

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

December 23, 2018

The Genealogy of Jesus



Next Sunday

Finding in the Temple

Heb 7:11-19 (Melchizedek, a Type of Christ)

Lk 2:41-52 (The Boy Jesus in the Temple)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 23rd, 10:30 am

+Michael Rask

Monday, December 24th

Available

Tuesday, December 25th

Available

Wednesday, December 26th

Available

Thursday, December 27th

Available

Friday, December 28th

Available

Saturday, December 29th

Available

Sunday, December 30th

+Yvonne Foulia

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 9th - 15th

Online.....\$895.00

Collection.....\$954.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,849.00

YTD Total.....\$95,425.94

YTD Goal.....\$92,336.00

YTD Difference.....\$3,089.94

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, December 23rd

Redmond Family

Sunday, December 30th

Torker 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:
Sunday December 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...



Attention all young men and women,



come check out St. Sharbel's new youth group,

The Cedars!

Who: Anyone ages 13 to 18 (ish) interested in building friendships, participating in important and relevant discussions, having fun, and most importantly, following Jesus!

Facilitated by Maroun Maroun and Gennifer Karam. Please contact Gennifer or Maroun directly to register.

What: Saint Sharbel's Cedars is a group of young people, inspired by our Lord's call to be His disciples, who will meet twice a month for sessions which teach us about our identity as followers of Christ, service to others, and social activities.

Where/When: All Cedars sessions are held at the St. Sharbel Church upstairs classroom immediately following the mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, 11:45 am – 1:30 pm, unless otherwise indicated. All meetings, social activities and service events are announced ahead of time through email announcements and church announcements.

Save the Dates! Here's our tentative Cedars Schedule for 2018-2019:

***Please make sure to give your email address and cell number to Gennifer Karam in order to be on the email list for up to date reminders and possible changes to this schedule.

January 13: Session 3: **Real Friends**

January 27: Session 4: **Follow Me**

February 10: Session 6: **The Cost**

February 23: Cedars Snow Day! Snow inner tubing on Mt. Hood – Please note this is a SATURDAY. More information to come.

March 9: Session 7: **Undecided Topic TBA**

March 24: Session 8: **Undecided Topic TBA**

April 28: Session 9: **City of Jerusalem Presentation**

May 12: **End of the Year Bowling Excursion.**

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas!!!!



Reflection

The Genealogy of Jesus

Mt 1:1-17

Historically, the line of succession for a monarch is extremely important: a king's father should be a king, whose father was also a king or at least noble. It is no different in Middle Eastern culture – we often discuss people's family and their line of descent as saying something about who they are. For royal persons, the proof of their royalty was shown by their genealogy, the record of their family through generations. This week we read the genealogy of Jesus from the Gospel (Matt. 1:1-17).

But what exactly does the reading mean? One would guess that the Lord of All, our Almighty God, would have the most prestigious genealogy when He willed to become man. However, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, chose to make himself “nothing by taking the very nature of a servant” (Phil. 2:7). So that Christ might raise up our fallen nature, the Most High took the lowest and humblest place on Earth. He Who is robed in fire in the courts of heaven chose to be born in a cave and placed in a trough of animals wrapped in rags. And His genealogy attests to His own lowering of His Lordship to humility.

Rather than examining each and every person mentioned in the 42 generations, it serves to look at just one as an example: Rahab. Rahab is mentioned in the beginning of the Old Testament in the Book of Joshua when the Hebrews are trying to establish themselves as a nation. This descendent of Christ is explicitly mentioned to be a prostitute. Though He could have chosen to have only royal ancestors, God chose to enter into the entire lowliness of the human race that He might sanctify and purify it entirely. If one of us were to be told our ancestor was a prostitute we would likely be embarrassed – but our God has chosen to become a lowly man that He might allow us to participate in His divine nature (what Eastern Christianity calls divinization or *theosis*).

Our Syriac Fathers emphasize often that the King of Kings, Jesus Christ, was not born to a great house but to a poor, young virgin, Mary, and Joseph, a working man. This is demonstrative of God's love for mankind, in that the Rich One would become poor to enrich us. When Christ became man, He united to His divinity to our humanity and therefore we were given access to His divinity. Our prayers for the Sunday Before Christmas recount this:

O Richest One, You became poor for our sake that You should make us rich. You dawned from the Holy Virgin and appeared in the world while legions of angels sang praises with their clamor on this day of Your birth, saying, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good hope to mankind.” O Lord, enrich us by the gift of Your divine graces and, with the heavenly hosts, may we offer glory and thanks to You, and to Your Father, and to Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen.

The Hidden One became manifest as man that we might not only see Him, but that we too might participate in the wealth of His holiness and immortality. Christ has come to save us, not because we did something to deserve His salvation but because of His gratuitous love.

By the descent of Christ, He has raised us up to be greater than the angels in that if we follow His will and receive what He has given us in His earthly dispensation we truly become the likeness of God as He made us (Gen. 1:27). Christ has suffered every abasement, condescension and abasement that He might lift us up from the shame of our sin to His own glory. Let us give thanks to Him in His humility and glorify Him for His love, which moved Him to elevate us by His birth.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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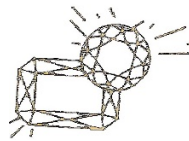
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