

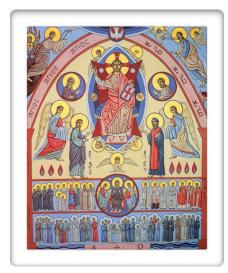
Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214 503.231.3853 stsharbelpdx@gmail.com www.stsharbel.org

February 17, 2019

Commemoration of the Righteous & the Just



Next Sunday

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

1 Thes 5:1-11 (Vigilance)

Lk 16:19-31 (The Parable of the Rich Man & Lazarus)

Your Gifts To God

 ${\it Offering Report for February 3rd -9th}$

Online.....\$880.00 Collection.....\$1,791.00 Weekly Total.....\$2,671.00

YTD Total......\$9,474.15 YTD Goal.....\$11,076.00

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 17th 10:30 am

+Panna Benyamin Adam

Monday, February 18th

Available

Tuesday, February 19th

Available

Wednesday, February 20th

Available

Thursday, February 21st

Available

Friday, February 22nd

Available

Saturday, February 23rd

Available

Sunday, February 24th

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.

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, February 17th

Available

Sunday, February 24th

Redmond Family

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!

Faciliated 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 2^{nd} and 4^{th} 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.

Community Events



The National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM)
Presents

The 27th Annual Spring Raffle - 2019
Only 450 Tickets are printed
Donation: \$100 per ticket
This just may be the year your lucky number is chosen!!!!

\$17,500.00 In Cash Prizes!!!

1st Prize	\$10,000.0
2nd Prize	\$3,000.00
3rd Prize	\$2,000.00
4th Prize	\$1,500.00
5th Prize	\$1,000.00

Only 450 Tickets Printed - \$100 Each

This year's drawing will be held on April 28th, 2019 at St. Rafka, Livonia Michigan

Thank you for your support in previous years for this raffle fund-raiser, as it is an important part of the NAM annual budget. We are counting on your generosity once again, to support our community projects.

To purchase a personal ticket(s), your parish NAM Delegates have 4 tickets to sell, please contact Christopher or Nadia Redmond at 503-671-0440

All requests and payments must be received by April 1st, 2019.

www.namnews.org

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 Righteous & the Just Mt 25:31-46

This Sunday is the second of the three weeks of commemorations of the departed before Lent which encourage us to pray for the eternal rest and forgiveness of specific groups within the Church. Last Sunday, as we recall, was the Commemoration of Priests in which we prayed for those priests who served the Lord in His Church on Earth. This Sunday we specifically pray for the righteous and the just who have left from amongst us in this world for the next. As we reflected upon last week, we pray for the departed that they may be forgiven of any offense they committed on Earth and enter the eternal life of heaven. Praying for the dead is an ancient practice God revealed in the Old Testament, and which is precisely why we sometimes call the funeral rite in Syriac the Takso dLwoyo (the Rite of Accompaniment). We accompany the body of the dead to their grave and we accompany their soul to the Kingdom of Heaven by our prayers.

Of course, as Christians we believe death is a temporary state, permanent as it seems. The Resurrection of Christ has foreshadowed the fate of all mankind for we will all be raised on the last day for Judgment. As Christ taught us, He will justly judge us, separating the just from the wicked, and "When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers" (Prov. 21:15). What is this just reward that brings joy the just? One of the hymns describes it simply:

"The righteous never die," our Lord said in His Gospel, and death shall never reign upon them for our Lord is their resurrection. May our brethren who have justly labored and righteously toiled with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Patriarchs, arrive at the Place of Life. (Trans. from Evening Prayer of the Commemoration of the Just and Righteous)

The payment of the just, who labored for the work of the Lord in this life, is eternal life in the next in heaven. It follows, then, that the punishment for those who were wicked is eternal death in hell. But the motivation of the just is not the fear of punishment, but the joy of justice – love of the Lord and His work. The just are those who followed our Lord's commands in prayer, fasting and charity. In following the Lord in this perishable life, they will share in His divine splendor in the next when "the just will rise from their graves clothed in light like the sun."

We pray this Sunday that those who are righteous and just are forgiven all their sins and granted eternal repose in heaven for "No one living is righteous before You" (Ps. 143:2) – even those who seem to have been perfect upon Earth. Every person is in need of our prayers, and this Sunday we pray especially for those who provided an example of a good Christian life in this world for us. We ask the Lord that He forgive them in His superabundant mercy and raise up His own image from the dirt of death, into which sin has dragged it:

Renew, O Lord, the image of Your likeness which death has cast into the abysses of ravenous Sheol. Raise up the bodies from the deep pits and cracks of the earth of those who renounced the world, its detestable things, its disgraceful pleasures, toiling diligently in just works and monastic ways of life and, as the rest of mankind, have tasted the cup of tyrannous death. Awake, O Lord, their souls and bodies, and shake the dust and dirt from their faces. Make them worthy of the Resurrection on Your right hand so that with confidence they may offer glory and thanks to You, and to Your Father, and to Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen.

(Trans. from Evening Prayer of the Commemoration of the Just and Righteous)

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish



Gibran N Zogbi Agent

2925 SE 73rd Avenue Hillsboro, OR, 97213 Bus 503-649-9514 Fax 503-649-1612 gibran.zogbi.qdmg@statefarm.com



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