



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

October 22, 2017

Sixth Sunday After the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

Seventh Sunday After the Holy Cross

Rom 12:9-21 (Mutual Love)

Mt 25:31-46 (The Judgement of the Nations)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for October 8th - 15th

Online.....\$875.00
Collection.....\$2,230.00
Weekly Total.....\$3,105.00

YTD Total.....\$71,279.00

YTD Goal.....\$77,532.00

YTD Difference.....-6,253.00

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, October 22nd, 10:30 am

+Joseph Tanous Atie

Monday, October 23rd

Richard Visnovsky

Tuesday, October 24th

Available

Wednesday, October 25th

Marko Duchovic

Thursday, October 26th

Available

Friday, October 27th

Maria & Marko Duchovic

Saturday, October 28th

Available

Sunday, October 29th

+Eugene Gerges

Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 9:30 am before the morning Liturgy.

Confession every Sunday at 9:45 am before the morning Liturgy.

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

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, October 22nd

Available

Sunday, October 29th

Available

Parish Council

+Bruce Ashford
(Treasurer)
Charlie Ashou
Gus Bekahi
Nick El Hajj
Agopos Ghossein
Adib Karam
+Claude Karam
Anne Marentette
(Secretary)
Doug Raab
+Thaddeus Rask
Nadia Redmond
Mitch Siekmann
Laif Waldron

Ex Officio
+Deacon Tony
+Deacon Wadih

+Finance
Committee

Parish Events



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES:

Classes are available for 1st-6th Grades.

Class time is 9:15-10:15am.

To register your child(ren) for classes, please complete the registration form attached to the original email.

Contact Nadia Redmond for further information, phone: [503-671-0440](tel:503-671-0440) or email: n.redmond@comcast.net.

**“For heights and depths no words can reach,
music is the soul’s own speech”**

All of the children of the parish ages 3 and up are invited to participate in the singing ministry this fall. We will be learning beautiful music to be sung in annual Christmas Play on Christmas Eve. The scheduled rehearsal dates are the following Sunday immediately after Holy Mysteries:

October 22nd

November 12th

November 19th

December 3rd

December 10th

Please mark your calendars. We will have a short social activity and snacks to really make this fun and memorable for the kids.

Please contact Gladys at 503-747-8689 or alunui3r@frontier.com.

Community Events

PARISHIONERS,
Please share this flier on
all of your social media!
We need your help to
make this event a success.
There is a JPG copy of this
attached to the original
email that will work great to
share as a picture!

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
**AUTHENTIC
LEBANESE DINNER**

Join us for our delicious and authentic Lebanese Dinner Fundraiser in our parish hall. We'll be serving generous portions of chicken & beef kabob with garlic sauce, vegetable & beans over rice, tabouleh salad and hummus. GLUTEN FREE option available.

October 29th • Noon to 6pm
\$15 Dinner Ticket Donation • To Go Orders Available
1804 SE 16th Avenue, Portland • saintsharbel.com

We'll also be holding a bake sale of tasty Middle Eastern and American pastries that will tempt any sweet tooth. Children's activities.

Reflection

The Parable of the Talents

Mt 25:14-30

One of Jesus' most significant parables regarding work is set in the context of investments (Matt. 25:14-30). A rich man delegates the management of his wealth to his servants, much as investors in today's markets do. He gives five talents (a large unit of money) to the first servant, two talents to the second, and one talent to the third. Two of the servants earn 100 percent returns by trading with the funds, but the third servant hides the money in the ground and earns nothing. The rich man returns, rewards the two who made money, but severely punishes the servant who did nothing.

The meaning of the parable extends far beyond financial investments. God has given each person a wide variety of gifts, and he expects us to employ those gifts in his service. It is not acceptable merely to put those gifts on a closet shelf and ignore them. Like the three servants, we do not have gifts of the same degree. The return God expects of us is commensurate with the gifts we have been given. The servant who received one talent was not condemned for failing to reach the five-talent goal; he was condemned because he did nothing with what he was given. The gifts we receive from God include skills, abilities, family connections, social positions, education, experiences, and more. The point of the parable is that we are to use whatever we have been given for God's purposes. The severe consequences to the unproductive servant, far beyond anything triggered by mere business mediocrity, tell us that we are to invest our lives, not waste them.

Yet the particular talent invested in the parable is *money*, on the order of a million U.S. dollars in today's world. In modern English, this fact is obscured because the word *talent* has come to refer mainly to skills or abilities. But this parable concerns money. It depicts investing, not hoarding, as a godly thing to do if it accomplishes godly purposes in a godly manner. In the end, the master praises the two trustworthy servants with the words, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave" (Matthew 25:23). In these words, we see that the master cares about the results ("well done"), the methods ("good"), and the motivation ("trustworthy").

More pointedly for the workplace, it commends putting capital at risk in pursuit of earning a return. Sometimes Christians speak as if growth, productivity, and return on investment were unholy to God. But this parable overturns that notion. We should invest our skills and abilities, but also our wealth and the resources made available to us at work, all for the affairs of God's kingdom. This includes the production of needed goods and services. The volunteer who teaches Sunday school is fulfilling this parable. So are the entrepreneur who starts a new business and gives jobs to others, the health service administrator who initiates an AIDS-awareness campaign, and the machine operator who develops a process innovation.

God does not endow people with identical or necessarily equal gifts. If you do as well as you can with the gifts given to you by God, you will hear his "Well done." Not only the gifts, but also the people have equal worth. At the same time, the parable ends with the talent taken from the third servant being given to the one with ten talents. Equal worth does not necessarily mean equal compensation. Some positions require more skill or ability and thus are compensated accordingly. The two servants who did well are rewarded in different amounts. But they are both praised identically. The implication of the parable is that we are to use whatever talents we've been given to the best of our ability for God's glory, and when we have done that, we are on an equal playing field with other faithful, trustworthy servants of God.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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