

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

November 26, 2017

Season of the Glorious Birth

The Announcement to the Virgin Mary



Next Sunday

The Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth

Eph 1:1-14 (The Father's Plan of Salvation)

Lk 1:39-45 (Mary Visits Elizabeth)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for November 12th - 19th

Online.....\$505.00

Collection.....\$634.00

Weekly Total.....\$1139.00

YTD Total.....\$85,971.00

YTD Goal.....\$86,762.00

YTD Difference.....-\$791.00

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 26th, 10:30 am

+Ezit Karam

Monday, November 27th

Available

Tuesday, November 28th

Available

Wednesday, November 29th

Available

Thursday, November 30th

Available

Friday, December 1st

Available

Saturday, December 2nd

Available

Sunday, December 3rd

+Yvonne Foulia

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, November 26th

Allam Family

Sunday, December 3

Bowman Family

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

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

For those interested we will have
Immaculate Conception Mass

Friday, December 8, 2017
at **10:30am.**



*Maronteens/Crossroads Bowling
event after Sunday Mass.
St. Sharbel's Youth Rock!*

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM:

"To all parents who have children and youth in Sunday School, Music Ministry, and MYO: All Catholic parishes are required to provide annual training to all our children and youth that participate in our programs. I have been trained in the Call-to-Protect program and as before, I will be providing the training to our children and youth on the following dates:

Sunday School Classes-Sunday, November 26, 2017 @9:15am

MYO-Sunday, December 3, 2017 @9:15am

Music Ministry-Sunday, December 3, 2017 Immediately after the liturgy

Please contact me if you would like to see the Call-to-Protect curriculum for children and youth.

Appreciate your understanding and support,

"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:

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

SEMINARY WEEKEND: April 13-April 15, 2018

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary will be holding a discernment weekend from Friday April 13 to Sunday April 15 in Washington DC for men considering the celibate priesthood. Contact Fr. Gary George, Eparchial Vocations Director ([314-363-3300](tel:314-363-3300)) for more information.

DAY IN SOLIDARITY WITH CHRISTIANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST: November 26, 2017

"Our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East need our solidarity, and the Middle East needs our Christian brothers and sisters. A concern for our Christian brethren is inclusive and does not exclude a concern for all the peoples of the region who suffer violence and persecution, both minorities and majorities, both Muslims and Christians."

The Conference of Bishops along with the Knights of Columbus have selected Sunday, November 26, 2017, as a special day to acknowledge our solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East. It will be a special day to offer prayers and intentions for them.

Michael Allen Harrison **16th Annual Benefit** **Concert at St. Philip Neri**

with special guest Julianne Johnson



Tuesday, November 28, 2017
at 7:00 p.m.



For Tickets call the main office at (503) 231-4955

All proceeds will benefit the Altar Society to help St. Philip Neri parish with much needed repairs.

\$15 - General Admission
\$25 - Preferred Seating



2408 SE 16th Avenue, Portland, OR 97214

Parish Office: (503) 231-4955 † Fax: (503) 736-1383

E-mail: info@stphilipneripdx.org † www.stphilipneripdx.org

Reflection

The Announcement to the Virgin Mary

Lk 1:26-38

“And he [Gabriel] came to her and said, “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.” (Luke 1:28-9)

This week we celebrate the second visit of the archangel Gabriel to bring news from God to a human. This time he is sent by the Father to announce the conception of Christ to the Holy Mother of God, Virgin Mary. And she is frightened and confused by this – but why is she not punished like Zechariah was for questioning Gabriel when she responds, “How can this be? (Luke 1:34). Like Zechariah, she was a devout Jew, and would have heard the entirety of the Scriptures read every year in the Temple. But precisely because she was familiar with the Scriptures she was confused by this greeting – as the Church Father Origen tells us, nowhere before was anyone addressed by the title “Full of Grace” in the Bible. Mary is confused because this new greeting addressed to her indicates a radically new plan of action on the part of God, Whose messenger Gabriel is. After all, Mary is a virgin and never before has a virgin given birth to a son, but exactly because God set aside this great work to indicate His coming, perhaps most clearly foreshadowing it when He said spoke through the prophet Isaiah, “A virgin will conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel [God is with us]” (Isaiah 7:14). Gabriel references this in his greeting when he says “the Lord is with you” and perhaps that might add to the shock of her unique title.

But whom exactly is Mary told she will conceive? We imagine Gabriel to say, “Upon your knees you will carry Him Whom the angels of dreadful fire on high fear to look upon,” (Morning Prayer for the Annunciation) and “Do not fear – the One Whose palm holds the width of the heavens has come and dwells in your pure womb” (Diaconal Proclamation for the Annunciation). It is a great and incomprehensible thing indeed! God the Ancient of Days and Creator of All has chosen this young girl, Mary, from before all ages to dwell within her and take flesh to become man. But why did God choose Mary?

God chose Mary from amongst all women because she is the holiest amongst every generation. And this holiness is from two means, ultimately both from God. The first means of her holiness is that which is purely gifted to her by God. Holiness is being set aside for the sake of God, and God sanctified Mary from the very beginning of her life. Our Tradition teaches us that she was consecrated a Temple Virgin from the beginning of her life, which meant she lived in the sanctuary and dedicated her life to prayer. But the second means of her holiness was her cooperation with God’s plan – in fact, we often depict the Annunciation occurring while she is praying in the Temple. Her sanctification did not take away her free will, but she was chosen because she persisted perfectly in a life of holiness and dedication to God. And when Gabriel revealed to her the seemingly impossible plan of God, that He would become man, that He Who is fire would dwell in flesh or the One Who governs legions of angels would lower Himself to become a child, what is her response? “Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). Mary is the perfect example of a Christian, because in the face of what seems to be absurdity, she trusts that God knows what He is about. And because of her trust we say to her “You are the mediator between divinity and humanity, and in you both sides were reconciled” (Diaconal Proclamation). The rift caused by the offenses of Adam were repaired quite literally in Mary, and she became the very meeting point of God and man. As such, let us ask our greatest intercessor to beseech her Son on our behalf all the days of our lives, for no man knows Him better.

- Article Credit: St. Rafqa Parish

**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

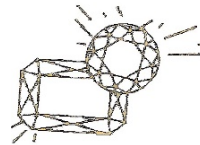
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