence on Northern Syria and Lebanon. Saint Maroun spent all of his life on a mountain in the region of Cyrrhus in Syria. It is believed that the place was called "Kefar-Nabo" on the mountain of Ol-Yambos, making it the cradle of the Maronite movement.

The Maronite movement reached Lebanon when St. Maroun's first disciple Abraham of Cyrrhus who was called the Apostle of Lebanon, realized that paganism was thriving in Lebanon, so he set out to convert the pagans to Christians by introducing them to the way of St. Maroun. The followers of St. Maroun, both monks and laity, always remained faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

SPIRITUALITY

St. Maroun's way was deeply monastic with emphasis on the spiritual and ascetic aspects of living. For Saint Maroun, all was connected to God and God was connected to all. He did not separate the physical and spiritual world and actually used the physical world to deepen his faith and spiritual experience with God.

St. Maroun embraced the quiet solitude of the mountain life. He lived his life in open air exposed to the forces of nature such as sun, rain, hail and snow. His extraordinary desire to come to know Gods presence in all things, allowed St. Maroun to transcend such forces and discover that intimate union with God. He was able to free himself from the physical world by his passion and fervor for prayer and enter into a mystical relationship of love with God.

MISSION

St. Maroun was a mystic who started this new ascetic-spiritual method that attracted many people in Syria and Lebanon to become his disciples. Accompanying his deeply spiritual and ascetic life, he was a zealous missionary with a passion to spread the message of Christ by preaching it to all he met. He sought not only to cure the physical ailments that people suffered, but had a great quest for nurturing and healing the "lost souls" of both pagans and Christians of his time.

This missionary work came to fruition when in the mountains of Syria, St. Maroun was able to convert a pagan temple into a Christian Church. This was to be the beginning of the conversion of Paganism to Christianity in Syria which would then influence and spread to Lebanon. After his death in the year 410 AD, his spirit and teachings lived on through his disciples.

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

WEEKEND

Saturday 4:30pm Feb 1

Healing-Jeff Umbrasas

Sunday 9:30am Feb 2

- +Feliza Empay
- + Brendo Caturay

Sunday 11:30 am

+Wedad Aboud (1 wk)

Sunday 4:30 pm Spanish

Todos Sacerdotes



"This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." Luke 22:19

PRAY FOR THE SICK

MONDAY Feb 3

First Responders

DAILY 8AM

TUESDAY Feb 4

Healing of the Sick

WEDNESDAY Feb 5

Faithful Departed

THURSDAY Feb 6

Persecuted Christians

FRIDAY Feb 7

Unborn Babies

PRAYER TO ST. RAPHAEL

"O St. Raphael,
whose name means
'Remedy of God'
help us to be pure
in mind, heal us
of all ailments,
and protect us from
all evil which may
come our way."



"We Pray for healing of all the people who were effected by the Coronavirus, may God heal them. We also, Pray for the people that lost their lives to this deadly virus, May they rest in Peace."

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 2 de Febrero del 2020

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