

# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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[www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)

## February 4, 2018

**Commemoration of the Faithful Departed**



**Next Sunday**

***Miracle of Cana in Galilee***

**Rom 14:14-23**(Consideration for the Weak Conscience)

**Jn 2:1-11** (The Wedding at Cana)

## Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for January 21st - 27th

Online.....\$1,390.00

Collection.....\$450.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,840.00

YTD Total.....\$6,817.27

YTD Goal.....\$7,384.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$566.73**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 4th, 10:30 am

*+Helene Kaldawi & +Mildred Madden*

Monday, February, 5th

*Steve Barnett*

Tuesday, February 6th

*Available*

Wednesday, February 7th

*Available*

Thursday, February 8th

*Available*

Friday, February 9th

*Available*

Saturday, February 10th

*Available*

Sunday, February 11th

*+Karam Karam*

***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, February 4th

*Available*

Sunday, February 11th

*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

## CALLING BUSINESS OWNERS!

We are looking for Businesses who would like to advertise in our church bulletin. If you are interested please contact Nisreen Mouammar for more information and to set up your ad!

[nisreen.mouammar@gmail.com](mailto:nisreen.mouammar@gmail.com)

## 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](http://CappellaRomana.org)  
503-236-8202

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



## ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH

SE 43rd Ave. and Powell Blvd.

## ITALIAN DINNER

**OUR 83rd YEAR!**  
**Sunday, February 18th**

Noon to 6 p.m.

Adults \$13.00

Seniors \$10.00

Children \$6.00

Under 5 FREE

Spaghetti

Ravioli

Meatballs

Take out available, too!

## 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](mailto:alabrousse@nwfs.org)

# **Reflection**

## *Commemoration of the Faithful Departed*

*Lk 16:19-31*

“I do not delight in the death of a sinner,” said the Lord of Lords, “But that we should turn from his evil way and live” (Ez. 18:23). Scriptures makes God’s mercy and compassion towards mankind very clear. At St. Ephrem points out, God gives every opportunity possible to Adam without infringing on his free will to make right his transgression. God, Who does not have feet, endows His presence with the sound of footsteps so that Adam knows God is coming. God, Who knows all things, asks where Adam is give him additional opportunity, asking him a series of questions He already to which He already knows the answers. Then God punishes the serpent and Eve before Adam to give Adam every last opportunity to repent and see the consequences before God turns to Adam. God gives every opportunity to Adam to repent for He does not delight in the death of a sinner. St. Ephrem says even the expulsion of Adam from the Garden is a mercy on God’s part so that Adam would not eat of the Tree of Life and live eternally in separation from God. But from that very moment Christ began preparing the world with the Law and the prophets for His coming and self-sacrifice to restore mankind from its sin in His mercy.

This last Sunday of the commemorations we remember the faithful departed who have left from among us. Throughout our life on earth God blesses us with access to the wealth of mercies from His heavenly treasury through the priests, whom He has given them their role of distributing the mysteries of His Incarnation, the sacraments, for our salvation and life eternal. Knowing that we are sinners, God gives us every opportunity He can that we should turn to Him and ask for His mercy. Just as Christ descended to Sheol to bring Adam up to life eternal in heaven, so too does He give us an opportunity even in death. We try our very best, assisted by the Church, to serve God the best we can on Earth, and so wishes that each of us who love Him should be part of the righteous and just in heaven. For this purpose, He allows the dead to receive the assistance of the prayers of others still on Earth. As the deacon would chant on the memorial for a faithful departed in the traditional Maronite liturgy:

“O beloved of the dead who has left, show your love this way: do not mourn greatly for it does not benefit the departed. / Instead, make a banquet in the sanctuary of bread and wine through the priests on behalf of the soul of the departed for it shall give him rest. / The Lord shall see your love; He shall forgive the dead who has left, and He shall place his memorial in the sanctuary upon the table of forgiveness.”

We do not mourn endlessly for the dead, as people without hope would, but we know just as Christ died and rose, He shall raise the dead (1 Thess. 1:13-14). The Mass is the greatest pledge of this eternal life for believers: Christ, Who is Life Himself, gave us His Body and Blood to consume by His death – but it is not dead Body and Blood, but living for He rose again, killing death itself. Therefore, it is most appropriate that we would ask for the forgiveness of sin for the dead in and through the sacrifice, the *Qurbono*, of the Mass. In confidence, we ask God, “May Your cross be an instrument of life, a bridge and an overpass for the souls and bodies who have been clothed in You by the waters of Baptism” (Mazmooro from the Memorial for a Faithful Departed). We who were baptized into Christ entered into His death so that we may also share in His immortal life (Rom. 6:4). He has granted us this not out of any obligation, but because He loves mankind, His image, and wishes to see us live, and live with Him for eternity. If we ever have any doubt of God’s mercy, let us call to mind Adam who, despite his initial failure, was raised up from death for his faith. Knowing this, we have the Christian duty to pray for the faithful who have left from among us to the next world. Today and everyday, let us ask that God have mercy on them, and may He rest them in abodes of light with the righteous and the just.





### Gibran N Zogbi

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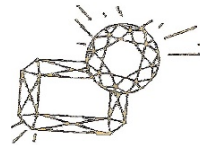
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