

# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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



## April 29, 2018

**Jesus Delivers the Office of Shepherd to Peter**



### Next Sunday

*Jesus Appears to the Apostles in the Upper Room*

**Rom 10:1-13** (Righteousness Based on Faith)

**Lk 24:36-48** (The Appearance to the Disciples in Jerusalem)

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, April 29th, 10:30 am

+ *Darlene Meyers*

Monday, April 30th

*Available*

Tuesday, May 1st

*Available*

Wednesday, May 2nd

*Available*

Thursday, May 3rd

*Available*

Friday, May 4th

*Available*

Saturday, May 5th

*Available*

Sunday, May 6th

*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 April 15th - 21st

Online.....\$410.00

Collection.....\$767.75

Weekly Total.....\$1,177.75

YTD Total.....\$27,384.68

YTD Goal.....\$29,536.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,151.32**

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, April 29th

Available

Sunday, May 6th

Allam Family

# Parish Events

## Altar Sponsorship

We are in need of families or individuals to sponsor the altar. Sponsorship helps with altar bread, communion wine, candles for the celebration of the Holy Offering of the Mass. Your gift will be acknowledged on the website calendar and published in the bulletin. Here are a few points:

- Contact Ann Marentette to schedule **Altar Sponsorships**. Her email is : [abmarentette@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### 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



Please pray for our first communicants as they faithfully prepare to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. On Sunday, April 29th, they will be participating in their First Holy Mystery of Penance (Confession). On the Feast of Our Lady of Lebanon (May Crowning), Sunday, May 6th, the communicants will receive Our Lord's Precious Body and Blood in their First Eucharist during the Divine Liturgy. I thank Nadia Redmond for her dedication and time to catechize the following first communicants:

Malak Alks Hamo  
Milad Alks Hamo  
Anthony Allam  
Thaddeus Calko  
Jude Gama  
Joseph Massaad

-Abouna Christopher

Join us  
**SATURDAY, MAY 12TH**  
for a *Mother's Day Haftli*  
**FEATURING SUPER STAR  
REMOM MAMARI**  
TICKETS INCLUDE  
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# Community Events

## Looking for a natural and affirming way of family planning?

WHEN: May 3rd, 17th, and 31st

WHERE: NW Family Services  
6200 SE King Rd.  
Portland, OR 97222

INSTRUCTOR: Lauren Fuller

CONTACT: [lfuller@nwfs.org](mailto:lfuller@nwfs.org)



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## HEALING OF OUR MOTHER WOUND RETREAT

Father Philip Scott, FJ

June 1-3, 2018

Our Lady Peace Retreat - Beaverton, OR

### ROOMS

\$ 172 Single occupancy

\$ 344 Double occupancy

( there are only 5 double rooms, otherwise couples use a single room each )

**COMMUTORS ~ \$ 112 for 6 meals (Friday evening thru Sunday lunch)**

**Deposit \$ 50 is due with registration and goes toward total payment. Remainder to be paid by May 15th, make payable to: Sister Mariam Sharbel Vianney**

**CALL or EMAIL for REGISTRATION FORM**

Email: [grace.an.mercy@gmail.com](mailto:grace.an.mercy@gmail.com)

Phone: [503-269-3736](tel:503-269-3736)



# Reflection

## *Jesus Delivers the Office of Shepherd to Peter*

Would you consider yourself holy? It is an interesting question if we are ever asked. It might prompt you to recall saying a recent hurtful remark in impatience, skipping prayer or one of the many other abundant flaws of messy human life. If we sit down and thoroughly think of all our faults it could seem that there is an insurmountable distance between us and the holiness of God. And perhaps at certain moments of our lives there is such a divide – but as St. Athanasius said, “God became man so that we might become God” (CCC460). Adam damaged the image of God in which we were all made, but Christ came to recast it!

Nowhere does God make His compassion towards our broken nature clearer than when He picks St. Peter, an uneducated and unimpressive fisherman who often did not understand Christ’s miracles or sayings, to be the head of the Apostles. When Christ gives Peter the power to walk on water as he requests, Peter doubts Him and sinks (Matt. 14:22-33). When Jesus tells His disciples that He will be crucified and resurrected for the salvation of mankind, Peter rejects the divine plan for his little plans (Matt. 16:21-23). When Peter tells Christ he will never abandon Him, in the same night he denies Christ three times (Luke 22:54-62). Peter shows his weakness of faith and understanding, but Jesus does not abandon him – instead He pulls him up out of the waves, He corrects Peter in his error, and, in today’s Gospel reading, we hear Jesus give him a chance to undo his triple denial by a triple question, “Do you love me?”

How patient and longsuffering God is! When He created everything for Adam and Adam sinned against Him, God began to immediately plan for his salvation. He sent no less than 70 prophets to Israel to bring them back to Him over the course of thousands of years, and when Israel killed His prophets He came Himself. Even St. Peter, the man He appointed as the head of His Church, failed again and again. But Christ did not abandon him because of Peter’s repentance and love – which he proclaimed three times to Christ today. It is by both repentance and love Christ wipes away his sins. But it is not enough that Peter simply repents by telling the Lord he loves Him – Jesus sends Peter to work, “Feed my lambs. Take care of my sheep. Feed my lambs” The true work of penance for Peter is the distribution of Christ’s abundant upon Earth, which Christ has made available to us through the Church.

Peter has been given the keys to the heavenly treasury from which the priests distribute the riches of God to those who need them. These men who distribute them are nowhere near perfect – look at Peter! However, their imperfections do not lessen the greatness of God – if anything, their weakness shows how mighty God is that He could work His mercy through such weak and sinful servants. The treasures they distribute are the holy mysteries of our Lord Who made them available that we might partake of His holiness. From this treasury, the priests dressed us in the rich robe of Christ at our baptism, removing the filthy robe of sinful decay from us. The Body and Blood of our Lord are the fiery coal that Isaiah said not even the angels could touch without a tong (Is. 6:6) but that the human priests hold in their hand and give to us that our sins be burned away. Like the Sinful Woman, our tears of penance wash away the sin that covers up these adornments and the priests give us the gold assurance of God “I absolve you.” Of course, these are only three of the innumerable riches Christ gives us through the Church!

Would you consider yourself holy? Perhaps there is still a great distance to go in life and many improvements to be made, but let us look to the example of St. Peter. Instead of falling deeper into sin because we know it is in us, let us turn to Christ in our love for Him and have Him take it away. He has given us all these countless blessings for love of us, who are His image. Let us make use of them, crying out and praying:

Simon Peter called to You in the sea and You answered him between the waves, and You helped him in at a fearful time. O, I am drowning in the sea of sins! Pull me out because of Your goodness and have mercy upon me! (From the Syriac Maronite Midnight Office of Saturday)



**Gibran N Zogbi**

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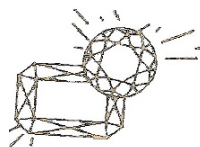
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