



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 7, 2018

The Great Epiphany Feast



Next Sunday

Second Sunday of Epiphany

2 Cor 4:5-15 (The Paradox of the Ministry)

Jn 1:35-42 (First Disciples)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 7th, 10:30 am

+Joyce Sample

Monday, January, 8th

Available

Tuesday, January 9th

Available

Wednesday, January 10th

Available

Thursday, January 11th

Available

Friday, January 12th

Available

Saturday, January 13th

Available

Sunday, January 14th

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 24th - 31st

Online.....\$970.00

Collection.....\$14,954.00

Weekly Total.....\$15,924.00

YTD Total.....\$114,748.00

YTD Goal.....\$97,838.00

YTD Difference.....**\$16,910.00**

Thank You, for the offerings you have made to St. Sharbel's! Your offerings help support all we do at St. Sharbel's and we could do nothing without the faithful offerings of it's members.

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, January 7th

Redmond Family

Sunday, January 14th

Fought 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

Altar Sponsorship

Contact Ann Marentette to
schedule **Altar Sponsorships**. Her
email is : abmarentette@gmail.com

- Your gift is a love offering, with the minimum gift being \$30. (Somewhere between \$50-60 is my guess about the breakeven point for us.) Again, there is no set amount, everyone has different means, so offer what you will.
- You can make your offering on the website, or you can put a check in collection plate, just note on the check or envelope what it is for (Altar Support).
- The big Sundays are Easter and Christmas, but also Mother's Day, and Feast Days (i.e., St Sharbel Feast, Epiphany, Holy Cross, Immaculate Conception, etc). Those are available on **first come first served basis**. Obviously we spend more on flowers those days, so you could bear that in mind in considering your offering for that week's sponsorship.
- If you want to actually have a florist do the flowers for a big weekend, work with Ann to coordinate that.
- Just like Mass Intentions, there might be weeks where no one signs up. I would be ideal for people to sign up for every Sunday, but we are inviting you to take the initiative to sign up.

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-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



Maronite Vigil For Life & March For Life 2018



Join us as we pray, march and send a peaceful message to the world!!
ALL LIFE IS SACRED and WORTHY OF RESPECT !!!

The Office of Family and Sanctity of Life of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn is pleased to host the Fifth Maronite Vigil For Life on Thursday January 18, 2018 at Our Lady Of Lebanon Maronite Church in Washington DC.

All Maronite parishes are invited to join us for an evening of prayer, worship and fun. Please arrive around 6 pm. Our evening will include dinner, Eucharistic Adoration, music, fellowship and movie. For those who want to attend the Vigil For Life at the National Shrine at 5:30pm, you are welcome to join us after.

Bring your sleeping bags.

On Friday January 19, 2018, we will have Maronite Divine Liturgy at 8:30am followed by breakfast, then we will meet at 11:00 am at the Starbucks at the corner of Indiana Ave. and 7th St. at 11:00am to join the March For Life.

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church

7142 Alaska Avenue N.W. Washington D.C. 20012

Sponsored by
Office of Family and Sanctity of Life
Marise Frangle, FCEI, Director
914-393-8907
sanctityoflife@live.com

Please RSVP with number of people
attending by no later than Monday
January 15
Contact Simona Hallal
540-798-8450
jhallal@verizon.net

Free will donation of \$20 per person to
cover the cost of the meals



Reflection

The Great Epiphany Feast

We have all had experiences of stumbling around in the dark, stumbling feeling around for something familiar, only to trip over something unseen or become frightened by something we think we might hear. Pitch darkness can even be disorienting when we are unfamiliar with where we are. Unsurprisingly, people before the invention of electric lights associated this darkness of night with death, and the eagerly awaited light of the morning with life.

Having celebrated the great feast itself a few days ago, today we celebrate the first of several Sundays dedicated to the Epiphany, the memorial of our Lord Jesus Christ's baptism. In Syriac, our tradition calls the feast *denho* or dawn referring to the passage in Zechariah 6:12 in the ancient Syriac version of the bible, known as the *Peshitta*, "His name is Dawn (*denho*), and He shall dawn from below." Why is our Lord and His baptism called dawn by the Prophet Zechariah?

As we reflected upon for the Consecration and Renewal of the Church, Christ established, in His love and mercy, the Church as His Bride as a means of bringing all of humanity in union with Him. Throughout the Season of Announcements we reflected upon how the Old Testament expressed the Bride's anticipation of her Groom's coming throughout the ages. Finally, we saw how John the Baptist is the forerunner of Christ who was sent to prepare things, much like a best man for a groom. In this role, John the Baptist prepared the rite of his baptism that was a placeholder and anticipation of the baptism of Christ, Who baptizes with "the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). Jesus knew humanity was "walking in [the] darkness" (Is. 9:2) of sin, wandering far away from Him. But in His mercy, just as He descended from heaven in His humility, He descended to the Jordan River where He had sent John the Baptist. John the Baptist hesitated to baptize Him at first because he knew he could not give anything to Jesus, Who created all things. John was correct, for Jesus had no need of baptism, just like He had no need to become a weak human since He is our all-powerful God. But it was in Christ's love of humanity that He descended to the Jordan so that the waters of baptism themselves may be sanctified for He is the Pure One Who chose water as a means of spiritually purifying us, giving us eternal life, and sharing with us His divinity, which is why St. Paul says, "All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Gal 3:27).

The Light that has dawned from below is the eternal Light from above, Who came dawn to illumine those who were blinded by the dark gloom of sin. As St. Jacob of Sarug said in his homily on the Epiphany, Christ was in want of nothing except to bring Adam back up from the pit of death, which he entered through sin. And by Christ shining His light upon the world and granting the opportunity for us to put Him on by baptism, He allowed us to enter into the Trinity, Who appeared fully for the first time in history of humanity at His baptism – the voice of the Father, the Son in the Jordan, and the Holy Spirit taking the visible sign of a dove (Luke 3:22). The Light which has dawned from below not only opened our eyes to the reality of our God, but has invited us to share in His divinity if we partake of the baptism He sanctified for us and follow what He has asked us through His Bride.



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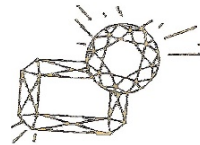
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