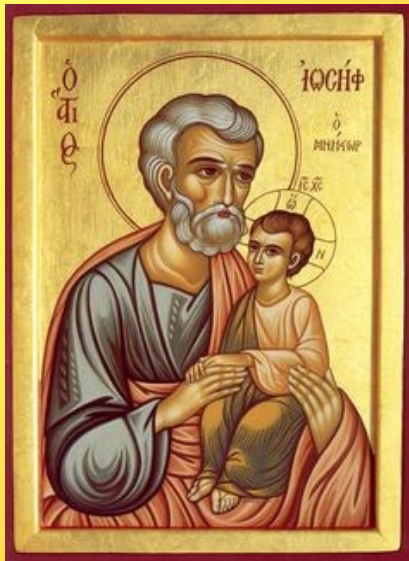


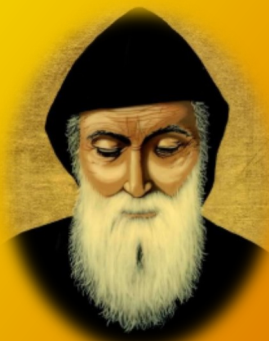
# December 11th, 2016

## The Revelation to Joseph



Next Week is the Genealogy Sunday. Please read these Scriptures in preparation: Isaiah 9: 1-6, Romans 1: 1-12 (*Salutation / Prayer of Thanksgiving*) and the Gospel According to MATTHEW 1: 1-17 (*The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah*).

## Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church



*Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!*

1804 SE 16th Ave  
Portland, OR 97214  
503.231.3853

e-mail: [stsharbelpdx@gmail.com](mailto:stsharbelpdx@gmail.com)  
on the web: [www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 11th, 10:30 am  
*Available Intention*

Monday, December 12th  
*Persecuted Christians in the Middle East*

Tuesday, December 13th  
*Available Intention*

Wednesday, December 14th  
*Available Intention*

Thursday, December 15th  
*Available Intention*

Friday, December 16th  
*Available Intention*

Saturday, December 17th  
*Available Intention*

Sunday, December 18th, 10:30 am  
*Available Intention*



*Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 9:00 am  
before the morning Liturgy.*

*Confession every Sunday at 9:15 am before the  
morning Liturgy.*

*Also join us to pray the Rosary on Sundays at  
10:00 am before the Liturgy begins.*

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## Altar Flowers

Sunday, December 11th  
The Grissan Family

Sunday, December 18th  
Tony & Emeline Karam

## ➤ CHURCH EVENTS & NEWS ◀

- **Children's Singing Ministry** - The final rehearsal for the children's singing ministry will be **Sunday Dec 11th** immediately after Holy Mysteries. This rehearsal is mandatory as the children will be receiving their specific roles in the play and having a dress rehearsal. If you would like your child to be a part of the play this year, please make certain they attend.
- We are collecting money for **poinsettias** for the altar. Contact Nadia if you have questions.
- Sunday the 18th Santa will make a special appearance at **Papa Noel Breakfast** hosted by the Maronteens and Crossroads Youth. It will be a great chance for fellowship with our families! The proceeds will go to the Maronite Monks of Jesus Mary and Joseph.

### St. Sharbel's Christmas Schedule

- **Christmas Novena** — begins December 15th thru (and including) December 23rd each day at 10:30 am (on Sundays it occur with Mass). Families who cannot make it are urged to pray the Novena as a family each day. Please note this is not a Eucharistic liturgy, but one of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
- **Breakfast with Papa Noel, December 18:** Maronteens and Crossroads Youth will be serving up a delicious breakfast after Mass, and Papa Noel will be attending! Proceeds from the breakfast will go to the Monks of Jesus Mary and Joseph.
- **Christmas Eve Mass, December 24th:** 5:30 PM, Christmas pageant/ children's choir to perform with Mass following around 6:00 PM.
- **Christmas Day Mass, December 25th:** 9:00AM Christmas Mass. [Note: There is NO 10:30AM Mass on Christmas Day.] Parishioners are encouraged to attend the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve or the Mass on Christmas morning, both are not required.
- **New Years Day, January 1st, 2015:** Mass at 10:30AM, as per normal.

## YOUR GIFTS TO GOD

*We believe that God, who begins His good work through us, will carry it through to completion. We show in our words and deeds, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"*

**Offering Report: November 28th - December 4th**

**General Collection..... \$1,566.00**

**Projected Weekly Amount Required to Meet Budget.....\$ 2,307.00**

**Difference.....-\$741.00**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Saturday, December 10th:

Crossroads & Maronteens, 6:00 pm  
*Meet at the lower hall of St. Sharbel church*  
 Maronite Young Adults (MYA), 7:00 pm  
*Meet at Claude & Gennifer's home*

### Monday, December 12th:

Oblates of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph, 7:00 pm  
*Meet at Deacon Wadih & Mona's home*

*The Oblates of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is a lay organization whose purpose is to pray for the sick and various needs of the church. We meet once a month to pray the Maronite Divine Office (Ramsho) together and discuss a spiritual book. If you would like members of the Oblates to visit you in your home and pray with you, please let us know and we will schedule a visit. If you are interested in learning more about the Oblates of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, please contact Deacon Wadih Kaldawi 503-349-5910 or [wadykal@gmail.com](mailto:wadykal@gmail.com)*

## Community Events

**12/11 Monthly Prayers for Life:** There will be a prayer service including the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the culture of life at St. Agatha's Catholic Church, Sunday, December 11, at 1:00 PM. St. Agatha's is located at 7960 SE 15th Avenue, Portland.

**1/20-21 WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST:** Join tens of thousands of prolife Americans in San Francisco on **Jan 20-21st** for the Walk for Life West Coast. Events include the Pro-Life Vigil with Vespers on Friday evening Jan 20th at St. Dominic's Church; All night Eucharistic Adoration For Life at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul; Catholic Mass with Archbishop Cordileone at the Cathedral Saturday morning before the Walk; and the Walk for Life Main Event at Civic Center Plaza. For more information, visit:<http://www.walkforlifewc.com/event-info/>.

## Abouna's Corner

### *THE REVELATION TO JOSEPH*

*Matthew 1: 18 – 25*

The Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians today speaks of “the mysteries hidden in the wisdom of God.” In the Gospel these mysteries are being revealed to Blessed Joseph in his dream: He is clearly worried about Mary being pregnant prematurely with a child. This is a difficult challenge for Joseph. He is being tested. He needs divine help and direction which he graciously receives.

Like the Patriarchs, Jacob and Joseph of the Old Testament, the Joseph in the Gospel of Christ is now being guided by an angel in his dream. The contents of Joseph's two dreams are amazing. His wife will have a child, but by the Holy Spirit; and there is trouble on the horizon. He needs to trust in God's promise and his plan of salvation, in spite of the difficulties. Joseph's trust and faithfulness will be manifested by his actions.

The underlying lesson in this announcement to Joseph – as well as the other previous announcements to Zechariah, Mary, and Elizabeth – is that *God's ways* are amazing and perplexing. They challenge the limits of our faith and vision – just as they did with Abraham and the patriarchs of the past in the first covenant. Like Joseph, with the help of divine grace, they open our hearts to the greater expectations of eternal salvation, and the promise of life in the Kingdom.

Clearly God wants to give us more than that little happiness – that we are normally willing to settle for! The Father wants to give us Christ Jesus, to be with us always, Emanuel – (Hebrew: God is with us) – that through him we may have life in its fullness; to let his Holy Family be ours; that we may dwell in the divine Trinity forever.

From generation to generation this *heavenly family* has been calling us to our home in the Kingdom. Now, as members of this *Holy Family* of Christ, let us welcome our King with all our hearts – with words of praise and actions of charity and hospitality towards others – that he may graciously grant us eternal citizenship in his Kingdom.



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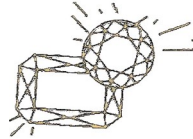
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