



Saint George Maronite Catholic Church

رعية مار جرجس المارونية

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First Sunday after Epiphany

January 08, 2023

“Only the life that is in the hands of God, in the hands of Christ, immersed in the name of the triune God, is certainly a gift that can be given without scruples.” Baptism is the opportunity to affirm and live this gift of life and eternal life. (Pope Benedict XVI)

Meet Your Clergy

Rev. Tony Saab

Pastor

frtonysaab@gmail.com

Farid Zaarour, Deacon

fzaarour@yahoo.com

Weekly collections

Saturday 4:00pm

\$699.00

Sunday 8:30am

\$473.00

Sunday 10:30am

\$981.00

**In Memory of Anthony
Budway**

\$1,270.00

Office Hours

Weds - Friday from 9am-12pm.

Liturgical Schedule

Wednesday through Friday

09:00am

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am (Roman rite)

10:30 am



Exposition of the Holy Eucharist

Every Thursday 7:00pm and Saturday 2:00pm

Thank you for making a donation to your Church. This is an opportunity for each follower of Christ to contribute from the work of their hands to the ministry of Christ and His gospel.

Please Scan this QR with your phone and make an online donation to support our parish ministry.

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Isaiah 40: 6-11

A voice says, "Proclaim!" I answer, "What shall I proclaim?" "All flesh is grass, and all their loyalty like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower wilts, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it." "Yes, the people is grass! The grass withers, the flower wilts, but the word of our God stands forever." Go up onto a high mountain, Zion, herald of good news! Cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Cry out, do not fear! Say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; Here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, Carrying them in his bosom, leading the ewes with care.

2 Corinthians 10:1-11 Accusation of Weakness

I myself, Paul, appeal to you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ — I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away! — I ask that when I am present I need not show boldness by daring to oppose those who think we are acting according to human standards. Indeed, we live as human beings, but we do not wage war according to human standards; for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ. We are ready to punish every disobedience when your obedience is complete. Look

at what is before your eyes. If you are confident that you belong to Christ, remind yourself of this, that just as you belong to Christ, so also do we. Now, even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for tearing you down, I will not be ashamed of it. I do not want to seem as though I am trying to frighten you with my letters. For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible." Let such people understand that what we say by

letter when absent, we will also do when present. Praise be to God always!



John 1:29-34 John's Testimony to Jesus

The Apostles said: The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

Liturgical Intentions

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| 1/7/2023 4:00pm | Twelfth anniversary for Kay Budway– Murphy and Twentieth anniversary for Kaleemy Badway , requested by Anthony and Maureen Budway. |
| 1/8/2023 8:30am 10:30am | Fifty year anniversary memorial for Guido Gargani and Rita Gigon , by Peter Gazilli Second Anniversary for Chawki Khalil , requested by his wife Roula and her loving family. |
| 1/14 4:00pm | Eight year anniversary for George Thomas, JR. requested by his loving family. |
| 1/15 8:30am 10:30am | One Year Memorial liturgy for Jeanette Assaker Farah , requested by her son Roy Farah and by Nohra Eid. |
| 1/21 4:00pm | Memorial Liturgy for Raymond and Therese Zaki Yazbek , by George and Lydia Yazbek. |
| 1/22 8:30am 10:30am | Memorial Liturgy for Fr. Paul Mouawad who passed away in Lebanon, from the Parish community of Saint George. Memorial liturgy for Hoda Keirouz , requested by the Holy Rosary Sodality. |
| 1/28 4:00pm | Third anniversary liturgy for Alexandria M. Saker , requested by her loving family. |
| 1/29 8:30am 10:30am | One year anniversary liturgy for Joseph Zgheib , requested by his daughters Elia and Rita. |
| 2/4 4:00pm | Forty day liturgy for Anthony (Kozhaya) Budway , requested by his wife Maureen and her loving family. |
| 2/5 8:30am 10:30am | |
| 2/6 Private Liturgy | Birthday memorial liturgy for Malcom Badway , requested by his loving family |

Feast of the Glorious Epiphany

Friday 1/6/2023

Luke 3:15-22 The Baptism of Jesus

The Evangelist said: As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison. Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."



Please join us for Liturgy on **Thursday 1/5/23 at 7:00pm**

Some think that Jesus had original sin and needed to have it washed away. When we think this, we take the reason we need to be baptized and apply it to Jesus. Jesus is sinless (Heb. 4:15). In the early church a minority of Christians known as "adoptionists" understood the baptism as the time when God "adopted" Jesus as his son. Condemned as a heresy at the end of the second century, this view re-emerged in later centuries. Adoptionists denied that Jesus is always both God and man. Some taught that Christ was a spirit which came to the human Jesus at his baptism, but then fled and left the human Jesus alone when it became time for him to die on the cross.

St. Thomas Aquinas reminded us that the baptism of Jesus by John was purely symbolic, unable to forgive sin or incorporate someone into the family of God. Thomas taught that when Jesus was baptized, he "consecrated" baptism, so to speak. In a similar way, Jesus' presence at the wedding feast at Cana (John 2:1-11) can be seen as God's blessing on marriage.

In his book *Jesus of Nazareth*, Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "In light of the cross and resurrection, the Christian people realized what happened: Jesus loaded the burden of all mankind's guilt upon his shoulders; he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan." In Philippians 2:5-11, St. Paul describes the willingness to humble himself that the Son of God showed by taking on himself our human nature and its burden of sin. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* says: "Jesus' gesture [of submitting to baptism] is a manifestation of self-emptying. The Spirit who had hovered over the waters of the first creation descended then on the Christ as a prelude to the new creation, and the Father revealed Jesus as 'his beloved Son' " (no. 1224).

The early Eastern church fathers, more poetic than their Western counterparts, wrote that Adam and Eve had a "vestment of light." Lost at the fall, this robe was made available again when Jesus placed the robe, lost in paradise, in the Jordan River at his own baptism. For example, the Eastern father St. Gregory of Nyssa prayed, "You have driven us out of paradise and called us back; you have taken away the fig leaves, that garment of our misery, and clothed us once more with the robe of glory." We discover in the Jordan (the baptismal font) the robe of glory that had been humankind's garment in paradise. Poetically, the Eastern fathers had Jesus explain his need for baptism: "I am trying to find the lost Adam, let me go down and look for him."

Both Western and Eastern theologies tell us that Jesus was baptized not for his own benefit, but for ours.