

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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www.stsharbel.org

July 29, 2018

The Fruit of the Message to the Jews



Next Sunday

The Fruit of the Message to the Gentiles

Eph 3:1-13 (Commission to Preach God's Plan)

Mt 15:21-28 (The Canaanite Woman's Faith)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for July 15th -21st

Online.....\$480.00

Collection.....\$2,025.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,505.00

YTD Total.....\$50,165.68

YTD Goal.....\$53,534.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$3,368.32**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, July 29th, 10:30 am

The Ordinands

Monday, July 30th

Dene McCall Culton

Tuesday, July 31st

Available

Wednesday, August 1st

Available

Thursday, August 2nd

Available

Friday, August 3rd

Available

Saturday, August 4th

Available

Sunday, August 5th

Dene McCall Culton

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, July 29th

Anonymous

Sunday, August 5th

Available

Parish Events

Attention Parishioners

It is with great excitement and anticipation that we remind you that our beloved bishop will be here this weekend to ordain two of the Eparchy's seminarians on the first step to priesthood. Seminarians Peter Zogbi and Michael Shami will be ordained to the order of SubDeacon, with God's grace and through the imposition of hand by the Most Rev Elias Zaidan.

All are invited to join this important milestone for our seminarians. After the ordination, which will occur during the Divine Liturgy on Sunday July 29th at 10:30 am, the parish will host a lunch in the parish hall immediately after the conclusion of the ordinations. We continue to pray for these men, and for the abundance of vocations to the priesthood and to religious life. As well, we wish special congratulations and thanks to the Zogbi and Shami families.

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

Community Events

WILLIAM BYRD FESTIVAL

About the William Byrd Festival: Now in its twenty first year, the William Byrd Festival was conceived by Founder of Cantores in Ecclesia Dean Applegate and the late Dr. Richard Marlow of Trinity College Cambridge as a marriage of music and scholarship of the great English Renaissance composer William Byrd (1540-1623). The Festival draws international performers and scholars to Portland each August for two weeks of lectures, masses, liturgical services and concerts. Please see our website for further information: <http://www.byrdfestival.org>

Who: Festival soloists, conducted by Jeremy Summerly, and organist Mark Williams

What: "Anno Domini" The opening concert of the twenty first annual William Byrd Festival, sponsored by Cantores in Ecclesia

When: Friday, August 10, 7:30 PM

Location: The Old Church, 1422 SW 11th Avenue

Information: Dean Applegate, 971-227-8740, info@byrdfestival.org;
www.byrdfestival.org.

Tickets: At the door or in advance: \$25 general admission, \$20 seniors & students. By phone: 1.800.838.3006, or www.brownpapertickets.com

Reflection

The Fruit of the Message to the Jews

Lk 19:1-10

A common protest to going to church is that it is full of hypocrites – “why should I go to church if it is full of sinners?” “These people claim to be seeking God yet I know their many faults!” In today’s Gospel reading, the people of Jericho mutter similar things when Jesus accepts to be a guest in the house of Zacchaeus the tax collector. Zacchaeus was seen as a public enemy and a sinner because he collected taxes from fellow Jews on behalf of the Roman Empire, which was seen as an invasive foreign power. Worse, Zacchaeus not only worked for the enemy but he overcharged taxes to take the extra for himself. It was a shock, then, when Jesus, our God known in Israel as a just prophet and teacher, accepted to go to Zacchaeus’s house instead of those who keep all the Law and call themselves righteous. Why would Christ go to this sinner rather than those who are known amongst men as righteous?

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10) as Christ says Himself. Earlier in Luke’s Gospel, Christ says, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:31-32). As St. Jacob of Sarug wrote about Zacchaeus, “The Good Physician did not descend to heal the healthy... whoever is sick calls a physician to come to him.” As we so often emphasize in the Syriac tradition, Christ came down from heaven out of love for mankind alone – He had no obligation to save us. He did not come to condemn but to save in His mercy those who heed Him (John 3:17). It is not strange, then, that the Physician should be seen with the sick Zacchaeus – in fact, it only makes sense for Christ came to lift up our fallen state.

The true arrogance falls with the people who declare Zacchaeus a sinner in protest of Christ going to be his guest. Zacchaeus was certainly a sinner in need of Christ’s redemption. However, if they recalled the Psalms they sang in the synagogue they would remember the rhetorical verse, “If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?” (Ps. 130:3). The verse implies that everyone is guilty before God because no one is perfect, and if God were to call us to account for our sins fairly, we would all be condemned! It is truly arrogant, then, to think that we could be justified of our own doing.

Fortunately for us, Christ has not come to condemn but call to repentance that we might obtain the forgiveness of our sins and have eternal life in Him. As St. Jacob says, Christ would not have taught us to say, “Forgive us our trespasses” in the Our Father if He would not forgive us the same trespasses! As the Lord said through His prophet Ezekiel, “I receive no pleasure in the death of the wicked. Instead, my pleasure is that the wicked repent from their behavior and live” (Ez. 33:11). So Christ not only grants us the opportunity, but really wants us to be forgiven that we may live, and live with Him, His Father and His Holy Spirit. Zacchaeus is the prime example – if a man of such lowly reputation can be saved, anyone can, just as St. Jacob says:

*Through Zacchaeus the Tax Collector He [Christ] made a marketplace for repentance
that everyone should come and deal in it without restraint.*

*Through that swindler He gave encouragement to the sons of evil
that if they should repent they will not be punished by justice.*

Let us cast aside our inhibitions with Zacchaeus of how we look in our shortcomings, whether known or secret, and climb to see Christ. There, for love of Him, let us call out by our very lives to Him that He visit us and heal us of our sin in His mercy. No sin is too great nor is it ever too late until the last moment of life for our God’s mercy is that abundant. Church is not the meeting place of hypocrites, but the hospital of the Good Physician Who rejoices when sinners enter His house for He heal them of sin and grant them eternal life if they only ask in sincerity.



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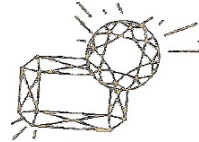
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