



ST. MATTHEW SYRIAC ORTHODOX CHURCH

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March 2022

A Message from Fr. Bashar

In the name of the father and the son and the holy spirit one God amen†

My dear beloved.

Our reading from the bible today is from Luke chapter 1. Today we will talk about what happened in these days preparing for the welcoming of Jesus' birth. This journey will feed us spiritually, to get to our hearts, ready like a manger for Christ to be born in. We are going to see what happened in the beginning with Zechariah, Elizabeth, and angel Gabriel.

As we notice that Elizabeth was barren, both her and Zechariah were praying a lot to the Lord to give them a child. In the time that the Lord found it perfect, he allows them to have a child and Elizabeth to be pregnant, even though she is very old.

Announcing Saint John's Birth

The announcement of John the Baptist, as we read, is in the Gospel according to Luke. Zacharias was well advanced in his life, and his wife, Elizabeth, was barren. Her time for having children had passed. Zacharias was praying and beseeching God persistently to give him a child. The Lord had compassion on him, and He hearkened to his petition.

While Zacharias was in the sanctuary, Gabriel the Angel appeared to him and announced the birth of the great prophet John. He said John would precede the Christ as it was said by the prophets, "He shall go before Him." Zacharias asked the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife well advanced in years." (Luke 1:18)

The angel told him that he was sent from God to announce that to him and it is not seemly for him to doubt. He then told him that he shall be dumb till the birth of the child. On the day of John's circumcision, they asked Zacharias about the child's name. He asked for a tablet and wrote John.

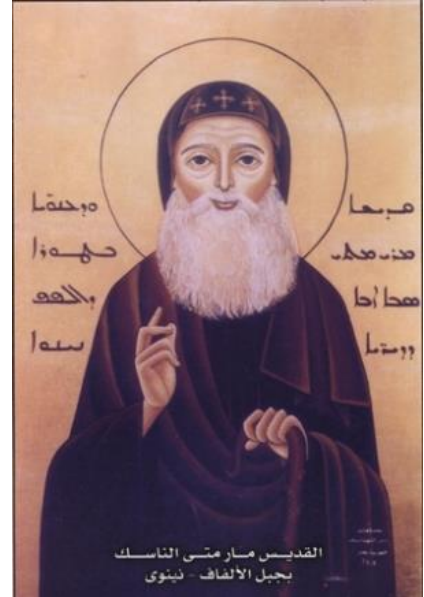
The Honorable Archangel Gabriel

Archangel Gabriel is one of the seven archangels who stand before the Throne of God. Since he stands before the Throne of God, he belongs to the first and greatest order of the heavenly powers.

The Seven who stand before God are known in the Coptic tradition as archangels Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Soriel, Sedakiel, Sarathiel and Ananiel.

The name Gabriel means "the power of God." Archangel Gabriel's honor is great with God, for he was worthy to announce the Birth of His only Begotten Son to the Virgin Saint Mary. He also announced the birth of Saint John the Baptist to his father Zacharias the priest.

Besides, he announced a few prophecies to Daniel the prophet in the Old Testament. Therefore, the church gave him the title "the announcer," since he announces the mysteries of God and the good news to mankind.



St Matthew The Hermit

Our Syriac Orthodox community in Windsor is growing especially during the last few years, most of the parishioners are descended from northern Iraq (the biblical Nineveh city area) they have migrated and sought refuge in Canada.

Pastor

Fr. Bashar Basheer

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Mass Schedule

Sunday 1:30pm

Baptism & Marriage

Contact deacon Basim Sallowme

basim.sallowme@stmatthewsyriacchurch.com

Youth

Contact deacon Albert OsaGe

Albert.osage@stmatthewsyriacchurch.com

Thank you

We are glad you joined us today! We pray that you will experience God's presence as we share the wisdom found in His Word