

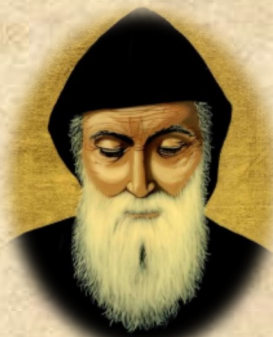
January 29, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany



Next Week is the Sunday of the Priests. Please read these following Scriptures in preparation: 1 Timothy 4: 6-16 (*Counsel to Timothy*) and the Gospel According to LUKE 12: 42-48 (*Vigilant and Faithful Servants*).

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
on the web: www.stsharbel.org

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 29th, 10:30 am
✠ Norman Pfatzgraff

Monday, January 30th
Available intention

Tuesday, January 31st
Available intention

Wednesday, February 1st
Available intention

Thursday, February 2nd
Available intention

Friday, February 3rd
Available intention

Saturday, February 4th
Available intention

Sunday, February 5th, 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.*



Thanks for all your prayers this week as Bishop Elias, Fr. Christopher, and the other Maronite clergy return to their parishes from the retreat and conference in Arizona!



YOUR GIFTS TO GOD

What percentage does God ask of you as a good steward? ALL of your heart, ALL of your soul, ALL of your mind, and ALL of your strength!

Offering Report for January 16th - 22nd

General Collection..... \$1,900.00

Projected Weekly Amount

Required to Meet Budget.....\$2,307.00

Difference.....- \$407.00

St Sharbels wants to remind you about **electronic option for making regular offerings**. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account [or processed using your credit or debit card] . *Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. **And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.** This helps us be good stewards, as the bills come even when we aren't able to be at church due to life's challenges.

You are in complete control of the giving, you simply go to the website and it walks you through things. **The best option for the church is when your gift comes from your checking account because it costs nearly nothing.** There are about 8-10 families giving this way, and very helpful for a number of reasons.

Of course we are so grateful for all your gifts to God. We each have time, treasure and talents that are given to us by the Lord, and which we are able to offer back to Him through His church on earth. I am so proud of all that you do for St Sharbel's. We are a small but mighty parish, mighty because of our reliance on God!

LOCAL EVENTS & NEWS

Mercy & Mary Weekend Retreat

February 10 – 12, 2017

St. Cecilia Catholic Church

5105 SW Franklin Ave, Beaverton, OR

Experience the Time of Mercy!



Featuring speaker
Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC

This Weekend Retreat Includes:

- ◆ **5 Conferences with Fr. Gaitley:**
 - Personal Testimony: Now is the Time of Mercy
 - St. John Paul II: Fatima and the Great Mercy Pope
 - St Maximilian Kolbe: Mary's Instrument of Mercy
 - St. Therese: The Way of Merciful Love
 - Your Role in this Time of Mercy
- ◆ **5 Meals Included**
- ◆ **Daily Mass, Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy**
- ◆ **Adoration & Benediction**
- ◆ **Opportunity for Confession**
- ◆ **Book Signing with Fr. Gaitley and more!**

Register Now

Event Check-In: Friday at 4pm

Events.MarianMissionaries.org

For more information: 413-944-8500 Ext. 10



Abouna's Corner

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

(*Christ our Daily Bread of Life*)

2 Corinthians 9: 1 - 15 / John 6: 1 – 15

In the Gospel today Jesus' identity is manifested to us through his miracle of the multiplication of the fish and bread. He is the *Heavenly Nurturer* and the *Giver of Life*! Like Moses, who by the power of God, provided for his people sustenance in the desert, now Christ Our Lord, provides sustenance for his followers on their journey to the promised Kingdom.

Saint Paul, in his Epistle, speaks to his contemporary Christians about the “gift of promise” that they already carry with them on their journey. This *Gift* of Christ our Lord, he observes, has already borne fruit in them as they have become sharers in his divine holiness. And just as Jesus would call his apostles “friends” and not “slaves” because of their special relationship to him, so now also, St. Paul calls his fellow Christians: the “saints!”

Now we too, like Mary, carry within us Christ our Sacrament, *the gift* of God the Holy Trinity, as we have become sharers in his holiness. In meditating on the Eucharist, Saint Ephrem often prays to Jesus with wonder describing the Eucharistic bread and wine as being filled with the power and fire of the Holy Spirit – *the Fire of Mercy* – not for our judgment, but rather for our nourishment for eternity. By his mercy, Christ has fused his whole self with us for our salvation!

Likewise in our Maronite prayer after communion (Anaphora of St. Sixtus) we hear:

O Christ, the Divine Bread,
who desired to be our imperishable food,
at your second coming, do not allow us
to become the food of the unquenchable fire.
We will glorify and thank you, O Christ,
now and forever.

In Christ we have gifts within gifts: He is carried by us in our sacraments (*Raze*), and yet dwells within us. With him “the Coal of the Fire of the Holy Spirit” we also carry the Spirit as our light into the world. And with both of them – Christ and the Spirit – we are in turn carried and lifted up to the bosom of the loving Father. For this we give daily thanks to Our Father in Heaven for his wonderful grace:

O Lord,
Our mouths, used to earthly food,
give you thanks for your *grace*
by which you have enabled us to receive the divine *gift*
of the body and blood of your only son.

(*Thanksgiving / Anaphora of Sixtus*)

Like Mary, how fortunate and blessed are we to become carriers of divinity! What an awesome Gift and responsibility do we have to carry! Thus we proclaim in *St. Ephrem's Hymn of Light*:

Let us glorify the majesty of the Son
and give thanks to the almighty Father, who,
in an outpouring of love, sent him to us,
to fill us with hope and salvation!

**Gibran N. Zogbi**

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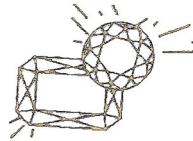
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