



Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

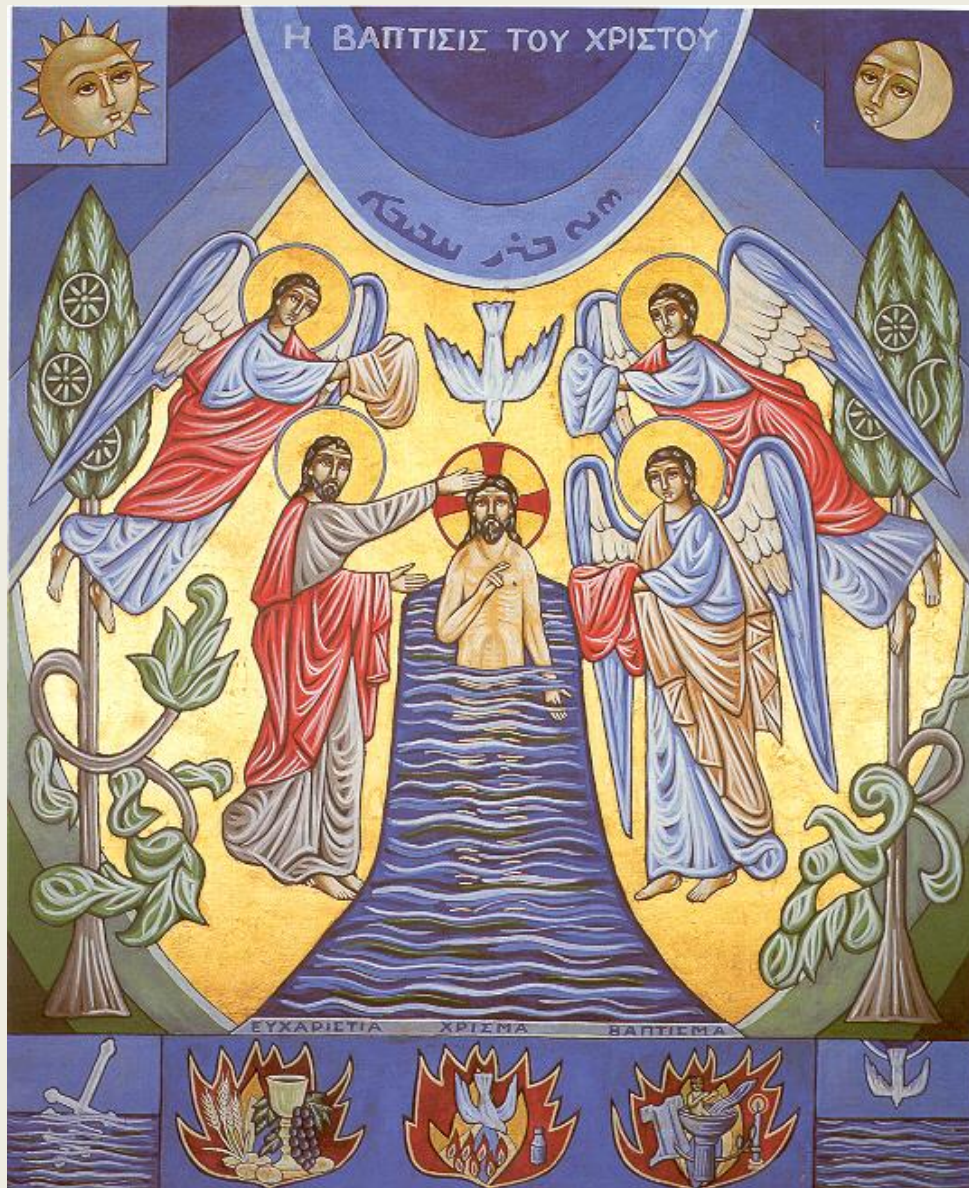
950 North Grace Street, Lombard, IL 60148

Tel: 630-932-9640 / Fax: 630-932-9463

Rev. Fr. Pierre El Khoury Cell: 713-972-2990

www.ollchicago.org

The Feast of Epiphany January 10, 2016



إنجيل القديس لوقا ٣

أَجَابَ يُوحَنَّا قَائِلًا لَهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ: «أَنَا أَعْمِدُكُمْ بِالْمَاءِ، وَيَأْتِي مَنْ هُوَ أَقْوَى مِنِّي، مَنْ لَسْتُ أَهْلًا أَنْ أَحُلَّ رِبَاطَ رِجْلَيْهِ. هُوَ يُعْمِدُكُمْ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ وَالنَّارِ. فِي يَدِهِ الْمِذْرَى يُنْقِي بِهَا بَيْدَرَهُ، فَيَجْمَعُ الْقَمْحَ فِي أَهْرَائِهِ، وَأَمَّا التَّنُّبُ فَيُحْرِقُهُ بِنَارٍ لَا تُطْفَأُ». وَلَمَّا اعْتَمَدَ الشَّعْبُ كُلُّهُ، وَاعْتَمَدَ يَسُوعُ أَيْضًا، وَكَانَ يُصَلِّي، انْفَتَحَتِ السَّمَاءُ، وَنَزَلَ عَلَيْهِ الرُّوحُ الْقُدُسُ فِي صُورَةِ جَسَدِيَّةٍ مِثْلِ حَمَامَةٍ، وَجَاءَ صَوْتُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ يَقُولُ: «أَنْتَ هُوَ ابْنِي الْحَبِيبُ، بِكَ رَضِيتُ».

The Gospel according to Saint LUKE 3:15-22

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, 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 beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Why do we say "Deyim Deyim" on Epiphany?

The Season of Christmas is not over yet. Traditionally, we keep the Christmas tree and decorations till after the 6th of January, when we celebrate Epiphany: The Baptism of Jesus.

The old Lebanese traditions are very entertaining. At Epiphany, or "Ghtass", people greet each other by saying Deyim Deyim, which is a wish for others to always have all the blessings as food and wealth and health, etc.

On this night, women prepare many kind of special sweets made of a special dough, which they make in different shapes that they dip and fry in boiling oil, as a symbol that reminds us how Jesus went into the water of the Jordan River to get baptized by John.

People believed that Jesus will be passing to visit and bless their homes at midnight. Local Tradition also includes keeping on, all night long, the entrance lights of their house to welcome Jesus and putting water under the Christmas tree and keep the bottle open so it will be blessed when Jesus passes at midnight.

All this might not mean anything for someone who is not used to it, but it reminds me of my beautiful childhood, as we believed that Christ comes to visit us and bless us.

Open the heavens, Almighty Father, and pour out your Spirit upon your people. Bless our homes, and clean our hearts with your Holy Spirit and through your Holy Water. Amen.

REMEMBER IT

“And the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Luke 3: 22

Deacon's Corner

As we all know, Pope Francis has declared this year to be the Year of Mercy. And love is one of the keystones of mercy. After all, I believe that it is impossible to have mercy for those around us without also having love. God, our Heavenly Father, is the "keystone" in our lives. Not part of the time, but all the time since we know that a "keystone" must be put in place properly and remain in place in order to lend the proper support needed to keep the structure standing.

Jesus asked John to baptize Him in the River Jordan. At first, John said; "Lord, I am not worthy to tie your sandals, you should baptize me" (paraphrased). But John did eventually baptize Jesus. I believe that this was the beginning of Jesus Christ becoming the "keystone" in our lives. He became, and still is, the support we need to remain strong in our struggle to obtain eternal salvation, to enter into eternal life with His Heavenly Father in Paradise. And we all obtain that "keystone" at baptism. We are all given the same building block for our lives to rely on day after day, week after week, until our time on earth is complete.

So, our New Year commitments of 2016 is to make sure that our own "keystone" remains strong and in place every day. That we will fight off the temptations of the evil one by relying on the strength, love and understanding that is given to us at baptism and we carry all the days of our lives. Let's do this by keeping our focus, our thoughts, and our motivation on the "keystone" of our lives and that is Jesus Christ.

Mass Intentions for Next Sunday January 17, 2016

09:30 Mass: For all who were baptized in our Parish

11:30 Mass: Mary Rashid & Victor Fahd (*Req. by Michel Fahd and Family*)
Leila Saadeh Sweillem (*Req. by the Sweillem Family*)

Mass Celebration



First Sunday of Epiphany: Page 107
Anaphora of Saint John: 815

Sunday Readings



Reading: 2 Corinthians 10:1-11 (*Paul's Defense of His Ministry*)
Holy Gospel: John 1:29-34 (*John the Baptist's Testimony to Jesus*)

Mass Intentions



9:30 AM

First Year Anniversary for Helen and Betty Shaker
(*Req. by the Shaker Family*)

11:30 AM

First Year Anniversary for Helen and Betty Shaker
(*Req. by the Shaker Family*)

Leila Saadeh Sweillem (*Req. by the Sweillem Family*)

Schedules	9:30 A.M. Mass	11:30 A.M. Mass
Altar Servers	Andres Ballines, Leila Nehra	Estifan Azzo, Cassandra Chahoud, Yasmina Mulcahey, Ramez Sayegh
Readers	Joe Shaker	Dr. Ray Daou (Arabic) Diala Chahoud (English)
Ushers	Nabil Zahra Frank Kermend	Henry Aboud, Amir Geha, George Zghaib, Elias Borjais

Announcements

✳️ Pastries will be served after Mass in the memory of Helen and Betty Shaker by the Shaker family.

Let us remember

and pray for our Beloved Ones who died during the month of January

✝️ Helen Shaker
✝️ Elizabeth Shaker
✝️ Joseph V. O'Neil
✝️ Barbra Naha

✝️ Sarah Malouf
✝️ Michael Jabour
✝️ Albert Hopsy
✝️ George Paul Doucette

✝️ Isabel Damuny Shahwan
✝️ Lynley M. Garvin
✝️ Louise Lucchesi

COLLECTION

Sunday January 03, 2016: 2,712.00

Thank you for supporting your church and May God bless you!