



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

503.231.3853

[stsharbelpdx@gmail.com](mailto:stsharbelpdx@gmail.com)

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

## March 11, 2018 Healing of the Paralytic



### Next Sunday

#### *Healing of the Blind Man*

2 Cor 10:1-7 (Accusation of Weakness)

Mk 10:46-52 (The Blind Bartimaeus)

## Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for February 25th - March 3rd

Online.....\$1,020.00

Collection.....\$1,623.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,643.00

YTD Total.....\$14,718.43

YTD Goal.....\$16,614.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,895.57**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, March 11th, 10:30 am

*Merle Myers*

Monday, March 12th

*Available*

Tuesday, March 13th

*Available*

Wednesday, March 14th

*Available*

Thursday, March 15th

*Available*

Friday, March 16th

*Available*

Saturday, March 17th

*Available*

Sunday, March 18th

*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, March 11th

*Available*

Sunday, March 18th

*Available*

# Events

## Lenten Schedule

Stations of the Cross in English and Arabic — **Fridays during Lent, 7:00pm**  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament — **Sundays during Lent, 9:00am**  
**Holy Week Schedule available at [stsharbel.org](http://stsharbel.org)**

### 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

Please make your gift to the Annual Appeal through your local parish. You may make it in a special envelope noted "Bishop's Appeal", or by noting it on your check. You may also make your donation online at [www.eparchy.org](http://www.eparchy.org).

### Other Maronite Institutions Serving You



The Eparchy publishes a monthly magazine, the Maronite Voice, which contains spiritual readings and news from parishes across the country. If you do not receive it by mail, you can read it online or via the Eparchy's app!

#### Website and App

Like the rest of the world, the Eparchy is going increasingly digital! The Eparchy's website is [www.eparchy.org](http://www.eparchy.org), and there is an app for the iPhone and Android. Both contain lots of interesting information.

The Order of Saint Sharbel is an association dedicated to supporting seminarians and retired priests, financially and spiritually. See [www.orderstsharbel.org](http://www.orderstsharbel.org) for details.



The National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) is a lay apostolate that supports the Church and works closely with the Eparchy and Bishop. See [www.namnews.org](http://www.namnews.org).

If you are receiving this publication by mail, enclosed you will find a special booklet of Maronite prayers dedicated to the Blessed Mother. Use this in honor of the Blessed Mother, and it will help bring you peace and mercy. If you did not receive a booklet, ask your parish priest and he will gladly give you one.



#### Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

1021 S. 10th St.  
St. Louis, MO 63104  
314-231-1021

[admin@eparchy.org](mailto:admin@eparchy.org) [www.eparchy.org](http://www.eparchy.org)

## EPARCHY OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON OF LOS ANGELES 2018 LENTEN APPEAL

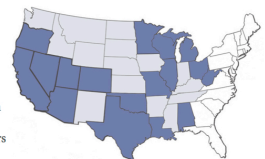


### We've Come a Long Way in 24 Years

When the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon was founded in 1994 by Pope Saint John Paul II, it contained 26 parishes, was served by 30 priests and had 4 seminarians. Today, the Eparchy has 44 parishes and missions, over 50 priests and 10 seminarians.

Still, the Eparchy has a long way to go to fulfill its mission. What is the mission of the Eparchy? It comes from Jesus Christ himself: "Feed my sheep" – that means "Serve all of the Maronite Catholic faithful so that each one has personal relationship with Jesus." And "Go and teach all nations" – that means "Bring the Gospel message to everyone!"

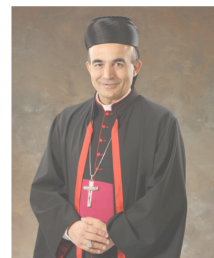
There are 34 states in the Eparchy. In 15 states, there is not a single Maronite parish or mission. There are an estimated 1 million Maronites in the Eparchy who do not belong to a Maronite parish simply because there is no parish nearby. Many communities are asking Bishop A. Elias Zaidan to send a priest and start a parish to serve the Maronites – places such as Albuquerque, Omaha, Lansing, Seattle, Green Bay, San Jose and others. In the 19 states where there is a Maronite presence, some people have to drive over two hours each way to attend a Maronite Liturgy on Sundays. That's too far.



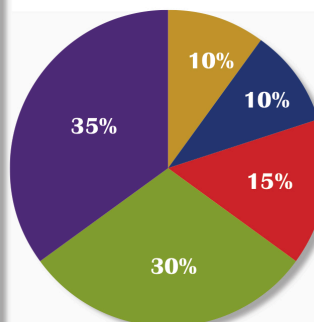
### The Need to do More

Bishop Zaidan is committed to extending the Eparchy's services to all Maronites throughout the Eparchy, so that they and their children have the opportunity to be raised in the faith of their ancestors. Under his leadership, the Eparchy is moving swiftly to address these needs. New missions have been opened or staffed by priests in places like Milwaukee (WI), El Paso (TX) and Riverside (CA). The Eparchy now has 10 seminarians who are receiving the finest education at seminaries and universities such as Catholic University of America. And many of the Eparchy's priests are making heroic efforts to travel to serve Maronites in far-flung areas and build parishes.

But we need to do more. And to do more, we need your help.



### The pie chart below shows how your gifts for this year's Annual Appeal will be allocated.



Each year, the Eparchy makes an appeal during Lent for the most critical needs of the Eparchy. For 2018, these needs are:

#### Seminarians and Retired Priests

A man must undergo a rigorous education and formation program for at least five years to become a priest. During this time he is called a "seminarian". The Eparchy needs seminarians to ensure that there will be enough priests in the future. The Eparchy currently has 10 seminarians. Two of them are deacons and two will be subdeacons soon. The average cost of educating and supporting a seminarian is \$40,000 per year (\$400,000 in total this year).

At the other end of the spectrum, the Eparchy has four retired priests who faithfully served for over 150 years (on a collective basis) in parishes. These priests receive a modest pension each month and supplemental health insurance. The total cost of this is \$111,000 in 2018. 35% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will go to assist the needs of Seminarians and Retired Priests.



#### Missions and Small Parishes.

Opening new parishes is essential to the survival of the Maronite Church in America. The Eparchy has sent priests to new areas to gather Maronites and minister to them, such as Milwaukee, Riverside and El Paso. These new missions need support for basic expenses such as insurance, utilities and the priest's living costs, in their early days to grow. 30% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will go to support Missions and Small Parishes.



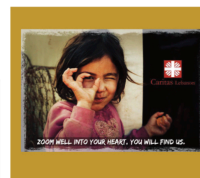
#### Ministries

The Eparchy has multiple ministries to better serve Maronites which need to grow because they do not reach as many people as they should. Among these ministries are: Religious Education, Youth Ministry, New Evangelization, and Family and Sanctity of Life. The Eparchy wants to increase the size and scope of its ministries so that they reach more people in more places throughout the Eparchy. 15% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will go to assist the Eparchy's Ministries.



#### Charity to Others

Just as you are generous to the Eparchy, the Eparchy generously supports those in need here in the United States, and abroad in places like Lebanon and Syria. Many worthy causes are helped with this assistance. 10% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will go to charity.



#### National Maronite Shrine

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon located in North Jackson, Ohio, was founded over 50 years ago to invoke Our Lady's protection over all Maronites in the United States. The Shrine is a place of pilgrimage for all Maronites and is open 365 days a year. 10% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will go to assist the National Shrine.






## NAM'S SPRING RAFFLE

It's that time again for NAM's annual Spring Raffle — See attached flyer.

Contact Nadia Redmond at email: [n.redmond@comcast.net](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net) or call: 503-671-0440 if you are interested in purchasing a ticket for yourself or as a group. We are only given 2 tickets to sell out of 420 tickets that are sent to all the Maronite Parishes. Deadline is March 25th.

  
National Apostolate of Maronites  
Presents

*The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Raffle - 2018*  
*Only 420 Tickets are printed*  
*Donation: \$100 per ticket*

*This just may be the year your lucky number is chosen!!!!*

Cash Prizes

1<sup>st</sup> \$10000  
2<sup>nd</sup> \$3000  
3<sup>rd</sup> \$2000  
4<sup>th</sup> \$1500  
5<sup>th</sup> \$1000

This year's drawing will be held at St. Maron in Torrington, Connecticut on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

Thank you for your support in previous years for this raffle fund-raiser, as it is an important part of the NAM annual budget. We are counting on your generosity once again, to support our community projects.



Join us  
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### Living Christ's example of Love, Humility and Service:

Our Youth met and connected with over 20 elderly yesterday at Maryville Nursing Home. There was much laughter, joking, singing, piano playing and visiting. The residents were so appreciative of the visit and the children benefited so much.

Thank you to all who organized and participated!

## YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS

Come celebrate the launch of Young Catholic Professionals Portland - the 18th chapter nationally. YCP brings young professionals together to share in their witness to Christ through their work. YCP is one of the fastest growing Catholic organizations in the United States, spanning 11 states now!

WHO: You (and every young adult 21-39 y/o)

WHAT: The YCP PDX kickoff event

WHEN: Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 7 - 9 pm

WHERE: The Madeleine Parish, 3123 NE 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97212

### WHY COME

- + Meet other young professionals in their 20s and 30s
- + Enjoy complimentary beer/wine and appetizers
- + Learn what YCP will do for Portland and how you can get involved
- + Meet our guests, Most Reverend Archbishop Alexander K. Sample & Jennifer Baugh

# Reflection

## *Healing of the Paralytic*

### *Mk 2:1-12*

Once again this week we reflect upon Christ's love for humanity in His capacity as the Divine Physician looking to the Gospel passage of His healing of the paralytic. This healing, as the weeks past in this Lent, elucidate Christ's coming to the world to heal mankind of our illnesses – physical, but even more the spiritual, which we cannot heal by any medical knowledge. In faith they ask for the paralytic to be made whole, and our Lord restores him both in body and soul as He is our good and merciful God.

Moved by compassion for those made in His image, Christ seeks to forgive us at the first sign of remorse. But there have always been those blind to the mercy of God. The teachers of the Law, those well studied in the Scriptures, immediately accuse Him of blasphemy for forgiving sins. But had they truly read the Scriptures praying to understand God's message, instead of using it to their own advantage, they would have seen that Jesus Christ is the Messiah foretold in all of the Jewish Scriptures (2 Cor. 3:14). If they truly knew the Scriptures past the memorization of words they would have known at the moment Jesus forgave the man's sins the endless times He spoke through the prophets, such as when He said through Ezekiel, "For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!" (Ez. 18:32) or through King David, "he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." (Ps. 103:10, 12). To make His love for humanity and divine power even clearer Christ heals the man's paralysis, after which they all praise Him if but for a moment. This is not the first time that those well versed in the Law, such as the scribes, priests or Pharisees, cannot see Who the Law is about or Who wrote the Law because they lack faith and refuse to ask God for an increase of it.

Yet how easily is their opinion swayed when they receive the sign they wanted with a miraculous healing? It is the same fickleness that made them the people who in the week of the Passion of our Lord shouted "Hosanna" on Sunday and "Crucify Him!" on Friday. Knowing all this in advance, Jesus our God still accepted to become man in His love for us. He chose, in His compassion, to make us whole that we might choose life with Him. As a beautiful hymn in the Maronite Holy Week prayer book says, "By His hand, He healed a withered hand and it was straightened out which would strike Him upon the cheek. He opened a mouth for His glory and the mouth spat in His face." This hymn is referring to the man with a withered hand (Mark 3:1-6) and the mute (Mark 7:31-37) whom Christ heals in His love for humanity, despite knowing it is His fellow Jews that will turn against Him and crucify Him. But even if they shall only be made whole to use their divine gifts against Him Christ gives them the chance.

We should be indignant at the idea of accepting the Lord's generosity only to later use it against Him. But how often do we act similarly? Those healed by Christ and those who witnessed it might have been genuinely praising Christ in the moment they received something, but when they were asked to make an act of faith and say the sickly Jesus, captured and beaten was God they trusted their senses rather than in the faith of God. Perhaps we are not condemning people to death, but each sin is a rejection of God. He has gifted us with 24hrs. in a day, do we say we are too busy to pray? He has gifted us with our comforts, do we refuse the poor a meal or the Church financial support? He has gifted us with our very existence, do we discourage others'? As humans, we are bound to fail in these regards – that is why we need Christ. An acknowledgment of these failures is not to just feel guilty because such guilt is useless. Instead, it should compel us to turn to Christ, our Divine Physician, and ask Him to forgive us our failures, resolving to amend our ways. We do not have the veil over our hearts like those who accused Christ of blasphemy for we know that He is truly God and can take away our sins. Nonetheless, we do fail – and perhaps often – which is why Christ has made available to us healing from our wounds of sin. This Lenten time of penance is one of them. Let us not despair in our sins but rejoice in the generosity of Jesus Christ's certainty of healing.





**Gibran N Zogbi**

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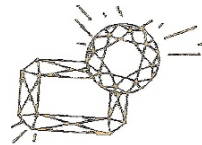
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