

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 27, 2019 Third Sunday of Epiphany



Next Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Rom 7:1-6 (Freedom from the Law)

Jn 4:5-7, 9-26 (The Samaritan Woman)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 27th, 10:30 am

+ Gaby Bassili (40 day) & +Farede
Ghossein (for the Faithful departed)

Monday, January 28th

Available

Tuesday, January 29th

Available

Wednesday, January 30th

Private Intention

Thursday, January 31st

Available

Friday, February 1st

Available

Saturday, February 2nd

Available

Sunday, February 3rd

+Dr Tom Rask

+Fouzie Ghousan

***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 January 13th - 19th

Online.....\$295.00

Collection.....\$590.15

Weekly Total.....\$885.15

YTD Total.....\$2,896.15

YTD Goal.....\$5,538.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,641.85**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, January 27th

Available

Sunday, February 3rd

Available

Parish Events

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
Feast of St. Maron
Saturday, February 9
10:30am



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 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](#).

Community Events

84th ANNUAL ITALIAN DINNER

Sunday, February 17, 2019
noon-6:00pm

It's time for St. Ignatius Parish, in SE Portland, to host their biggest and yummiest fundraiser of the . 10,000 meatballs served! Takeout available too. Prices vary. Located St. Ignatius Church gym —3400 SE 43rd Ave., at Powell Blvd. Portland, OR 97206.

Please call for more information 503-777-1491

Are you single and over age 50?

SOLO SENIORS is a catholic-based social organization, for single men and women over age 50 in the greater Portland area. It primarily provides social and recreational programs in a safe and friendly environment for its members.

For more information, a Solo brochure or a copy of our monthly newsletter, call Ann Buchholz 503 235-9047.

“My spiritual journey has been deepened and enriched through the retreat. My shield and barrier that I wasn't aware even existed is falling away.” Attend a life-restoring Rachel's Vineyard Retreat February 15-17 in Portland or March 15-17 near Medford. Contact Project Aurora for information 541-942-2861 or projectaurora@aol.com. www.Project-Aurora.org

Parish Council

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(Treasurer)

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Gus Bekahi

Nick El Hajj

Agopos Ghossein

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Anne Marentette
(Secretary)

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+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Mitch Siekmann

Laif Waldron

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+Deacon Tony
+Deacon Wadih

+Finance
Committee

Reflection

Third Sunday After Epiphany

Jn 3:1-16

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit." (John 3:5)

As we continue to celebrate Jesus's immense mercy in going down to the Jordan to be baptized this Epiphany season, we hear in today's Gospel an interesting exchange about the very same Mystery of baptism Jesus has given to the world for eternal life and the remission of sin. Nicodemus, one of the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, is confused when Christ tells him that only someone born again can enter heaven (John 3:3). Nicodemus wonders how someone can be born a second time, but Christ is referring to a second birth through baptism.

Appropriately, this reading is the Gospel read at every baptism in the Maronite Church. Baptism is not just a ceremony but, as St. Paul says, we die with Christ in baptism that, through Him, we may also be raised to new life as He was (Rom. 6:4). This is why the Maronite baptismal ritual calls the waters of baptism "a new womb which gives birth to spiritual children" and why baptism in the East was always done by immersion – plunging under the water is a symbol of entering into the tomb of Christ, dying to this world, and rising out of the water we rise to new life.

Jesus Christ, Life Himself, united His divine nature to our weak human nature and subjected Himself to death and resurrection that we too may have the eternal life of His divinity. Through baptism "all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Gal. 3:27) as St. Paul says. As the Maronite priest says during baptism to the newly baptized, "You are clothed in the Living Father, you receive the Son, the Christ, and you are wrapped in the Holy Spirit; you receive the robe of glory that Adam had taken off." Adam brought death into the world by his sin and ignoring of God, Who is Life. But when one accepts baptism, whether an infant or an elderly person, one receives God Himself into his or her person.

It might sound a bit strange that new life comes through this death of baptism. However, we die in baptism only in the sense that we are separating ourselves from the passing things of this world. It is not truly a death – as living a fleeting life is not truly living at all. But by casting off this fleeting life, we can accept eternal life from Jesus Christ by being born again by baptism, which He revealed Himself on the Jordan. And baptism is not simply a ritual of water but, just as His baptism revealed when the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove, it is also endowed with the Spirit. In the beginning of creation, as Genesis describes, the Holy Spirit hovered over the waters during the making of all things. The Holy Spirit once again hovers over the waters of baptism, and makes the baptized His permanent dwelling, recreating them anew.

It is by this new birth that we become spiritual children of the Father, and brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. But baptism is only the beginning of our spiritual lives. As the priest calls baptism in our rite, it is the "clothing of righteousness," "the heavenly robe," "the shield of faith against the arrows of the Evil One" and "the armor of salvation." Baptism is not the end of our journey but the equipment. Having received the new life of baptism, whether as children or adults, we are called to the feast of heaven. To get there, we must follow the path of righteousness which Christ Himself walked before us to instruct us in His way, just as He gave us the example of His baptism. Following Him will lead us to the Kingdom of God.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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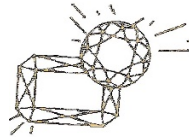
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