

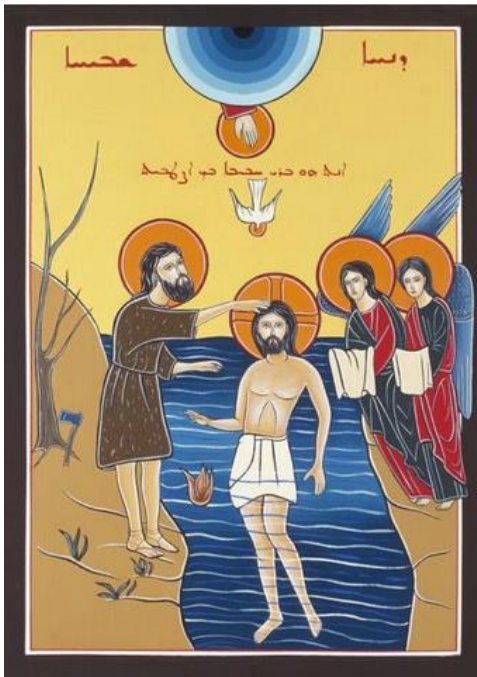


Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church



January 4-5, 2020

FEAST OF THE GLORIOUS EPIPHANY



THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY

On the 6th of January Eastern Orthodox, Maronite... and Western Christians Catholics and non- Catholics celebrate the great Feast of Epiphany. This Feast is a celebration that goes right back to the beginning of Christianity and opens up the meaning of the Christian faith and tradition. Epiphany originally comes (from the Greek Epiphaneia, and the syriac word Denho) which means the “manifestation from above,”

of the mystery of God, that we call the “divine revelation.” The Feast of Epiphany primarily involves the manifestation of God in Christ, Christ being manifested as the Son of God and God as a Trinity Father, Son and Holy Spirit and it manifested at once at the Jordan River.

The Eastern Epiphany celebrates the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, as the event of the manifestation of Christ as the Son of God and the manifestation of God in Trinity, and also as the event that marks the beginning of Christ’s saving mission. This is particularly revealed in the service of the Great Sanctification of the water.

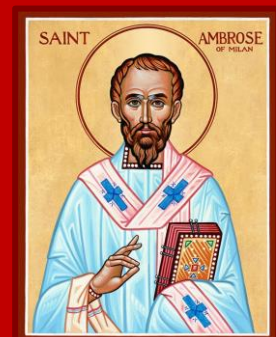
While the Western Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of the new baby born who is King and God’s son, to the three wise Oriental Magi that marks the manifestation of the divinity of Christ to the “nations.” So from that we understand that, Epiphany in the western Church, is primarily the manifestation of the divine Savior, who is Christ and

Messiah to the gentiles; but it is also the acknowledgment of Christ by the gentiles. This double meaning is expressed by the way the Western Church interpreted the offering of gold, frankincense and myrrh, by the wise Magi. On

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*The Lord was Baptized,
not to be cleansed
Himself, but to cleanse
the waters, so that those
waters, cleansed by the
flesh of Christ which
knew no sin, might have
the power of Baptism.*

St. Ambrose of Milan



Fr. El-Badaoui Habib MLM, Pastor | Fr. David Fisher, Weekend Assistant

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm.

the one hand, it saw these gifts as symbols of the three aspects of Christ's life, his being king, priest and prophet. On the other hand it re-enacted the offering in various ways by instituting appropriate acts of offering, to the poor, to the church and to the sick.

This diversity between the East and the West raises a number of questions, both historical and theological, to which liturgists have provided various answers. Above all it raises the question whether it implies any contradiction or not? I believe that there is no contradiction, because both celebrations lead to the same divine truth: the divine manifestation of Christ as the Son of God and the divine manifestation of the One God in Trinity. On the other hand, it must be said that, the Eastern tradition links Epiphany to Christ's saving mission and looks to Paschal and Pentecost as its final and saving outcome. The Western tradition links Epiphany to the earthly life of Christ and looks to his mission as a gradual disclosure of Christ's saving person.

According to Scholars we celebrate Epiphany on the 6th of January because due to the old Egyptian calendar the 6th of January was the day of the winter solstice, (which means when the sun reaches its highest) a major day of religious celebration for pagans. Some pagans (especially the Egyptians) celebrated on this day the conquest of winter darkness by the invincible god-sun. Others celebrated the appearance and glorification of the god-emperor in a city (especially the Romans).

Christians, who acknowledged Christ as "the sun of righteousness" (Mal. 4:2) and the "light of the world" (John 1:9 and 8:12), replaced the worship of the pagan god-sun and the glorification of the god-emperor by the worship of Christ. Later on the new Roman calendar placed the winter solstice on the 25th of December and provided the occasion for another pagan celebration. Christians found the occasion to introduce a new Feast, Christmas, commemorating the birth of Christ, who is Emmanuel, God with us and the sun of righteousness that God sent into the world.

Fr. El-Badaoui Habib

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Debbie Freedenberg on the passing of her mother Helen Freedenberg. May her soul rest in peace. Allah yerhamma!

HEALING MASS

On the 22nd of every month @ 6:00PM, we will celebrate a Healing Mass with the intercession of St. Sharbel. May Almighty God hear our prayers through the intercession of St. Sharbel and grant us the gift of healing!

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

The Glorious Epiphany is a holy day of obligation. Liturgy will be held on **Sunday, January 5, @ 11:00AM** and **Monday, January 6, @ 11:00AM**. Please join us for this special day.

DIVINE LITURGIES

Saturday, January 4, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)

Sunday, January 5, @ 11:00 AM, (Feast of St. Paul the Hermit and St. John Neumann) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Tanios Zeinoun requested by Dany and Rania Cherfane. May his soul rest in peace. Also, Liturgy is being offered as a 7 days memorial for the soul of Roseann Anthony requested by her family. May her soul rest in peace.

Monday, January 6, @ 11:00 AM, (Feast of the Glorious Epiphany)

Tuesday, January 7, @ 9:00 AM, (Praises to John the Baptist)

Wednesday, January 8, @ 6:00 PM,

Thursday, January 9, @ 6:00 PM

Friday, January 10, @ 9:00 AM,

Saturday, January 11, @ 6:00 PM,

Sunday, January 12, @ 11:00 AM, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Kamel Rizk requested by Dany and Rania Cherfane and family. May his soul rest in peace. Also, liturgy is offered as 40-day memorial for the soul of Salim Mikhael requested by his wife Ghada and children. May his soul rest in peace.

CATHOLIC EXTENSION GRANT

We have been given the opportunity to receive a conditional matching grant of \$10,000.00 from Catholic Extension Society. In order to receive this Grant we need your help to raise donations totaling at least \$10,000.00. To help us reach our goal please make checks payable to "St. Maron Church" and write "Donation" in the memo.

Thank you to everyone who contributed toward our goal, so far we have raised \$6,575.00 and with your continuous help we will reach our goal soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **St. Maron Feast Day Party**, Saturday February 8, 2020 @ 7:00 PM. We will have the details soon. Please mark your calendars.

2020 CHURCH ENVELOPES

The 2020 weekly envelopes are now available in the back of the church. If anyone does not have a set of envelopes and would like them please contact the office and we will have a set ready for you. In this way we can give you tax recognition at the end of the year.



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WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR December 28-29, 2019

Collection	\$ 936.00
New Year Coll.	\$ 322.00
Memorial	\$ 200.00
Donations	\$ 250.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 57.00
Total:	\$ 1,765.00

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers Neil Bohley Sr., Luke Farrell Jr., Linda DiBernardo, Patty Reynolds, Joan Speck, David Joseph Cook, Eddie Tayoun, Martha Simon Casella, Minarva Labbad, Dante Panichi, Dennis Strelchuk, Carol Krestos, Gladys Dalcourt, Denise Furey, Chucky Simon, Michael Winter, Kevin McCrea, Kevin Khoury, Mirta Ruiz, Tina Grassi, Rita Impo, Lisa and Henry Schaffer, Jade Kellam, Marion Thomas Branca, Francesca Impo, Raja Kaldany, Lucy DiLuce, Cat Niven Glaze, Laurent Chidiac, Tom Hart, John Hart, Fadi Jaber, Joseph Realdine, Emily Stone, Elaine Nader, Eddie Gussin, Lisa Alestra, John Nader, Aminee Skaf, Yasmine Myers, Joey Gdowick, Francis Joseph Kerns, Samer Chokeir, Kathy Newman, Rita Arrigale, Maryann Bratton, Renee Sahar, Sister Nahida Al-Sawa, Rose De Jesse, James Cordisio, Stacey Fuentes, Debbie Freedenberg, Noel Andjuhar, Angel Salerno, Dennis McGiney, and Bonnie Sabatini. We ask Almighty God to bless them with good health so that they may join us in the Church and give glory and thanksgiving to God. Please notify the Church office of any family member who is ill so that we may remember them in our daily prayers and on our altar of intentions.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND BEEPERS WHEN YOU ENTER THE CHURCH. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

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