

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

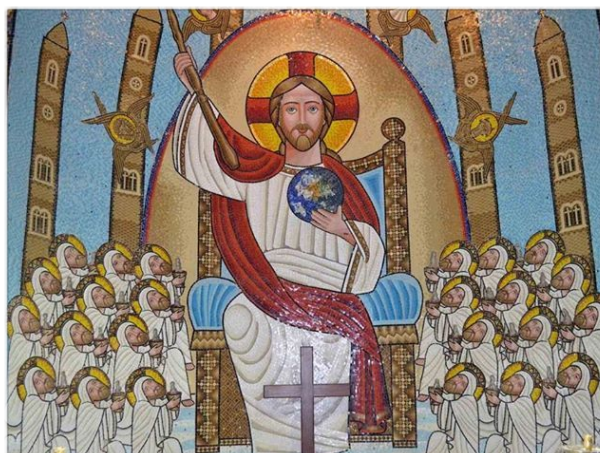
503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

February 10, 2019

Commemoration of the Priests



Next Sunday

Commemoration of the Righteous & the Just

Heb 12:18-24 (Penalties of Disobedience)

Mt 25:31-46 (The Judgement of the Nations)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 10th 10:30 am

+Karam Karam

Monday, February 11th

Ella Rask on her Birthday

Tuesday, February 12th

+For All Living and deceased members of
the Saint Sharbel Parish Community

Wednesday, February 13th

Patrick and Brandi Helleck

Thursday, February 14th

Thad and Juliann Rask

Friday, February 15th

Available

Saturday, February 16th

Available

Sunday, February 17th

Available

***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 27th - February 2nd

Online.....\$145.00

Collection.....\$1,975.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,120.00

YTD Total.....\$6,803.15

YTD Goal.....\$9,230.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,426.85**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, February 10th

Available

Sunday, February 17th

Available

Parish Events



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.

February 17: 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 10: 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.**

****WEATHER PERMITTING****

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Feast of St. Maron

Saturday, February 9, 10:30am

**Check Facebook for Abouna to post updates Sat & Sun by 8am

Community Events



The National Apostolate of Maronites
Presents The 27th Annual Spring Raffle - 2019
Only 450 Tickets are printed
Donation: \$100 per ticket

St. Sharbel's will have raffle tickets to help sell for this Spring Raffle, which is a fundraiser that supports NAM's various programs of service to the Maronite Eparchies of USA, such as religious education, youth ministry, scholarship, vocations retreats, and annual and regional conventions.

More information to come!

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

Reflection

Commemoration of the Priests

Lk 12:42-48

Praying for the dead is an important part of Christianity, but particularly emphasized in the Syriac tradition. In fact, traditionally, every last verse of a hymn was always for the repose and forgiveness of the dead. Physical death is an inevitability, but we pray for those who have passed away from this world so that they do not suffer eternal, spiritual death but have eternal life in the Kingdom of God. For this reason, the Syriac calendar has three weeks of commemorations for the dead before Lent begins — the first recalls and prays for the priests who have served the Church.

As God spoke through Ezekiel the Prophet, “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live” (Ez. 33:11). It was through sin – the sin of Adam – that death entered the world (Rom. 5:12). But our Lord Jesus Christ came to return us sinners back to our inheritance of life. As He spoke through Ezekiel, He does not wish that we should die – even when wicked – but that we should repent and have life! This is why God became man Himself to give us every means of salvation and the forgiveness of sin, which He perfected by His own life, death and resurrection. He entrusted the Holy Mysteries to the priests to be performed and distributed, each sacrament like a treasury of mercy. God lowers Himself that He may be made present to us, just as one of the hymns for this Sunday beautifully describes the priests raising the body and blood of Christ our God over the altar:

Great wonder and awe seized the heavenly assemblies when they saw earthly priests raise over the altar the One by Whom heaven is filled and upon Whom they cannot look, but to Whom they cry out in fear and trembling, “Holy, holy!”

God, Whom all the prophets and kings of the Old Testament and millennia past desired to see, is made present to us on the altar. The angels cannot look upon Him, yet He has entrusted the priests to feed us His flesh and blood, the Eucharist, for “the Good One has given His body and His blood so that by them our debts could be forgiven.” Even more than the great Mystery of the Eucharist, priests also clothe us in Christ in baptism and forgive us by His authority by absolution. They teach us the life-giving words of the Gospel of our Lord, instruct us in the way of the saints and give us words of consolation in times of despair that, as the flock of God, we may turn from sin and embrace eternal life. Without the priests, to whom Christ entrusted His Mysteries, we would not have access to the sacraments He prepared for forgiveness and life.

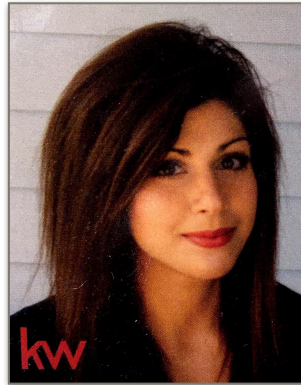
As King David teaches us in the Psalms when praying before God, “No one living is righteous before You” (Ps. 143:2) – including the priests who have been entrusted with His Mysteries, which give us the forgiveness of sin and life! This is why we must pray for the priests, who in this life provided us with means of the forgiveness of sin and the path to eternal life. Now we can assist them by praying that God have mercy upon them and forgive them of all their offenses before Him. The priests who serve the Church, distributing the Mysteries of our Lord, holding the very flesh and blood of God in their hands and calling down the Holy Spirit, are honored with this magnificent duty and great responsibility. As our Lord tells us in the Gospel, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded” (Luke 12:48) and that is indeed much. Therefore, we must be particularly diligent in our prayers for the departed priests because much will be demanded of them in their judgment before the Lord. Let us pray to God on behalf of the departed priests with the words given to us in the hymns for this Sunday:

May the feet that tread through the sanctuary tread through the gates of Paradise, and may the ears that have heard Your words never hear sounds of sufferings. May the mouths that sang praise to You not cry from fire’s heat, my Lord. Place the priests who nobly served You and diligently shepherded Your people in the Jerusalem above, and may they offer thanks and praise with the angels of heaven to Your Divinity.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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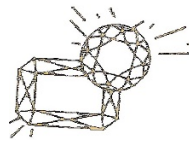
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