

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

January 28, 2018

Commemoration of the Righteous & Just



Next Sunday

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

1 Thes 5:1-11(Vigilance)

Lk 16:19-31 (The Parable of the Rich Man & Lazarus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for January 14th - 20th

Online.....\$430.00

Collection.....\$1,994.27

Weekly Total.....\$2,424.27

YTD Total.....\$4,977.27

YTD Goal.....\$5,538.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$560.73**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 28th, 10:30 am

+Richard & Debbie McConnell

Monday, January, 29th

Available

Tuesday, January 30th

Available

Wednesday, January 31st

Available

Thursday, February 1st

Sarah Martin

Friday, February 2nd

Available

Saturday, February 3rd

Available

Sunday, February 4th

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, January 28th

Available

Sunday, February 4th

Available

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

CAPPELLA ROMANA

February 3, 2018 at 8pm

St. Mary's Cathedral , NW 18th & Couch St., Portland

Cappella Romana Vocal Ensemble will perform the oldest known choral Mass setting by a single composer, the Mass of Notre Dame by Machaut at St. Mary's Cathedral in Portland.

Tickets & Info: CappellaRomana.org
503-236-8202

2-FOR-1 tickets in advance (Section A & B)
w/discount code "Catholic"

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

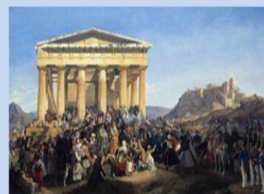
Email: alabrousse@nwfs.org

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 * EPHEUS * PATMOS * SANTORINI & MORE



Only LEBANON (June 5 to June 12) – Cost \$1,700
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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 Righteous & Just

Mt 25:31-46

Let us laugh at death again with St. Paul, saying, “Where is your sting, oh death?” for on this second week of commemorations we recall the righteous and the just. As St. Matthew recorded in today’s Gospel reading, they have escaped death in eternal life (Matt. 25:46) because they pleased the Lord through their faith and actions in this world. But why do we remember them? They certainly provide us an example how to lead our lives. Rarely is Abraham, a biblical patriarch whose life is recorded in Genesis, ever mentioned in the Syriac tradition without being called righteous or just because he dedicated his life to the service of God. He left a land he knew for a land he did not, and when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac he was ready to do so, even though Isaac was what God had promised him (Heb. 11). Trusting in God, Abraham followed what he was instructed, and he was led to the Promised Land, and his son, through whom all the promises of God until Jesus Christ would come, was unharmed.

It is important to look to their lives to know, even in spite of their failures, they were still righteous, and the truths about salvation this reminds us. Christ descended to the dead to bring up Adam, who had disobeyed God’s commandment, both because of Christ’s immeasurable merciful love towards mankind, and the righteousness that came to Adam through faith in God. But our commemoration of the righteous and the just is more than calling to mind mere examples and truths. We know that through participation in the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, which we entered in baptism “if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness” (Rom. 8:10). The righteous and just who have departed from this world now have a truer, eternal life with God – this is not a platitude, but it is an integral part of our faith. Having such proximity to God, the righteous and the just have the ability to intercede, or speak on our behalf, to God because of the merits of their righteousness and faith. St. Peter, a beloved friend of Jesus, and Mary, His mother, will implore Christ on our behalf if we only so much as ask them. Our Syriac tradition affirms the assistance of their prayers, as we often say on the feast of a saint “May your prayers be a fortress to us” – their prayers are not simply thoughts or feelings, but they obtain for us a protection and help that is spiritual and physical, manifest and unseen.

We know Mary and St. Peter are, of course, righteous and just, but who else? Anyone who has entered into the Kingdom of Heaven. The Church, with the authority Christ has given her, tells us who she knows is certainly there, and we call them canonized saints. Of course, the lists of these saints alone could fill vast books, so I will just mention a few traditional Maronite saints, apart from our currently well-known St. Sharbel and St. Rafqa, whom we can rely upon for their help. Each are named righteous for very different reasons, but their lives illustrate the diverse manners we can please God with our lives. St. Shmooni, the name we give the Maccabean woman in 2 Mac. 7, refused to deny her faith with her seven sons and so all died in persecution at the hands of a pagan king. St. Simon the Stylite, a monk in the time and locale of St. Maron who dedicated four decades of his life to prayer and fasting upon a pillar (stylitis meaning pillar). Last but not least, St. Ephrem, the Harp of the Holy Spirit, who wrote many of our hymns and much of our theology. Just as each part of the body has their role, each part of the Body of Christ has its own role but it all works towards accomplishing His Kingdom.

Let us ask the Lord, through the prayers of all the righteous and just whom we commemorate this week and every day of our lives, that “we may be worthy of the banquet at the eleventh hour with the laborers who toiled in Your vineyard in justness and righteousness, now and at all times, forever. Amen.” (From the Syriac Maronite Evening Prayer for Monday).

— Article Credit: St Rafqa Parish



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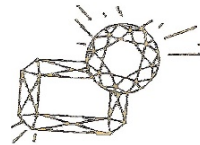
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