



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

December 17, 2017

Season of the Glorious Birth
The Revelation to Joseph



Next Saturday

The Genealogy of Jesus

Rom 1:1-12 (Greetings/Thanksgiving)

Mt 1:1-17 (The Genealogy of Jesus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for December 3rd - 10th

Online.....\$1,130.00

Collection.....\$711.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,841.00

YTD Total.....\$94,250.00

YTD Goal.....\$92,300.00

YTD Difference.....**\$1,950.00**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 17th, 10:30 am

Terry Trausch & Family

Monday, December 18th

+Emperatriz Vilorio

Tuesday, December 19th

+Katrina Marie Figueroa

Wednesday, December 20th

Available

Thursday, December 21st

Available

Friday, December 22nd

+Choucri Foulia

Saturday, December 23rd

Available

Sunday, December 24th

Available

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, December 17th

The Torker Family

Sunday, December 24th

The Redmond Family

Parish Events

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

Christmas Schedule at St. Sharbel

- Christmas Novena — Begins December 15th thru (and including) December 23rd each day at 10:30am (on Sundays it occurs with Mass.) Families who can not 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 17 — 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.
- Genealogy Sunday — Saturday, December 23: 5:00 pm (vigil) Our Seminarian Peter Zogbi will preach the Homily!
- ***Christmas — Sunday, December 24th: 5:00pm (Vigil) -or- Monday, December 25th: 10:30am
*****THERE WILL BE NO Sunday Morning Mass at 10:30am December 24th*****
- Finding in the Temple— Sunday, December 31, 10:30am
- Feast of the Circumcision — Sunday, January 1, 10:30am

End of Year Reminder

In order for us to reach financial goal for the year, we need to ensure we receive outstanding pledge towards the match, but also receive the giving that some of you have explained would be made by the end of the year.

In addition, parishes normally remind parishioners around this time that should God have given you a windfall this year and you were to donate some of that church it would help the church. This gift would be completely tax-deductible.

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:

MYO-*NEW DATE* Sunday, January 7, 2018 @9:15am

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

Appreciate your understanding and support,
Nadia Redmond [503-671-0440](tel:503-671-0440)"

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.

PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

O Lord, Heavenly Father, we call upon you to protect all Christians who are being persecuted for the sake of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ! Come to their aid in their desperation and deliver them from all evil which seeks to destroy them because of You.

Awaken our nation to their cries and help them in whatever ways! Awaken all Christians of the plight of their brothers and sisters that they might give them material help spiritual prayers, and affect a change in politics to their benefit!

Grant rest to all the souls of those who have died professing You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Amen!

Reflection

The Revelation to Joseph

Mt 1:18-25

Everyone is familiar with the feeling of excitement while eagerly awaiting a guest we will be happy to see. There is a particular thrill to hospitality that our Middle Eastern culture knows very well, and, when particularly excited to receive a guest, we tell others of their future visit. The Old Testament in its entirety is that – the great anticipation of all the prophets, kings, and saints of God expressing their joy at the coming of their King, Jesus Christ, while making known the small glimpses the Holy Spirit gave them of Him. We may feel anxious waiting thirty minutes for a guest, but those saints of the Old Testament waited thousands of years.

But the coming of Jesus is such an immense occasion, no one would have thought they would have lived to see it – and yet our eternal God, Jesus, entered into a particular time. It should be no surprise that Joseph, though a holy and righteous man, did not expect to be the foster father of God Himself. Today, we celebrate the last announcement Gabriel made known in this Season of Announcements before the birth of our Lord. As the Syriac Fathers tell us, the Ever-Virgin and Pure Mother of God, Mary, was slandered by her neighbors and friends as having conceived through adultery. Joseph, hearing this lie, saw his betrothed, who was a consecrated temple virgin, pregnant. Feeling hurt because he thought he had been betrayed, he was going to quietly break off the betrothal – Joseph thought he was being merciful, since Jewish Law prescribed execution to adulteresses (Lev. 20:10). Gabriel was sent by God, however, to inform Joseph that he was mistaken – Gabriel tells Joseph that Mary is the virgin whom Isaiah was awaiting when he said, “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel” (Is. 7:14). Joseph, being a just man, joined the thousands of years of saints awaiting the coming of God. The very title the prophet Isaiah foretells of Jesus bears testimony to both His divine nature and the excitement the prophets had to see Him – Emmanuel, God is with us. The title professes that Jesus is both truly God, and that He is truly amongst us by His taking flesh and becoming man. It is the title all the saints of old waited thousands of years to say, and it perfects God’s desire for us to be near Him mentioned in the reflection for the Consecration of the Church.

What Joseph dreaded at first by his own misunderstanding became the greatest honor. The next time he was to pray the psalms of David in his prayers he would know that his son shall be the one whom “all kings shall fall down before” and “all nations give him service” (Ps. 72:14). And when Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem, and Mary gave birth to Jesus, suddenly the words of the prophet Micah made sense to him when he said, “O Bethlehem ...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days” (Mic. 5:2). Along with those few verses, all the Old Testament proved to Joseph, Mary, and those who knew that Jesus was the Lord that this is whom all generations awaited.

How blessed we are that as Christians we can say each day of our life “Emmanuel” – God is with us, both as a statement of fact by our union with Christ by our baptism and communion, as well as a promise that He shall come again. And we, as Christians, do not fear His coming. One might fear a thief from entering the house, but Jesus is our King and God, an honored and eagerly awaited guest. Let us prepare ourselves for His coming by doing what He has asked us through His Church, that way when He comes again – in the Eucharist at Mass, at the feast of Christmas, and, ultimately, at His Second Coming – we may proudly receive Him singing with Isaiah, “Emmanuel – God is with us!”

— Article Credit: St Rafqa Parish



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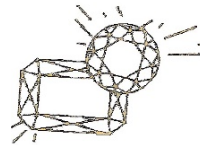
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