



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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

## April 8, 2018

**Jesus Appears to the Disciples & Thomas**



**Next Sunday**

***Jesus Appears to the Two Disciples at Emmaus***

**2 Tim 2:8-13 (Timothy's Conduct)**

**Lk 24:13-35 (The Appearance on the Road to Emmaus)**

## Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for March 25th - 31st

Online.....\$970.00

Collection.....\$1508.50

Weekly Total.....\$2,478.50

YTD Total.....\$21,772.93

YTD Goal.....\$23,998.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,225.07**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, April 8th, 10:30 am

*Available*

Monday, April 9th

*Available*

Tuesday, April 10th

*Available*

Wednesday, April 11th

*Available*

Thursday, April 12th

*Available*

Friday, April 13th

*Available*

Saturday, April 14th

*Available*

Sunday, April 15th

*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, April 8th**

*Available*

**Sunday, April 15th**

*Available*

# Events

## **CAMPAIGN PLANNING STUDY LAST CHANCE TO RESPOND**

There are only a few days left to participate in the Eparchy planning study survey. If you have not done so already please return your survey to the parish office or directly to the Eparchy. You may also complete the survey online and read more about the proposed plans by going to [steiergroup.com/survey](http://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.

Bishop A. Elias Zaidan would like to thank everyone who has already participated in the study. Your thoughts are extremely valuable to him during this planning process. If you have not yet responded to a survey, you are encouraged to do so. Your input will help the diocese make an informed decision regarding the long-range plans for the Eparchy.

### **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



### *“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

## **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.

# Reflection

## *New Sunday*

As we proclaimed last week, Christ is risen! The great battle is finished and He has destroyed death by His death demonstrating His ultimate victory against humanity's great Enemy... So why, then, do we hear in the Gospel that the Apostles were hiding in fear in the Upper Room a week after this glorious triumph of Christ? As St. John tells us, they locked themselves in the Upper Room "for fear of the Jewish leaders" (John: 20:19) persecuting the followers of Christ. Perhaps it sounds a bit like our own lives – if Christ won the greatest victory of all time, why are we still undergoing hardship here and now?

The Apostles hid in the Upper Room in fear of their immediate circumstances in Jerusalem, perhaps not yet even fully understanding the mystery of our Lord's resurrection. Their main preoccupation is survival. But Jesus Christ Himself assured them that He would never abandon them to their own devices. In fact, Christ came in the first place because "God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Having redeemed humanity in His Passion, Christ would not simply leave those who believed in Him to perish simply within the first week. Before even undergoing His Passion He promised them "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you" (John 14:16) – referring to the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which had not yet happened. Until then, our Lord appears to His Apostles; though it might seem Christ is far away because we cannot see Him, He has promised us, "where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matt. 18:20).

But St. Thomas has incredibly bad timing. Just as we believe St. Thomas was late for the Assumption and missed saying goodbye to the Virgin Mary at her death, he also missed Christ's first appearance to the Apostles saying, "Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe" (John 20:25). According to the logic of the world, why should St. Thomas believe Christ was with them? The Disciples were suffering persecution and would be killed if found. So Christ appears to the Apostles again to assure St. Thomas, and we ourselves, in saying, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

In the Syriac tradition we do not remember St. Thomas for his doubt but his response to Christ's admonition. Having seen that our God is not dead but truly alive and forever with us, St. Thomas bides farewell to Jerusalem and heads to India. Today, millions of Indians following the Syriac tradition trace apostolic succession to St. Thomas's initial evangelization. At the end of his service teaching the Indians about Christ, working many miracles and converting many he was martyred for the same Lord's Resurrection he initially doubted for St. Thomas. St. Thomas understood on New Sunday that all had been made new by the Resurrection – though he should be threatened by physical forces, this world will eventually pass away but all who believe in Christ will have eternal life even if they should die here for Christ raised those who believe in Him at His resurrection. Let us follow St. Thomas's example to bring the Resurrection to the world with our daily lives and pray with joy this day:

*This feast is a mystery and title of the New World – let us rejoice and exult with the blessed company of Apostles. With them and amongst them let us worship Him. With Thomas who touched His side, let us give thanks to Him and cry out, " You are our Lord and our God!" Glory be to His Resurrection!*

(from the Diaconal Proclamation for New Sunday)



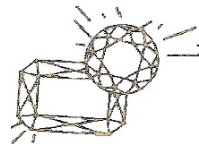
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