

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

January 20, 2019

Second Sunday After Epiphany



Next Sunday

Third Sunday After Epiphany

Gal 3:23-29 (What Faith Has Brought Us)

Jn 3:1-16 (Revelation of Christ's Mystery to Nicodemus and the Jewish People)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for January 6th - 12th

Online.....\$1,215.00

Collection.....\$651.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,866.00

YTD Total.....\$2,011.00

YTD Goal.....\$3,692.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,681.00**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 20th, 10:30 am

+*Manie Atie*

Monday, January 21st

Available

Tuesday, January 22nd

Available

Wednesday, January 23rd

*For all Living and Deceased Members of
St. Sharbel Parish Community*

Thursday, January 24th

Available

Friday, January 25th

Available

Saturday, January 26th

Available

Sunday, January 27th

+*Andrea Kaady*

***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, January 20th

Redmond Family

Sunday, January 27th

Available

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



This Tuesday, January 22, the Church in the United States observes the annual "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children."

This day is set aside to pray for the legal protection of human life and to do penance for the violations to human dignity through abortion. We are called to observe this day through prayer and penance. More information: www.usccb.org/january-22



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 Jennifer Karam. Please contact Jennifer 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 Jennifer 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.**



*Feed the hungry, Give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked
Shelter the homeless, Visit the sick, visit those in prison
Bury the dead*

The Eparchy receives many requests from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to assist others. The Latin Church has approximately 18 second collections during the year and fulfills their obligations in that manner. The Eparchy has always limited the second collections not to burden our Faithful. The Eparchial Charities Collection will allow the Eparchy to contribute to the most in need causes served by the USCCB. "Jesus' disciples and Christian stewards recognize God as the origin of life, giver of freedom, and source of all things. The gifts received will be used to show our love for God and for one another.

Since the foundation of the Church, it has been the tradition of the Christian community to share goods because the believers were all of "one heart and mind" (Acts 4:32). One of the principal tasks of the Apostles in the early Church was to collect goods and redistribute them in an equitable way: "There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet

of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need" (Acts 4:34-35). St. Justin, one of the early Church Fathers, wrote, "Those who are well off, and who are also willing, give as each chooses. What is gathered is given to him who presides to assist orphans and widows, those whom illness or any other cause has deprived of resources, prisoners, immigrants and, in a word, all who are in need."

"Jesus' disciples and Christian stewards recognize God as the origin of life, giver of freedom, and source of all things. The gifts received will be used to show our love for God and for one another.



Reflection

Second Sunday After Epiphany

“For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ” (2 Cor. 4:5) St. Paul tells us in today’s epistle. At times one can lose sight of the divine presence and authority in the Church, and speak of its actions as nothing more than rituals. As we continue to celebrate Epiphany, the Baptism of our Lord, the sacrament of baptism is a good example. If we baptize simply by the power of human beings it is nothing more than a ritual bath. But as John the Baptist himself says, “I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit” (Mark 1:8). Just we do not preach ourselves, we do not baptize in our own names, but in the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Christ has given His divine authority to the priests of the Church to baptize in the name of God. Through His coming down to the Jordan for His own baptism, He has sanctified water itself, as our traditional hymn says:

The great and glorious Mystery was hidden from the ages; the prophets, priests and kings waited to see His revelation. He revealed Himself in the Jordan River to sanctify for us the waters by His bathing and baptism was proclaimed in the four corners for forgiveness. Glory be to His humility for He left His chariot on high and today He was baptized in the Jordan River by John like a wretch. (From the Morning Prayer of Epiphany in the Syriac Maronite Fenguitho)

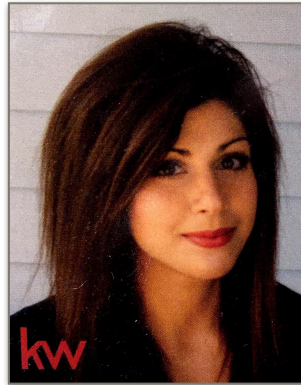
Christ, Who is our pure and holy God, had no need of baptism. Instead, He humbled Himself to enter the waters of the Jordan to wash the waters by His own presence, making them holy and usable for baptism. Baptism existed before Christ’s own baptism – hence why John the Baptist is baptizing people in the Jordan. But baptism before Christ was simply a ritual act, as it was done by human authority. Christ has given His holy baptism to the Church for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life, for as St. Paul tells us “all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Gal. 3:27). Those who put on the waters of baptism put on the eternal life of Christ.

It is easy to see the fragility of human life and power in every day life. What we have one moment is gone in the next. If baptism was simply an initiatory rite that introduced us into an organization of human origin, it too would be fleeting. But baptism is a divine gift that lasts forever. Jesus Christ has given us baptism as an assistance to wear through out life – as St. Ephrem says, through the waters of baptism we put back on the robe of glory which Adam took off by his transgression. Baptism is the beginning of our life in God, for through it we put on Christ our God. Baptism is a gift that cannot be compared to any earthly help for what gift from another human being gives eternal life? Let us recall each day that God has equipped us, then, with this imperishable robe of glory that we may serve Him in all things for what He has given us through the Church is not of men, but of His own divine nature.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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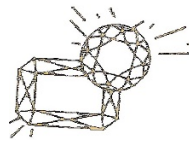
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