

Parish Bulletin

January 2011



"The Just Man shall flourish like a palm tree and like a Cedar of Lebanon shall he grow"

5406 E. Virginia Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85008

Telephone: (602) 667-3280

Fax: (602) 468-0174

Website: <http://www.stjosephaz.org>

E-mail: ghattaskhoury@cox.net

From the Desk of Father Ghattas:

This is the fifth Christmas that I am celebrating with you. We have started thanksgiving to prepare everything to have joyful days not just with friends but also with those who suffer of misfortune. Most of the time, the media ignores the good news of generosity of the people. This love is similar to the love of the mother, quietly, that is coming from the heart. Similarly, most of you are giving abundantly, like the Father who gave everything through Christ. As you know, our Church is always depending on your generous gifts to survive and to continue our mission. To many of you, this community is a part of your life. The place and the community have a special insurance coming from Saint Joseph who is our Father, as he was the Father of Jesus. With faith, we are secure. We are expecting to do more, if we have the intention to serve and extend the borders of the Church. Therefore, I would like you to intensify your prayers. With continuity of thanksgiving, we will receive more. As you know, miraculously, this church has survived and we are here with a huge presence. I would like to thank you for all your love and generosity that came from your heart this Christmas season. From my heart, I wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a blessed Epiphany.

Announcements

Divine Liturgy: Saturdays 6:00 PM **AND** Sundays 11:00 AM

- **Saturday December 25th Midnight AND 11:00 AM** Divine Liturgy; Living and Departed members of St. Joseph; Benefactors of St. Joseph
- **Sunday December 26th** Sunday after Christmas; Praise of Mary
 - **Friday December 31st 5:00 PM** Divine Liturgy
 - **Saturday January 1st 5:00 PM** Divine Liturgy
- **Sunday January 2nd** Divine Liturgy; Finding in the Temple
 - **Wednesday January 5th 7:00 PM** Epiphany Liturgy; Blessing of the Water
 - **Thursday January 6th 7:00 PM** Divine Liturgy
- **Sunday January 9th** First Sunday after Epiphany
- **Sunday January 16th** Second Sunday after Epiphany
 - **Monday January 17th 7:00 PM** St. Anthony the Great
- **Sunday January 23rd** Third Sunday after Epiphany
- **Sunday January 30th** Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Activities:

- **Prayer:** There will be a weeklong prayer from **January 18th to January 25th** for the Unification of the Church. On the **25th** we will also be praying for the Conversion of St. Paul
- **Sunday School:** We will be having school on **Sunday January 9th AND Sunday January 23rd**
- **Donations:** I would like to thank all of the parishioners for their zeal and their love of the community of faith. I also would especially like to thank all those who helped decorate the Church. A special thanks also goes out to all those who sent notes, gifts and money to the Pastor, may the Lord continue to bless all of you
- **Santa's Visit:** I would like to thank the choir, the youth, coordinators, Santa and all those who made the Christmas show possible. You truly did a wonderful job

Lectors for Christmas and January

Christmas Eve: Liliane El Ters & Myrna Gorayeb

Christmas Day: Marie Rose Faddoul & George Khalaf

December 26th Aziz Saliba & Yara Boulos

January 1st Andre Ashkar & Sarkis Cury

January 2nd Sola El Ters & Janice Ashkar

January 9th Rania Karam & Christopher Zlaket

January 16th George M. El Ters & Kristianna Faddoul

Christmas Eve the Death of a Saint

One the peak of the hill where, the weather is so severe, there is a hermitage, where St Sharbel and many hermits spent their life praying and living a simple life. Sts Peter and Paul's Hermitage was not too far from St Maron Monastery. At that day the blazer storm was so severe. There was no communication at that date. Every day at dawn, the hermit has to start his day with meditation and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. That day, he was barley walking the short distance from his cell to the chapel because of the cold and the creasy wind that enjoys playing with the humble building of the hermitage. The monk knelt down on his place pouring his heart before a small candle that the flame of his loves much higher than the flame of this humble candle. The three hermits started the prayer of the office. They returned to their cells except Father Sharbel, who returned to his place waiting for the order from his brother to start, the Eucharistic Prayer. After his long time of prayer, his brother Father Makarius invited him to vest to start the Divine Liturgy. During the time of consecration, Father Makarius, his was over him because it was very hard for Father Sharbel to rise from the floor after the invocation of the Holy Spirit. During the time of fraction while he was holding the sacraments, Father Sharbel collapsed. Immediately, Father Makarius took the Sacraments from his hands and helped him to lie down on the floor. Then they moved him to his cell to start his agony for nine day some time he passed to coma and after that he tried to continue the famous prayer, Abo Dkushto, Father of Truth, and a Hymn of St James of Sarough. In end of Christmas Novena, Fr Sharbel passed away to start a new life of glory after a severe hostelry life of obedience mortification to join the One who became a High Priest according to the Order of Melkezadek. I would to say that the Earth is rejoicing of the birth of the Prince of Peace, who realized the salvation and with

the birth of water and Spirit, we became a new creation. An old hermit was born in heaven because of the birth of the prince of peace who gave us this birth.

There is Hope

The Season, is Christmas, the birth of the Lord, Jesus Christ, he is the gift of the Father to our humanity. What a gift that expressing the generosity of and the gentleness of God. It is coming from his heart. Also, he is his splendor of his glory. Most of the time we express our admiration by giving thanks to the person who is such great one. When we speak of the presence of God, we are sure of his dynamic presence in our life. We have the example of the Apostles who experienced the powerful presence among them. That is the purpose of the incarnation, is the security of the person who live with hope and joy. This season, of joys and business, lights, visits vacations and exchange gifts has his origins the birth of the prince of peace. During the Season, we heard a lot of songs. Wherever we go, there are many present songs. The decorations the ornaments are speaking to us of the reason of the season. Many would speak of commercializing Christmas it would be a time of entrepreneurship that has enormous revenue. Many they have fear to lose the Christian flavor of Christmas. The defenders of Christians have fear to lose ground among the faithful. I am amazed to hear of this fear that is contradicting the Christmas message. Insofar, the message is speaking of fear not or comfort according to Isaiah: "console my people, console them." (40:1) Instead to have a prophet proclaiming, the heaven sent a messenger to the simple people, to tell them, "fear not, there is good news for you a messiah has been born in Bethlehem" From Generations, the Christians celebrate the nativity of Jesus Christ, to remember that his promises endure for ever; as he promised, I will be with you until the end of the ages. Many would say where the peace is promised by heaven. Peace it is not a collective issue. It starts with the personal heart to become a civilization. The fail establishing peace, is not problem of the Church, it is the receptivity of the person. It is a personal call, as the call to the Good News. They expressed their faith through their coming to see the face of the new born king. There is nothing distinctive, a child like the most of the children of the people with swaddling clothes in a manger. Only the shepherded trusted the words of the angel. They returned with joy of hope that there is salvation. More than two thousand years, the shepherd experienced the joy of Christmas. Many would say there is no peace on earth and how the Church is always asks us to rejoice and most of the Christians have gloomy faces. Its seems there is a gap between the Gospel and those who are carrying the message. The shepherds' were busy even though they were working a night shaft. They were surprised to hear the message. They woke up and left everything even their flocks during that night to obey the angel. How many are ready tonight to receive the message from heaven? Unfortunately, a few receive the message and go to take a few times to be inspired from the busy time of the year, to remember the humble prince of Bethlehem. As the shepherds return with joy, those who meditate on the birth of Jesus, they will retrieve the joy of the baptism and the first communion. For me, the joy of my ordination and for the married couple is the joy of their wedding. The Gospel encourages us by saying "do not fear." This fear is coming from our negligence. We become like the people of the time of Noah, buying and selling, busy to please Uncle Sam. Can we have a few seconds to look attentively to the meaning of decorations from the lights to the tree to the ornaments? Mostly we are busy to exchange gifts, can have a few seconds to know how important this gist? The Father is expressing his love by sending his son to us. In our turn, we have to be appreciative. How to exchange our gifts with God? Through Jesus, let us continually offer Him a sacrifice of praise that is the fruit of lips that confess his name. In our turn, what we are remember the precious gift of God. Finally, we do not forget the child in a manger, that we are celebrating his birth. The Creator of the Universe is child Tiete swaddling clothes in a manger. How comes that child is Divine and he is in captivity. He is captivated because of his love. Mary and Joseph were rich because of the presence of Jesus in their life. The Shepherded returned happy because they saw him. This image is to remind us of the invitation of God to have joy with his presence. It is an invitation to the faithful to come to see his

face. As the shepherds returned with joy, so we receive his joy if his words. Through the noisy Christmas, songs carols, readings would reach out the heart. There is another ornament we observe during Christmas season. They are the King from the East, the wise man; they are three who are representing the Nations those who are outside the people of Israel. Mostly, they represent the scholars, the learned people. There are many in the history of salvation and in the Church. They are seeking the face of the Lord through their common sense. They are serving humanity, by establishing peace and harmony. The good intention to serve is a readiness to let the Spirit of God penetrate their hearts. Historically, we have many examples. There are two in the Acts of the Apostles, Cornelius who received the Good News and Dionysius of Aeropagus. It was the seed of the Judeo Christian Civilization that America has inherited this heritage. Another category of people, probably, like the time of no eating and drinking and Without reflecting an instant to remember the reason of the season the majority, are busy to do business as Jesus said. They need the faithful people to carry out to them the mission of the Gospel. A few who are worry of their post like Herod who abused his power to please the Roman. He has his own agenda, the Good News of the Birth of the Child shaken the throne and the City of Jerusalem. He never hesitated to do the impossible to kill anyone related the David Family. Where are Herod and his power? Apparently many would say the Church lost the battle. We are living in the end of the ages. That what happened at the time of the Birth of Jesus, his family was obliged to move to Bethlehem for the Census, it was an order from Augustus Cesar. Joseph and Mary obeyed that Supreme Order coming from Rome. Apparently, Rome was controlling everything. Was she known that would the child transform their Capital to become the Eternal City of Rome? Today is like yesterday; however the Message of Heaven is within the Church that is proclaiming the Good News. Unfortunately, a few are responding generously to come to seek the face of Jesus, like the Shepherds. Actually, the whole world is celebrating Christmas, but a few who respond. Finally, heaven promised the earth of peace. Many would say there is no peace. Peace is not the intention of the nations. It is rather, a gift from God the humble of hearts. It is similar to the drops of water to accumulate to form a river. More and more the people of faith increase more and more we will have peace. I would like to remind ourselves of the season is source of our inspiration to live the Christmas Season with what we see or reed our touch. It is an opportunity to have more friends and exercise generosity and hospitality. More than that, can we see the joy on the face of Jesus through those who celebrate Christmas?



مار اغناطيوس النوراني

في قديس بلشنا ننساه من كم سني
عجقت الميلاذ والعباب وتياب للولندي

اسموا غناطيوس الشهيد لقبه النوراني
كيف بدنا نوصف هالبطرك الشهيد
يلي ارتكز ايمانو عا رجا وطيد
وكيف واجه الموت صليب يا مثل الحديد
راح بفرح عا الموت ويعزم وهذا اكيد
كيف ها العظيم بيرفض يهرب من الموت
وحتى خاف من الصلا تضيع عليه الشوط
عندو رغبى بالقلب يصير خبز للمسيح
بعد ما ينطحن بتم السباع بالملعب الفسيح
وهيك صار في يوم تحققت ها الامنيي
عا الموت رايح بالفرح من ها الدنيي
تا يلتقيق بعد ما ينطحن بالمطحني
ويصير خبز حقيقي لقربان التقدمي
يا جما عة بتعرفوا ها الشرق قديشو غني
ارضو حاويي كنوز الحضارة من مليون سني
وكنيسة نبنيت عا ابطال جادوا بدمن تا ياسسوا
وتفتح بواب لاهل الشرق تا يتقدسوا

كتار بيذكروا في عنا بس كم قديس
بيصور كم كنز مدفون غالي ونفيس
وبيروت وجنيل وطرابلس وصيدا
ويتسالوا بعد ليش الشرق معتر تعيس؟



هيدي نعمي من حردين
صارت للناس هديي
غنيت الوطن والدين
قبل الميلاد عيديي
ها الرهب كان
ركن بالرهبانيي
لاتنسو انو ملفان
بالعلوم الالهيي
كان متفوق بالكلام
وبالدروس سريانيي
ضليع بروس الالجان
وبالانغام السماويي
هدا ها الراهب الفهمان
بقضيا انسانيي
تسلم السلطة والامان
بظروف مش عاديي
كان عامل بامان
بصليح كتب دهريري
مات قديس بلبنان
هيك طلعت خبريي
رجع لقلب السلام
بعد ابادي جماعيي
بيطول كتير الكلام
بالقضايا السياسيي
FR GHATTAS KHO



Meditation on the Mysteries of Christmas
Hymn of Nativity

Who would be able to measure his grander?
He diminished his measurements corresponding
to his garment.
She (Mary) wove it and clothed in it him who had
taken off His glory;
She measured and wove for him who had made
himself small
The sea bore him; it became calm and abated;
And how did the arms of Joseph bare him?
The womb of Sheol conceived him and burst
open;
And how did the womb of Mary sustain him?
With his voice, he split stones upon graves?
And how did Mary's bosom sustain him?
You came to humiliation to save all:
Who is able to speak about the hidden son?
Who came down and put on a body in the womb?
(St Ephrem the Syriac Hymn, nativity 4:187-
194)



ما بتكمل افراح العيد
الا من السما هديي
يا يسوع انت العيد
وجيت من السما هديي

انت الفرحة لما بتزول
واهديني لي عنا عاطول
انشالل منفعل لي منقول
وهيك منقدر الهديي

السما فرحت بالارض
لي صارت مثل سما
الخبر انتشر طول وعرض
وعرفت قيمة الهديي

شو كانت هدية الرعيان
لها الولد لي بالتبان
كانت ابتسامة ايمان
وقدر يسوع الهديي

انا شو هديتي ليعسوع
ندامة وقلب موجوع
منرجع بفرح ودموع
شو حلوي ها الهديي

FR. GHATTAS KHOURY



بهاك القداس قبل العيد
دنيي باردة و التلج قامات
ومن شدة البرد قرمح الجليد
والعواصف الشاردي بهاك الليل
تعبت بالشجر وما بقي فيها حيل
قرص ها الناسك هاك الضو
وجرجر حالو وسط العتم والنو
ما كان في الو غير وهج التلج
تا يقشع ضو الزيت من بعيد
بلكاد وصل للكنيسة عا اخر روح
وسجد وبقي صامت حب قلبو بيبوح
وسط ضجة الطبيعة والهوا بنوح
كيف كان صامد بالعواصف والزمهرير
لا نور ولا حرارة الا من القلب ببصير
بهاك الليل كان الروح قادر جدير
بس الجسد كان ضعيف منو قدير
بلش بالقداس وحس بوجع ولهت قصير
وبلش برفع القربان بالسما ك
ابو دقتشتوا هو بريخ دبحو يا قدير
ها الجسد ضعيف ما حمل عزم الروح
استسلم وافتكر لوين بدي روح
سقط مثل جندي عا الرض جريج
ما تحمل ضعف الجسد وبرد كانون
وهيك بلش يحتضر ويتحضر للميلاد
وكفا صلاتو بسما مع المسيح
وهيك ترافقت ها الصلا عظيم الاحبار
وهيك اندمج الصلب والنسك بهاك النهار
وطارت روح شربل للسما لاعلى الاخدار
تا يبلس مرحلة المجد ظهر بكل الاقطار
وهيك بولادة الناصري امير السلام
صارت ذكرى ناسك تمجد من رب الانام

انه في اليوم الرابع والعشرين من شهر كانون الاول سنة ١٩٥٤م
الاب بترين بعا فكفرا بحبيس بد الفاعل ونزود بواجباته الهدي
ودلفه في معبذ البرور من المور ٦٨ سنة بزمانه ربك
الغنا لعلو بس من في وما سيجريه بدمونه بكونه الاسراب
بكنس بيته و بالفضله فقط نذروا حتى نقول انه
طاعة ملائكية لاسرته

موت حبيس