



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

Sunday of the Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

January
2019



*"Why were you searching for me?
Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"*
Luke 2:49

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**St. Sharbel
Pray for us!**

Our Services HOLY MASSES
DAILY: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m.
English

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

Sunday Catechism
(Classes are Sept – May)
1st SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. & 11:30am
Youth Mass

For confessions,
baptism, engagements,
weddings, blessings of
your home or business,
visiting the sick and the
elderly, please contact
our office
702 .616.-6902

stsharbel.lv@gmail.com

Office hours
Mon – Fri 9:00 – 3:00

10325 RANCHO DESTINO RD. LAS VEGAS NV 89183

PHONE: 702-616-6902 FAX: 702-616-4032.

stsharbel.lv@gmail.com www.stsharbellasvegas.org

World Day of Peace January 1, 2013

The Church teaches that religious freedom is grounded in the inherent dignity of the human person. The Holy Father's message affirms that all people have a duty and a right to seek religious truth and to practice religion in accordance with their conscience. Religious freedom allows deep and healthy relationships with God, oneself, others, and the world, and helps to form a society where peace can prevail, human development can occur, and the life and dignity of all can be respected.

The world needs God. It needs universal, shared ethical and spiritual values, and religion can offer a precious contribution to their pursuit, for the building of a just and peaceful social order at the national and international levels. *Peace is a gift of God and at the same time a task which is never fully completed.* A society reconciled with God is closer to peace, which is not the mere absence of war or the result of military or economic supremacy, much less deceptive ploys or clever manipulation. Rather, peace is the result of a process of purification and of cultural, moral and spiritual elevation involving each individual and people, a process in which human dignity is fully respected. I invite all those who wish to be peacemakers, especially the young, to heed the voice speaking within their hearts and thus to find in God the stable point of reference for attaining authentic freedom,

Religious Freedom , the Path to Peace



the inexhaustible force which can give the world a new direction and spirit, and overcome the mistakes of the past. In the words of Pope Paul VI, to whose wisdom and farsightedness we owe the institution of the World Day of Peace: "It is necessary before all else to provide peace with other weapons – different from those destined to kill and exterminate mankind. What are needed above all are moral weapons, those which give strength and prestige to international law – the weapon, in the first place, of the observance of pacts". Religious freedom is an authentic weapon of peace, with an *historical* and *prophetic mission*. Peace brings to full fruition the deepest qualities and potentials of the human person, the qualities which can change the world and make it better. It gives hope for a future of justice and peace, even in the face of grave injustice and material and moral poverty. May all men and women, and societies at every level and in every part of the earth, soon be able to experience *religious freedom, the path to peace!*

Rev. Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid

FINDING OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE December 30

A strange joy – following a time of deep anxiety probably bordering on panic: Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple. Their reaction of bewilderment is easily understandable – what does he mean about needing to be about his Father's business? Especially when it has caused them so much distress?

As a terminal illness progresses, there can come a time when the person who is dying may begin to focus on their inner world, deepening their relationship with God. For their loved ones, it can feel as if they are already losing them. It is a grace when people can pray together and gently let the person they love go into the hands of the God who is preparing to bring them home.

CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD January 1ST

On January 1st, we commemorate an event in the life of Jesus which took place eight days after His Birth: His Naming and Circumcision. According to Hebrew Law, every male child was to be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth (*Genesis 17: 11-12*). Circumcision was the sign God gave to Abraham of His Covenant with His chosen people. Through Circumcision the Hebrew child received the physical sign of his membership in the chosen people of God. At the time of circumcision the child was also given the name by which he was to be known among God's people. It is thus that Jesus is circumcised and given His name which means, "The Lord is Savior". Jesus, as God's True Son had no need of circumcision and yet, in order to show that He was the fulfillment of the Law, He submitted to its prescriptions. Jesus was already a member of God's chosen people; for, in fact, He was God's Chosen One, the Son of the Most High. And yet, Jesus not only observed the prescriptions of the Law, He also surpassed them since after His Death & Resurrection, the New Covenant would be established abolishing the Old Covenant.

OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS AUTHORIZES DECREES REGARDING 12 CANDIDATES FOR SAINTHOOD

In the afternoon of 21 December 2018, the Holy Father Francis received in audience His Eminence Cardinal Angelo Becciu, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. During the audience, the Supreme Pontiff authorized the Congregation to promulgate the decrees regarding:

– the martyrdom of the Servant of God Richard Henkes, professed priest of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, born in Ruppach, Germany on 26 May 1900 and killed in hatred of the faith in the Dachau concentration camp, Germany, on 22 February 1945;

– the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Jan Pietraszko, titular bishop of Torreblanda, auxiliary bishop of Kraków; born in Buczkowice, Poland on 7 August 1911 and died in Kraków, Poland, on 2 March 1988;

– the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Giuseppe Codicè, diocesan priest, founder of the Pious Union of the Visitation Sisters of the Immaculata; born in Budrio, Italy, on 3 March 1838 and died in Vedrana, Italy, on 21 January 1915;

– the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Augustine John Ukken, Syro-Malabar priest, founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity; born in Parappur, India on 19 December 1880 and died in Chowannur, India, on 13 October 1956;

– the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Doroteo Hernández Vera, diocesan priest, founder of the *Cruzada Evangelica* Secular Institute; born in Matute de Almazán, Spain, on 28 March 1901 and died in Madrid, Spain, on 6 November 1991;

– the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Melchior Forden (né Jósef), professed priest of the Order of the Friars Minor Conventual; born in Grodno, now Belarus, on 5 August 1862 and died there on 27 February 1927;

– the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Girolamo Maria Biasi (né Arcangelo), professed priest of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual; born in Sfruz, now Italy, on 7 December 1897 and died in Camposampiero, Italy, on 20 June 1929;

– the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Miguel Zavala López, professed priest of the Order of Saint Augustine; born in Rancho Nuevo de Santa Clara, Mexico, on 12 November 1867, and died in Yuriria, Mexico, on 4 April 1947;

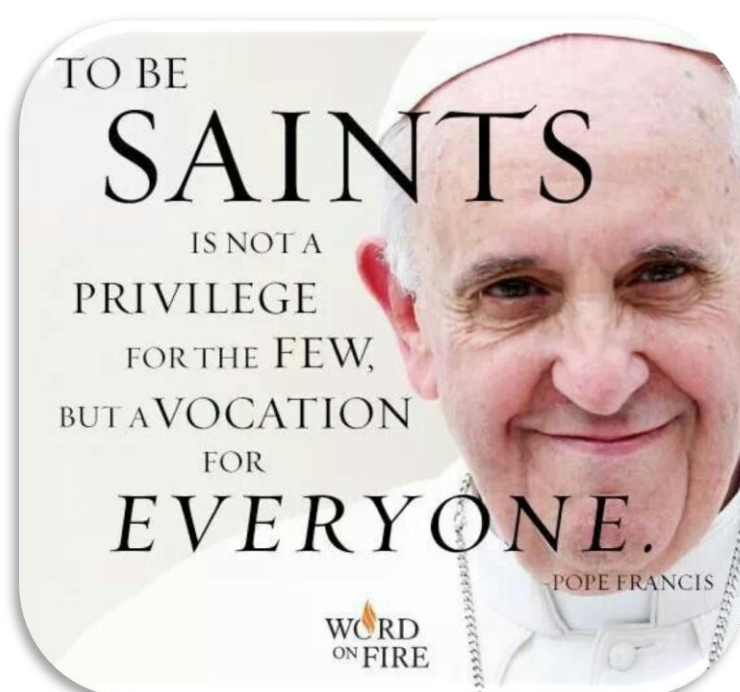
– the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Antonietta Giugliano, founder of the Poor Handmaids of Christ King; born in New York, United States of America, on 11 July 1909 and died in Portici, Italy, on 8 June 1960;



– the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Leonarda of Jesus Crucified (née Angela Maria Boidi), professed religious of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion of Jesus Christ; born in Quargnento, Italy, on 10 July 1908, and died in Alessandria, Italy, on 22 October 1953;

– the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Ambrogina of Saint Charles (née Filomena D'Urso) professed nun of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus the Redeemer (Patronage of Saint Joseph); born in Maranola, Italy, on 1 January 1909 and died in Florence, Italy, on 26 March 1954;

– the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Carlo Tancredi Falletti Di Barolo, layperson, co-founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Anne; born in Turin, Italy, on 26 October 1782, and died in Chiari, Italy, on 4 September 1838.



OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS THANKS LEBANON FOR WELCOMING REFUGEES

Speaking to a delegation from the Maronite Catholic Church, Pope Francis thanks Lebanon for welcoming over a million refugees and for maintaining a balance between Christians and Muslims.

Pope Francis addressed the Maronite Foundation and a delegation of Authorities from Lebanon on Tuesday.

In brief remarks, Pope Francis jokingly compared the numerous group of people visiting to the “multiplication of the loaves”, as they were more than he had anticipated. The visit came on the same day as the Pope met with the bishops of the Maronite Catholic Church, who are in Rome for their “ad Limina Apostolorum” visit.

Balance and generosity

Pope Francis thanked the Lebanese people for two things. First, the Pope thanked them for “maintaining a creative balance, as strong as the cedar tree,” between Christians and Muslims.



***Pope Francis
greet the
Maronite
Foundation
and Lebanese
Authorities***

Second, he expressed his appreciation for their “generosity and welcoming hearts”, referring to their attitude towards refugees.

Pope Francis acknowledged that Lebanon has welcomed over one million refugees fleeing violence.

Finally, the Pope blessed those representing the Maronite Foundation and the Lebanese authorities. “May the Lord bless you, your families, your homeland, your sons and daughters, and your refugees.”

POPE FRANCIS MEETS WITH PATRIARCH RAHI, MARONITE CHURCH BISHOPS

Pope Francis met in the Vatican on Tuesday with Maronite Patriarch, Cardinal Beshara Boutros al-Rahi, and the Maronite Church Bishops, following a special and extraordinary encounter with members of the Lebanese delegation accompanying the Patriarch on his visit.

In a brief address during the encounter, the Patriarch introduced the Lebanese delegation members to the Pope and thanked him for his warm and exceptional welcome during the Apostolic Visits and the Lebanese delegation's special meeting.

Rahi outlined the work of the Maronite Institution in following-up on the conditions of Maronites around the world, as well as organizing visits for the expatriate youth to Lebanon within a spiritual, cultural and tourism program arranged by the Institution's Academy.

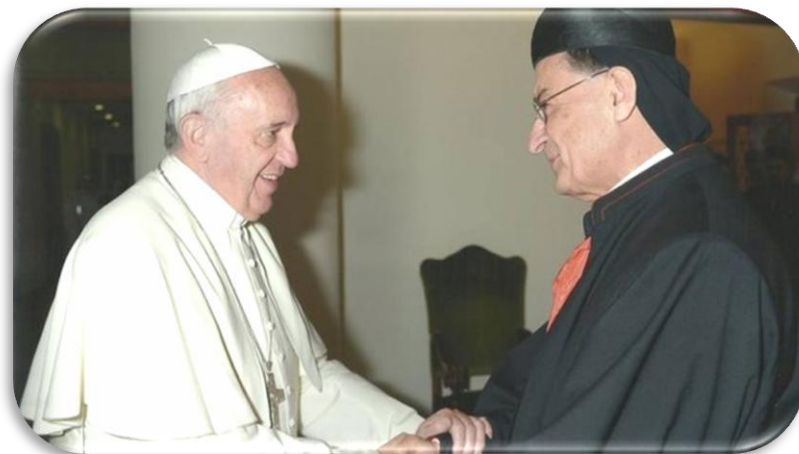
In turn, the Pope thanked the Patriarch for his word, commending the Lebanese community's efforts in maintaining the creative balance between Christians and Muslims, solid as Lebanon's Cedars, and their coexistence together as citizens.

The Pope also thanked the Lebanese for their “generosity and great hearts in welcoming the displaced Syrians, whose number exceeded one million refugees.”

“I would like to give you the Apostolic blessings...May the Lord bless you all and bless your families, your country and your children,” Pope Francis concluded.

It is to note that the delegation's three-hour meeting with the Pope included an open dialogue characterized by positivity and frankness, where discussions touched on issues related to the Maronite Church, the situation of Christians in the Middle East and the prevailing conditions in Lebanon.

At the end of the encounter, Patriarch al-Rahi presented the Pope with a detailed report on the aforementioned topics, in addition to a presentation on the Maronite Church and its role and mission in Lebanon, the Middle East and the Diaspora.



Beautiful Faces & Places



Congratulation to Samer & Michelle Sarieddine on the baptism of their daughter Sophia



Happy 80th Birthday to Aunty Samia, many Blessings



Congratulations to Joel & Monica Riggs on the baptism of their son Logan



Congratulations to John & Heather Hanash on the Baptism of their two sons Kaïden & Liam

Week 1 Hope	Week 2 Faith
Reminds us... Jesus is coming	Reminds us... To prepare the way of the Lord
Bible verse Romans 15: 12-13	Bible verse Luke 3:4-6
Bible verse Luke 2:10	Bible verse Luke 2:14
Reminds us... The joy at the coming birth of Jesus	Reminds us... "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours"
Week 3 Joy	Week 4 Peace

What do we remember each week of Advent?

CatholicLink

Book your Agenda: ST. SHARBEL Community Life

❖ **New Year's Day Mass**: Tuesday 1/1 @ 10 am
(No 8 am Mass)

❖ **Black Nazarene**: Sunday January 5 at 4:30 pm
Mass & Potluck

❖ **Feast of Epiphany**: Saturday 1/5 & Sunday 1/6
Masses bring cases of water for Blessing.

❖ **Christmas Sale**: Silver picture 75% off
Now \$499

❖ **Raffle Tickets** – Last Supper & other Prizes for
\$5 a ticket (drawing Easter Sunday)



*Teach
our
Children
to **PRAY**
not to
PLAY
at
Church*



شاب والده مصاب بالزهايمر -
سُئِلَ : هل لا يزال يعلم أنك ابنه ؟
-اجاب : لا يهم !
انا مازلت اعلم انه ابي . ❤️

A young man with his dad that has Alzheimer. He was asked “does your father know that you are his son?” He answered: “it does not matter, I still know that he is my Father”.

A LETTER TO THE PARENTS WHO KEEP BRINGING THEIR DISRUPTIVE KIDS TO MASS, WEEK AFTER WEEK

Dear exhausted, discouraged parents,

So your kids are just terrible in Mass. Chaotic, disobedient, and disruptive, week after week. It's like a big old spotlight is shining on you the whole time, you and your apparently sub-par parenting.

I'm right there with you. I've started to dread Sundays. I mean, we've tried everything. Going to the early Mass, going to the evening Mass, Mass books, whispered explanations, whispered threats, sitting in the front, sitting in the back, marching straight to the cry room ... and maybe a few of the tricks have helped, but the bottom line is that we're not getting out of that building without somebody screaming, making a mad dash for the altar, or God knows what.

But in spite of it all, every week, I and my loud, chaotic family are going to be there (in the back!) wiggling around and distracting everyone, and subjecting ourselves to the judgment of a large number of people who might not understand how hard it actually is to teach a toddler to sit quietly for 45 minutes. It looks insane. Still, we button up our wrinkled Sunday clothes anyway, and get our bodies under that roof, just like Mother Church asks us to. I want you to know that if this is you too, that's okay. It's better than okay. Christ had something pretty important to say about people like us:

When [Jesus] looked up he saw some wealthy people putting their offerings into the treasury and he noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood." (Luke 21:1-4)

Isn't this exactly what we are doing? We are giving it literally all we've got, in obeying the Church's request to make it to Sunday Mass. (Sheer embarrassment, unfortunately, isn't a good enough reason to stay home.) To the outside world, it looks like we've done the bare minimum. We've gotten into the building, sure, but are we concentrating? Are we having a spiritual experience? Did we even hear a word of the Gospel, for heaven's sake? It doesn't look like much. We are the only ones who know how much we are really giving. But Christ knows, too.



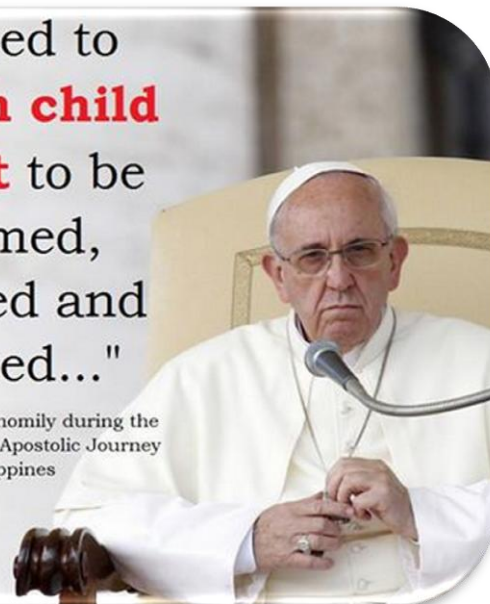
Just like the woman's two small coins into the collection box look like nothing in comparison with the rich man's gigantic bag of gold, our contribution looks so small a person might wonder why we even bother. Why even come to Mass, if you're just going to spend the whole time doing toddler damage control? But Christ is there to remind us that he doesn't see what the rest of the world sees.

Pretty often, I leave Mass feeling like the whole thing was a bust. I didn't even manage to follow along, and I left so fast I forgot to genuflect. What kind of a Catholic am I? If that's how you feel too, don't forget — having little kids, or kids with special needs, or whatever situation you're in that makes it impossible to kneel quietly and listen carefully, this is a unique kind of poverty. And we, in our poverty, really do give all we have, just by doing our best. Even if our best is just showing up.

So don't stop. And please don't worry too much about how your family looks. Even if it never gets easier, keep doing what you are doing, and know that even when the world doesn't, God sees how valuable your sacrifice is.

"We need to
see each child
as a gift to be
welcomed,
cherished and
protected..."

-Pope Francis, in his homily during the
Concluding Mass of his Apostolic Journey
to the Philippines



HOMEGROWN HOLINESS – AMERICAN WOMAN BORN INTO SLAVERY ON PATH TO SAINTHOOD

Julia Greeley was born as a slave, emancipated, and went on to become a beloved ‘Angel of Charity’ in Denver. Her cause for canonization is now open, and her body rests in Denver’s Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Her legacy is one of self-sacrifice and generosity, and Fr. Albert Haase, Franciscan priest and author, gladly shared her story with listeners of *The Inner Life*®.

“We have no idea when she was born—sometime between 1833 and 1848. We really aren’t sure, but we know she was born in Hannibal, Missouri as a slave. And one day, one of her slave owners is beating her mother and little Julia goes running trying to protect her mother, and the whip catches her right eye. And so Julie would spend all her life after that with only one eye,” said Fr. Albert.

“She was freed in [1865] ... and she makes her way to Colorado, where she becomes the nanny for the first territorial governor. While she’s in Denver, she converts to Catholicism, she becomes a daily communicant, and ... she becomes a Secular Franciscan. She’s baptized at the Jesuit church of the Sacred Heart and for some strange reason, she develops this great love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus.”

“But this is what I absolutely love about her—she only makes about \$10-12 a month and she uses her money to buy things that poor people need,” remarked Fr. Albert. “She herself is poor, but she spends her \$10-12 monthly allowance on items needed, she puts them in a little red wagon, and then under cover of darkness every night, she goes through the back alleys of Denver giving away things that people need. And she does it under cover of night because she doesn’t want the white people she helps to be embarrassed that they have been helped by a former slave.”

“There is an eyewitness account that states: two people one night saw her carrying a mattress on her back that she was bringing to a family because she heard that their two children didn’t have a bed. Julia herself did not have a bed! She oftentimes slept outside but she carries this mattress on her back to this family. Now, why is this little detail interesting? Because last year, when they exhumed her body from the grave to prepare it to be placed in the cathedral in downtown Denver, forensic experts look at her bones and they say she is riddled with arthritis,” explained Fr. Albert. “The physical pain she must have experienced carrying that mattress on her back is just fascinating!”



This 1916 photo provided by the Archdiocese of Denver shows Julia Greeley with Marjorie Ann Urquhart

Holiness is about sacrificial love, says Fr. Albert. “What I love about Julia Greeley is she shows me in a very vivid way just how accessible holiness is. It is simply about doing small little acts of love.”



“To create works of art that bring us, in the language of beauty, a sign, a spark of hope and trust where people seem to give in to indifference and ugliness.”

– Pope Francis

THE SEVEN MOST POWERFUL PRAYERS IN HISTORY

We all face extraordinary circumstances from time to time. We have been advised to handle these times by seeking God in prayer and fasting, to be especially attentive to his words, and the working of the Holy Spirit. If we are receptive to his will, God will provide for our needs and see us through anything.

In such circumstances, we do well to focus on the most powerful prayers given to us by our forebears. For extraordinary times, here are the seven most powerful prayers in history.

These prayers have the potential to change lives. Some have even changed entire nations. As you pray, consider the power each of these prayers has, and the changes they can make in your life, should you take them to heart.

Our Father — This is the quintessential Christian prayer, given to us by Jesus Christ Himself. It suffices as an all occasion prayer that hits all the bases. It acknowledges God's greatness, it invites God's will, it petitions God for our needs, and requests pardon as we pledge to forgive.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary — This prayer is remarkable because it is dedicated to the Queen of Heaven, Mary, whose intercession is especially powerful. This remarkably simple prayer has few elements, but all are taken from scripture. It praises Mary, and asks for her intercession. It is short, so it can be easily memorized and quickly spoken, and is the backbone of the devotion of the Rosary, which is easily the world's most powerful devotion. With countless miracles and conversions to its credit, the Hail Mary is an extraordinary composition.

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death Amen.

The Prayer of Jabez — This is a life changing prayer. It's often overlooked because it is buried deep in an Old Testament genealogy and refers to a person who wrote no books. It was written down by Ezra, the author of 1 Chronicles. The prayer is a petition, asking God for a blessing of abundance and protection.

Jabez called on the God of Israel. 'If you truly bless me,' he said, 'you will extend my lands, your hand will be with me, you will keep harm away and my distress will cease.' God granted him what he had asked. (1 Chronicles 4:10)

Jonah's Prayer for Salvation — We all face distress. Jonah found himself in the belly of the leviathan, and from this place of utter despair and hopelessness, he cried for salvation. How often do we find ourselves already in the belly of the beast? Yet, even from this place we can cry out to the Lord and still He saves us!

3 Out of my distress I cried to Yahweh and he answered me, from the belly of Sheol I cried out; you heard my voice!

4 For you threw me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the floods closed round me. All your waves and billows passed over me; 5 then I thought, 'I am banished from your sight; how shall I ever see your holy Temple again?' 6 The waters round me rose to my neck, the deep was closing round me, seaweed twining round my head. 7 To the roots of the mountains, I sank into the underworld, and its bars closed round me for ever. But you raised my life from the Pit, Yahweh my God! 8 When my soul was growing ever weaker, Yahweh, I remembered you, and my prayer reached you in your holy Temple. 9 Some abandon their faithful love by worshipping false gods, 10 but I shall sacrifice to you with songs of praise. The vow I have made I shall fulfil! Salvation comes from Yahweh!

(Jonah 2:3-9)

David's Prayer for Deliverance — Pursued by his own brother, David prayed for God to deliver him from his enemies. It seems most of us have enemies who out of a twisted sense of justice, or perhaps out of evil, they seek to destroy us. Instead of seeking mercy and common accord, they believe they can only be satisfied with our downfall. When faced with such evil, we can ask God to protect us.

1 Yahweh, how countless are my enemies, how countless those who rise up against me, 2 how countless those who say of me, 'No salvation for him from his God! 3 But you, Yahweh, the shield at my side, my glory, you hold my head high. 4 I cry out to Yahweh; he answers from his holy mountain. 5 As for me, if I lie down and sleep, I shall awake, for Yahweh sustains me. 6 I have no fear of people in their thousands upon thousands, who range themselves against me wherever I turn. 7 Arise, Yahweh, rescue me, my God! You strike all my foes across the face, you break the teeth of the wicked. 8 In Yahweh is salvation, on your people, your blessing!

(Psalm 3)

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel — There are few words the devil must hate to hear as much as these. Saint Michael is the defender of all faithful, and his sword is swift and keen. When confronted with evil, these words invoke St. Michael's protection and invite his incredible intercession.

Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Jesus at Gethsemane — This prayer is perhaps the simplest, yet most profound prayer one can recite. Spoken by Jesus, it demonstrates how we must accept God's will, even when we don't like it. By accepting the will of God, we can be transfigured. Sometimes, the cup comes to us, thy will be done.

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine."

(Luke 22:42)

FILIPINO NEWS

Historian confirms: Franciscans made Balangiga bells

Dr. Rolando O. Borrinaga, a member of the Balangiga research group, confirmed in an exclusive interview with CBCP News that three of the bells returning to the historic town of Balangiga in Eastern Samar are of Franciscan origin.

“The 1853, 1889, and 1895 bells have the Franciscan coat of arms,” said Borrinaga, author of the book *The Balangiga Conflict Revisited* published in 2003.

Origins of the bells

Borrinaga, who is also a full professor at UP Manila School of Health Sciences, said: “The town probably took years to raise funds to acquire its first church bell. This might have been the large 1853 bell.”

Information coming from the Samar Archaeological Museum and the Cantius Kobak Research Center located at Christ the King College in Calbayog City, Samar, said it was in 1854 when the church in Balangiga was dedicated to San Lorenzo de Martir, with a Franciscan, Fr. Manuel Valverde, as the first priest to be assigned there.

According to Borrinaga, the town acquired its second bell, a medium-sized one, in 1889, through the initiative of Fr. Agustin Delgado, whose name is inscribed on the relic.



American soldiers who survived the 1901 attack on Balangiga by locals pose with one of the historic bells.

250 years of Franciscan mission

In 1895, Balangiga acquired its third and smallest bell through the initiative of Fr. Bernardo Aparicio. This 1895 bell was initially believed to be the lone bell that was rung during the attack on Company C, 9th US Infantry Regiment, in Balangiga on Sept. 28, 1901.

“R. Francisco,” the phrase inscribed on the bell, probably stands for “Religioso de San Francisco,” the name of a religious order and or the foundry that cast the bell.

The first batch of thirteen Franciscans arrived in Samar island in 1768, or exactly 250 years ago. During their mission, the Franciscans eventually founded parishes in Samar, and one of these was the historic town of Balangiga in Eastern Samar.

Sainthood cause advances for Jesuit missionary in Mindanao

The inquiry into the sainthood cause for a 16th century Jesuit “martyr” has moved forward with the Vatican’s Congregation for the Causes of Saints issuing a declaration that the investigation is valid.

The declaration dated Oct. 26 came less than a year after the Diocese of Dipolog submitted the result of its inquiry into Fr. Francesco Palliola’s life to the Vatican in November 2017.

“This is good news for, in brief, the declaration of validity gives permission for the postulator of the said cause to start with the composition of the ‘positio,’” said diocese’s spokesman Fr. Patrick Dalangin.

The positio is a biography and official position documenting the Palliola’s life and works in order to prove his martyrdom.

The cause convenes theological, historical and professional consultants.

If majority of the theologians are in favor, the cause for martyrdom is passed on for examination to the cardinals and bishops members of the Congregation.

An affirmative vote is needed from the cardinals and bishops before they present the cause to the pope, who approves and authorizes the Congregation to draft a decree declaring the candidate a martyr.

For a martyr, no miracle is required. Thus when the pope approves the position declaring that the person was been martyred for the faith, the title “Blessed” is granted.

The cause of martyrdom of Palliola was opened in January 2016 and was formally closed in September 2017 by Bishop Severo Caermare at the Holy Rosary Cathedral in Dipolog City.

Palliola was born in May 1612, entered the Society in 1637, and arrived in Manila in 1643, then in Dapitan the following year.

He mastered Visayan and preached in it. But seeing how the Lumad community of the Subanen could hardly understand Visayan, he studied and learned the Subanen language. The missionary is credited as being the first European and Jesuit to do so.

While stationed at Dapitan, he went on missionary journeys to establish the settlements of Ilaya, Dipolog, Dicayo and Dohinob, Ponot and Quipit.

When Josef Zanzini (aka José Sanchez) was assigned as his assistant, he left Zanzini in charge of the Visayan communities while he devoted himself to the Lumads.

He also established visitas as far south as the boundaries between present-day Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur.

While visiting Ponot to reconcile a Subanon named Tampilo, who had turned away from the Christian faith, he was killed by Tampilo and his co-conspirators in the early morning of January 29, 1648.

“While dying, he forgave his enemies, commended himself to Jesus and Mary. He died clutching the rosary and a crucifix he brought from Europe,” said Dalangin. Since his death 370 years ago, his memory lingers in Zamboanga del Norte. In fact, a street in the town of Manukan is named after him. He also figures in the oral stories of the Subanen, remembered as “a loving and protective father”. “The site of Fr. Palliola’s martyrdom has been a place of pilgrimage over the years,” Dalangin added. Bishop Caermare implores everyone to pray for a prompt declaration of martyrdom of Fr. Palliola and his beatification, hoping that the country will have its third saint, and the first from Mindanao.

RAFFLE & PRIZES**1ST: LAST SUPPER (\$2000)****2ND: ANTIQUE PHONE (\$500)****3RD: ST. SHARBEL GOLD (\$350)****4th: ST. SHARBEL COIN (\$100)****\$5****Drawing Easter Sunday(4/21)****St. Sharbel Church
Las Vegas**

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If you want to feed the homeless, then feed the homeless. But, the moment you post it on social media, you're only feeding your ego. "The true test of a man's character is what he does when no one is watching."- John Wooden

**Our Team****Pastor**

Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid

abnadim@gmail.com**Secretary**

Juliette Hanache

Assistant

Joanna Pollard

Stsharbel.lv@gmail.com**Chairman**

Samih Alhawayk

tatigeo@aol.com**Catechism**

Joanna Pollard

joannapollard@cox.net**Accounting**

Hanna Sweis

Hssweis@gmail.com**Youth Director**

Marcelle Dagher

Choir

Ran Contreras

rancontreras@hotmail.com

Raul Aboujel

raul.abejueld@gmail.com

Mariereine Absi

mariereine58@yahoo.com**Worship & Fellowship****Tuesday**

6-7 p.m.

Rosary &
Praise & Worship
English.

7-8pm

Healing with Oil,
Bible Study,
Fellowship**Wednesday**10 a.m. Rosary
In Arabic1st WednesdayYoung @ Heart
Potluck following
the RosaryEucharistic
Adoration DAILY
from 7AM to
6PM.**Sign up (White
Application
Form) for ½ an
hour with Jesus
in Eucharistic
Adoration****Daily 7am-6pm****Prayer Daily at
3pm****Joanna Pollard
(702) 278-6549**

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

DAILY 8AM

WEEKEND

Saturday 4:30pm

Dec 29

Elizabeth Kevorkian

*Marcelle Dagher

Sunday 9:30am Dec 30

Paul Morton

Janice Sarofeen

Sunday 11:30 am

Fathers & Mothers



PRAY FOR THE SICK

MONDAY Dec 31

Unborn Babies

TUESDAY Jan 1

World Peace

WEDNESDAY Jan 2

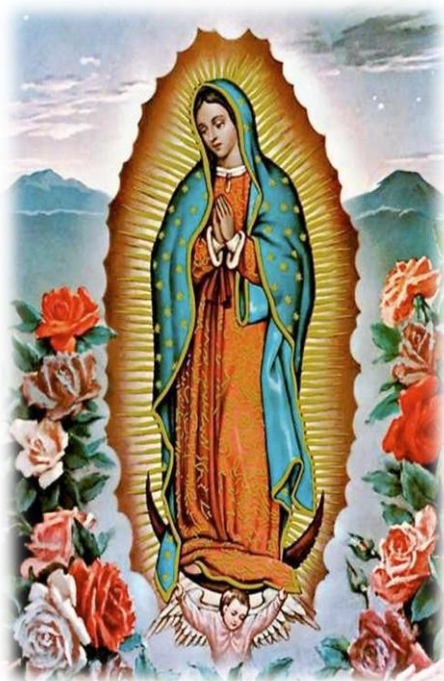
Healing of the Sick

THURSDAY Jan 3

Faithful Departed

FRIDAY Jan 4

Priests & Clergy



Our Hispanic Community Celebrated the Feast of Guadalupe at Saint Sharbel Church on Wednesday 12/12/2018. They honored our Mother Mary with Aztec dancing and a Mariachi singing.