



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

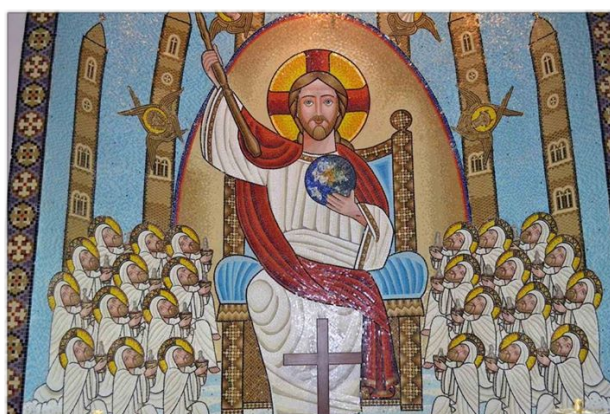
503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

January 21, 2018

Commemoration of Priests



Next Sunday

Commemoration of the Righteous & the Just

Heb 12:18-24 (Penalties of Disobedience)

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

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for January 7th - 13th

Online.....\$1,165.00

Collection.....\$935.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,100.00

YTD Total.....\$2,553.00

YTD Goal.....\$3,692.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,139.00**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 21st, 10:30 am

+Manne Atie

Monday, January, 22nd

Available

Tuesday, January 23rd

Available

Wednesday, January 24th

Available

Thursday, January 25th

Sarah Martin

Friday, January 26th

Available

Saturday, January 27th

Available

Sunday, January 28th

+Richard & Debbie McConnell

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, January 21st

Demers Family

Sunday, January 21st

Available

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

Women's Club Falafel Sale

**After Mass Sunday
January 21, 2018**

Women's Club will be selling falafel
after mass this Sunday, January 21

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING:

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:

NEW DATES:

Parents Only--Sunday, January 14

Preview of *Call to Protect Youth Video*

After Liturgy in the upstairs classroom

Youth 13-18yrs--Sunday, January 21

After Liturgy in the upstairs classroom

Please contact me if you have questions.

Appreciate your understanding and support,

Nadia Redmond [503-671-0440](tel:503-671-0440)

n.redmond@comcast.net

Community Events

LifeSaver Youth Retreat

LifeSaver Retreats are one-day retreats for Catholic 8th Grade Students. They are sponsored by Northwest Family Services and supported by the Archdiocese of Portland. These retreats focus on the sacredness of human life, teen chastity, and other issues the students will face in the years to come. The cost to each student is \$7.00.

The Next retreats are scheduled for Friday, February 23 and Friday, March 16 at Northwest Family Services in Milwaukie from 8:45am - 2:30pm. For more information, please contact the LifeSaver Retreat Youth Educator, Allie Labrousse, at Northwest Family Services.

Phone: 503-546-6377

Email: alabrousse@nwfs.org

PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE & LEBANON

Directed by Bishop Elias Zaidan

16 DAYS - May 28 - June 12, 2018

ONLY \$3800 PER PERSON



Only GREECE (May 28 to June 5) - Cost \$2,200

ATHENS * CORINTH * MYKONOS * EPHESUS * PATMOS * SANTORINI & MORE



Only LEBANON (June 5 to June 12) - Cost \$1,700

CEDARS * JEITA * BAALBECK * QADISHA * TYRE * HARRISA * BEIT EL DINE & MORE

INCLUDED: LODGING, TRANSPORTATION, GUIDES, TIPS, ENTRANCES FEES, 2 MEALS DAILY
EXCLUDED: AIRLINE TICKET, VISA, LUNCHES, BEVERAGES

You can choose the Greece portion only or the Lebanon portion or both.

You will be responsible for your airline ticket arrangements.

Tours require lots of walking and climbing steps...

For more information please email Chorbishop sharbel Maroun at
MaroniteMercyPilgrimage@gmail.com or call at 612-379-2758

Seats Are Limited

Reflection

Commemoration of the Priests

Lk 12:42-48

In the words of St. Paul, “Where is your sting, oh death? Where is your victory, oh Sheol?” (1 Cor. 15:55, Syriac Peshitta). Because of Christ’s saving Incarnation, which we have celebrated in many different aspects already this liturgical year, we Christians can say death has lost its power, and Sheol, where the righteous dead were stuck before Christ descended to them, has had its bars ripped open. It is a strange thing to hear in a world that seems to be encompassed by death. But as Christians we know the bodily death is temporary for the world to come is greater than the world here that will pass away. The Syriac tradition understands this well, as we have historically dedicated Saturday to praying for the dead, as well as the last verse of most hymns. But praying for the dead was revealed long before Christ came – both praying for the forgiveness of the dead (2 Mac. 12:43-46) and asking the dead we know to be holy for their intercession with God (Ex. 13:19) were already done among the prophets, patriarchs, and Israel. This Sunday of the Commemoration of the Priests is the first of three Sundays before the beginning of Great Lent where we both venerate the holy departed priests and pray for those not yet in heaven. These weeks of commemoration are placed before Great Lent, which is a preparation for Easter, for both those in this world and the next have the opportunity for eternal life granted by Christ after He destroyed death and Sheol by His resurrection.

When Christians depart from this world they do not cease to be part of the Church, the Body of Christ, and so we continue to be in union with them. Priests are important to Christ’s Church in particular, for “[He] chose for Himself earthly priests, gave them authority over the treasury of His kingdom, and placed in their hands the keys to His treasury to distribute His wealth to the needy” (Trans. from Syriac Maronite Breviary). The treasury of God is the abundant and infinite mercy He has for us, and has made available to us through the priests, to whom He has given the keys – the sacraments. Each of the sacraments relates to the reality of the salvific acts of Christ Himself, such as baptism with the Baptism of our Lord at the Jordan or the Body and Blood, the Eucharist, with our Lord’s sacrifice on the cross. In fact, we even sing in one hymn to the priests, “Come in peace, our father who carries the mysteries of his Lord, and distributes life to the sons of men by his right hand.” God has permitted in His mercy that mere men should be consecrated as priests to distribute His mercy of eternal life and forgiveness of sin. Today, we recall the priests who have passed away laboring in the Lord’s vineyard, and ask those who are already in heaven to intercede for our needs before God.

As the Syriac Father Narsai points out, what is more amazing about God’s mercy is that the ability of the priest to bring the sacraments is not dependent on his own holiness but the Holy Spirit sanctifying the sacraments. As such, priests are still men, and as any man they have sinned. Today, we pray for those who distributed the riches of the treasury of God on earth – His mercy, forgiveness of sin, His Body and Blood – who have died, and are now in need of our assistance to arrive at the banquet of the kingdom in heaven, which we hope to join one day. In the words of the *Ginaaz*, the rite of the dead, for priests let us pray to our God, Lover of Mankind:

Cast down and humble, Lord, the dark armies who lie in wait in the air, these evil spirits who fly in the noontime before the soul of these, Your passed and grieved servants. Bring them near to You. May Your power come to their assistance, Your right hand to their salvation, and Your victorious cross to their rescue. May Your Body and Blood be for their forgiveness, Your rising and resurrection to their renewal, and Your banquet and kingdom be for their delight: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to You be glory forever. Amen.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

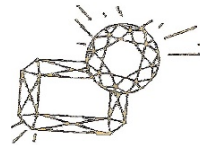
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