



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

March 18, 2018 Healing of the Blind Man



Next Sunday *Hosanna Sunday*

Phil 1:1-13 (Greeting / Thanksgiving)

Jn 12:12-22 (The Entry into Jerusalem / The Coming of
Jesus' Hour)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for March 4th - 10th

Online.....\$1,095.00

Collection.....\$953.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,048.00

YTD Total.....\$16,766.43

YTD Goal.....\$18,460.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,693.57**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, March 18th, 10:30 am

Jen Watson

Monday, March 19th

Available

Tuesday, March 20th

Available

Wednesday, March 21st

Available

Thursday, March 22nd

Available

Friday, March 23rd

Available

Saturday, March 24th

Available

Sunday, March 25th

+Tom Selliken

***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 18th

Available

Sunday, March 25th

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

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.

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, 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 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.

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

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314-231-1021

admin@eparchy.org www.eparchy.org

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

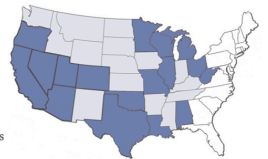


We've Come a Long Way in 24 Years

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!"

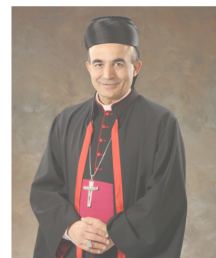
There are 34 states in the Eparchy. In 15 states, there is not a single Maronite parish or mission. There are an estimated 1 million Maronites in the Eparchy who do not belong to a Maronite parish simply because there is no parish nearby. Many communities are asking Bishop A. Elias Zaidan to send a priest 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.



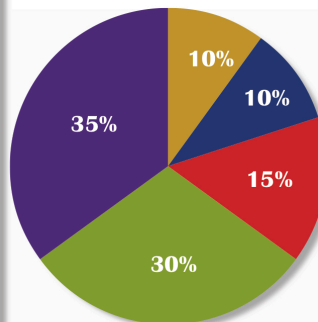
The Need to do More

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.



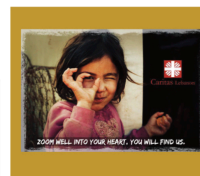
Ministries

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

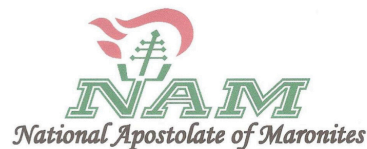
The National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon located in North Jackson, Ohio, was founded over 50 years ago to invoke Our Lady's protection over all Maronites in the United States. The Shrine is a place of pilgrimage for all Maronites and is open 365 days a year. 10% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds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



Presents
The 26th 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

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

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

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“Be Not Afraid”

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) invites you to their Biennial Convention on April 21, 2018 at The Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother (The Grotto), Portland, Oregon. The cost for the day is \$40, which includes lunch. The theme of the event is “Be Not Afraid.” After a brief business meeting there will be a panel “You are not Alone.” Archbishop Alexander K. Sample will preside at a noon Mass followed by lunch and Woman of Achievement. The afternoon panels are “Walking in Hope” and “Journeys to Ministry”.

For more information call Sue Anker
503-252-2574 or Barb Francescon
971-386-2144

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

Find More Info on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/552987881731638/>

Campaign Planning Study – Bishop A. Elias Zaidan Wants Your Feedback!

Currently we are conducting a comprehensive survey of the entire diocese. Before we make any final decisions regarding the long-range plan for Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, Bishop A. Elias Zaidan would like to hear from you.

You will all be asked to share your thoughts regarding our needs and the possibility of conducting a major fundraising effort in our Eparchy. Your feedback will enable us to determine potential support for the master plan projects. If we, as a faith community, choose to move forward, the planning study will also provide us with information to identify prospective campaign leaders and to establish a realistic campaign goal.

Parishioners will have access to a fact sheet which details all of our proposed needs and will be asked to respond in a variety of ways. Some parishioners will be personally interviewed, while others will have the option to mail in a survey or go online to answer questions.

The fact sheet and online survey can be accessed by going to steiergroup.com/survey., clicking on Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles and entering the password: **Lebanon**. The survey closes April 18, 2018. If you have received an invitation to participate in an interview with our representative from the Steier Group you do not need to complete a mail or online survey.

The Steier Group, our development firm, will compile results from the study and present it to the Eparchy leadership team. At that time, we will make an informed decision regarding the implementation of our master plan and a capital campaign to fund those initiatives.

This process is extremely important. Each and every family is encouraged to participate. Your input is valuable as we plan for the future of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles.

Reflection

Healing of the Blind Man

Mk 10:46-52

Bartimaeus the blind man gives testimony to the immeasurable generosity and love for mankind of the Good Physician, Jesus Christ. Our Lord Himself said to those who listened to Him, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened” (Matt. 7:7-8). God’s generosity towards us cannot be overstated for, as we know, the Immortal and Untouchable became mortal and vulnerable to heal us and forgive our sins ultimately even dying so that we may live. Though God’s generosity is so abundant, we must also ask for His help for He has given us free will in His love because love cannot be received involuntarily. So let us look to Bartimaeus as an example of someone who knows how to call upon the Lord and ask Him for His assistance.

Our Lord Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a physician, but the sick” (Mark 2:17). One who is healthy would not consult a physician because they would see no need. But Bartimaeus calls upon Christ because he knows that he is blind and that he is limited by his blindness. It would be an absurd image if Bartimaeus insisted he was not blind and tried to live his daily life as not impeded, stumbling around town and struggling through daily tasks. The first guidance the story of Bartimaeus gives to the Christian through his life is that we must acknowledge our sickness. Everyone is alive is spiritually sick in some sense, and so all must seek the Physician of the Soul – Jesus Christ. However, many are spiritually blind and think they are healthy and without need of the Physician. It is just as absurd as a blind man claiming to have sight if one thinks about how often we might fail throughout our daily lives. That is why the first step we must take to becoming spiritually better is acknowledge that we do indeed have something wrong, even if we are not quite sure what it is.

Bartimaeus could have despaired in his blindness but instead he chose to have hope that Jesus Christ was a wise enough physician to heal him so he calls out loudly to Christ. It is not enough to recognize that one is sick – but that person goes to a physician whom they trust to cure them. Bartimaeus confidently chooses the Physician Who can heal all illnesses. Even when others might have laughed at him or told him to keep quiet, perhaps because he or his illnesses was not important enough in their minds, he persisted. Because of his faith, Christ called him to himself. If we have true faith in Christ to heal us we must call Him with confidence. Though others may laugh or tell us to keep quiet, and He might not respond the first time, we must persist in knowing only Christ can heal all infirmities.

One must pay a physician appropriately for their work, but how does one pay the One Who needs nothing? You cannot. But Bartimaeus, knowing this, gives Christ the only thing he can – his faith in calling out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Bartimaeus has nothing he can give Jesus other than his abandonment in sincere faith. Jesus, in turn, heals him for this very reason. The acts we perform, the alms we pay, the fasting we make during Lent are all pleasing to God – in fact, He asks that we do all this – but He does not need them, nothing we can give God can make Him greater or wealthier. Recognizing this, Bartimaeus calls to Him in love and faith, though it adds nothing to Jesus. Bartimaeus gives us, then, a great pattern for prayer. In fact this is why the Eastern Christians have adopted a custom for many centuries of repeating to oneself throughout the day a slightly modified version of Bartimaeus’s prayer, “Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!” Though we could not offer God anything to make Him richer, He responds in generosity to our love and faith in Him. Once we have recognized we have made ourselves ill by the wounds of sin we can call upon God for His assistance. Without fail the Physician will always outdo our love in responding to our call.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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