



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

December 16, 2018

The Revelation to Joseph



Next Sunday

The Genealogy of Jesus

Rom 1:1-12 (Greetings/Thanksgiving)

Mt 1:1-17 (The Genealogy of Jesus)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 16th, 10:30 am

+*Maria Germanos*

Monday, December 17th

Available

Tuesday, December 18th

Available

Wednesday, December 19th

Available

Thursday, December 20th

Available

Friday, December 21st

Available

Saturday, December 22nd

+*Choucri Foulia*

Sunday, December 23rd

+*Michael Rask*

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 December 2nd - 8th

Online.....\$630.00

Collection.....\$1,586.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,216.00

YTD Total.....\$93,576.94

YTD Goal.....\$90,490.00

YTD Difference.....\$3,086.94

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, December 16th

Available

Sunday, December 23rd

Redmond Family

Parish Events

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

Christmas/Novena Schedule 2018

For the Christmas Novena we will offer the last three days of the novena together in community at St. Sharbels at 10:30am Friday 12/21 and Saturday 12/22, then Sunday associated with Mass. I will ask families to do the first 6 days at home. The novena is posted on website (<http://stsharbel.org/prayers/>)

Christmas Eve Vigil:

Monday, December 24,
Kids concert/play will be at 5:00pm,
Mass will start immediately after.

Christmas Day:

Tuesday, December 25, 10:30am

Feast of the Circumcision:

Tuesday, January 1, 10:30am

Children's Christmas Eve Pageant

You are invited to participate in this year's Christmas Eve pageant. Registration and first choir rehearsal is after the Divine Liturgy this Sunday, November 4th. You will be provided with songs to practice for the pageant and your parents will receive further information. All attendees of this first rehearsal will have the first choice for a role in the Christmas Eve Pageant!

All Children, ages 3-13

Parents: mark these dates in your calendar for pageant rehearsals:
Sundays, November 4th, and December 9th and 23rd.

Time: Immediately after the Liturgy (approximately noon to 1pm)

Place: Upstairs Classroom

Looking forward to a joyful season, Nadia Redmond, Edith Demers, and
Katherine Moffitt
Your Christmas Eve Pageant Organizers

email: n.redmond@comcast.net

Parish Events Continued...



St. Sharbel Annual Christmas Breakfast

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Immediately following 10:30 Holy Mysteries

With Special Guest: **Papa Noel**

Ham and eggs, roasted potatoes, olives, labne,
cucumber and tomatoes

\$10/adult or \$7/child



Sponsored by
The Saint Sharbel Cedars
Youth Group

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE
MARONITE MONKS OF JESUS,
MARY, AND JOSEPH**



To donate ingredients please contact Gennifer
Karam or Maroun Maroun



Reflection

The Revelation to Joseph

Mt 1:18-25

As an unfortunate part of life we can sometimes suffer from false rumors that have no basis in reality. Often these rumors can damage others' impressions of us. This week we celebrate the Revelation to Joseph, when the angel Gabriel dispelled Joseph's doubt of the Virgin Mary's fidelity caused by the rumors of gossip. We celebrate knowing what the world has slandered with gossip actually the miracle of our redemption – the birth of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Syriac Fathers tell us that Mary went to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, during the visitation (which we celebrated just a couple weeks ago) because she received vicious suspicion and calumny in Nazareth. Her neighbors, and perhaps even family, said that her virginal conception of Jesus was actually out of infidelity to Joseph, to whom she was engaged. What a great shame that there are those who would even slander something as wonderful as the birth of our God, which He undertook voluntarily just to be among us! Upon hearing these rumors, Joseph was understandably greatly upset. But Joseph, being a righteous man, did not want to "expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly" (Matt. 1:19) because otherwise the Jewish Law would prescribe that she be stoned.

At the height of his despair, the angel Gabriel appeared to Joseph and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:20-21). What was a source of sadness and shame for Joseph became a cause of great rejoicing – the son of Mary was not a son of wedlock but the Son of God! This is the moment Isaiah foretold from centuries before that a virgin would bear a son Immanuel, which means God is with us (Is. 7:14).

What the world presented as a great sorrow and doubt to Joseph was actually the greatest blessing God could bestow upon mankind – His own Incarnation and visitation. As we know, Christ's birth was fundamental for His plan of salvation for mankind, that He should unite His divinity to our humanity and our humanity to His divinity. Though the world told Joseph that sorrow was with him, Gabriel assured Him that it was God Who is with us! This is a most appropriate message for the last of the angelic apparitions in the Season of Announcements, where we celebrate God sending Gabriel to reveal the good news of His plan of coming and salvation.

This encounter reminds us that the world may seem dark and a place without hope, but God has spoken through the prophet Isaiah that "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned" (Is. 9:2). The Light is our Lord Jesus Christ Who has come to save us from the death of sin. Though we might feel despair at times, we cannot help but rejoice in the news of our Lord's coming. And while we might suffer on Earth, we look forward to His second coming. While we may endure unpleasant or even extremely difficult things here, they are only fleeting and even the greatest evil is less than God. "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31).

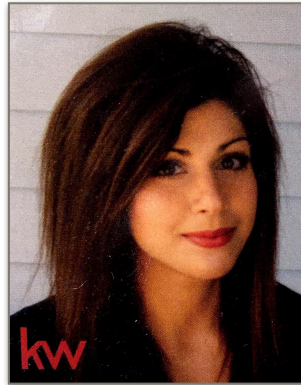
Let us pray for the same consolation and truth which St. Joseph received this day:

O Lord, sow Your serenity in our souls and Your peace in our minds, affix Your truth in our hearts on this day in which serenity was sewn by Your glorious revelation through the head of armies, Gabriel, in the soul of just Joseph who had doubted Your salvific conception. He removed from his mind the stumbling blocks and doubt of thoughts. Now, O Lord, make us worthy that, with him, we may be confirmed in Your love, praise and honor Your glorious Mother, and give thanks to Your name, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (Trans. from Syriac Maronite Vespers for Revelation to St. Joseph)

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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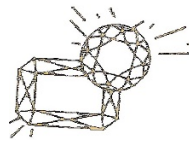
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