



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

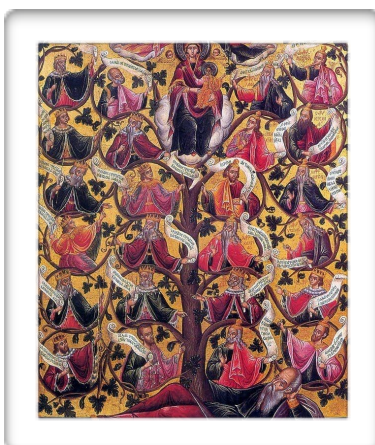
503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

December 24, 2017

Season of the Glorious Birth
The Genealogy of Jesus



Next Sunday
Finding in the Temple

Heb 7:11-19 (Melchizedek, a Type of Christ)

Lk 2:41-52 (The Boy Jesus in the Temple)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 24th, 10:30 am

Maronite Monks of Jesus Mary & Joseph

Monday, December 25th

Founding Members of St. Sharbel esp.

Doris Sellikan, Joe Johns, & Barbara Harris

Tuesday, December 26th

Kris & Iku Kochen

Wednesday, December 27th

+Hyrum Jensen

Thursday, December 28th

Available

Friday, December 29th

Available

Saturday, December 30th

Available

Sunday, December 31st

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.

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for December 10th - 17th

Online.....\$370.00

Collection.....\$1,671.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,041.00

YTD Total.....\$96,291.00

YTD Goal.....\$94,146.00

YTD Difference.....**\$2,145.00**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, December 24th

Lee Rask Family

Monday, December 25th

Lee Rask 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.
- ♦ 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



The Singing Ministry will meet this Sunday, Christmas Eve at 4:15pm in the upstairs Sunday School room to dress and have a brief rehearsal before mass.

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)"

Merry Christmas

For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only
Son, that whoever believes in
him shall not perish but have
eternal life.

John 3:16



Abouna's Corner

The Genealogy of Jesus

Mt 1:1-17

My Dear Brothers and Sisters:

There is great consolation in knowing that we have a God who is intimately involved in his creation, intimately cares what happens to us — a God willing to plunge right into our world. Our God is not a disinterested observer. It's comforting to know that we have a God who, when things go awry, is willing to take matters into his own hands to bring about the effects and changes he so desires. He doesn't leave us to fend for ourselves. All we have to do is want God to help us and he will, right?

Like so many things (especially when it comes to faith), the answer is yes and no.

Yes—God wants nothing more than to fill our lives with all good things.

Yes—God wants to heal our wounds and dry our tears.

Yes—God will pursue us down every path as he strives to bring us back to the fold and embrace us in his love.

Yes—God forgives our sins and gives us chance after chance after chance.

Yes—God wants to heal every broken heart and mend every relationship. Yes, yes, yes. God will always do his part. Of that, we can be absolutely sure. That's just who God is. And nothing we can do (or not do) will ever get God to stop loving us. The truth is, every single one of us is utterly dependent on God for everything.

However, our loving God doesn't seem to want to do it all by himself. That doesn't seem to be his way of doing things. Rather, he wants something from us—from imperfect you and from imperfect me. What does he want? You know the answer. He wants our “yes.” And so, as we wait and prepare to experience our Lord and Savior in a new way this Christmas, as we await Jesus coming and doing his part to heal a broken world and heal the brokenness in every human person, we must also pledge to do our part—that is, look for ways to continually say yes to God's invitation, say yes to whatever it is that God is asking of us. In what situations have I been saying “no”, when what I really need to do is say “yes”? Maybe I need to refuse to keep hanging on to a particular grudge, and instead say yes to forgiveness and understanding and letting go. Maybe I need to stop avoiding a person I'm not too crazy about, and instead say yes to finding the good in that person. Maybe I need to quit giving only from my excess, and instead say yes to true sacrificial giving—giving that actually costs me something. And maybe I need to say no to always doing what I want to do in life, and instead say yes to sincerely letting God lead my way down whichever path he chooses for me.

My friends, Jesus wants nothing more than to transform the world into the beautiful place his Father created it to be, wants nothing more than to once again break into and infuse every corner of the world with his mercy, compassion, peace, generosity, and love. But because he loves us so much, he chooses not to do it alone. Rather, he wants us to be an integral part of bringing glad tidings to the poor, healing the brokenhearted, and proclaiming liberty to captives. He wants us and invites us to share in that holy work, wants us to love as he loves. Sound impossible? Not when God and each of us work hand in hand. This Christmas, just say yes! Reflect on the great mystery we are about to celebrate. It really is incredible if you think about it. Our loving God chose to visit his people, to become one of us, and to do all he could to heal the wounds we had brought upon ourselves. God loves us so much that he was willing to immerse himself completely in our world and our human condition, in order to make things right --- in order to infuse every aspect of our existence with his love, his compassion, and his mercy. He didn't come to scold. He didn't come to punish. He simply came to love and to show us how to love. What a God we have!

May you all experience His grace and protection during this season and each day of the coming year.

Fondly,
Abouna

**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

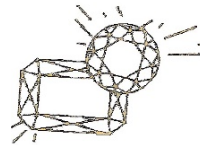
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