



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

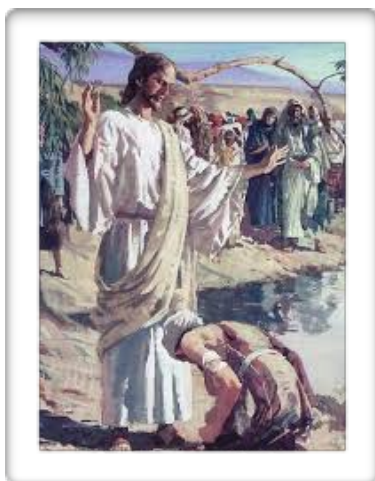
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[www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)

## March 3, 2019 Cleansing of the Leper



### Next Sunday

#### *Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman*

2 Cor 7:4-11 (Call to Holiness/Paul's Joy in Macendonia)

Lk 8:40-56 (Jairus's Daughter and the Women with a Hemorrhage)

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, March 10th 10:30 am

+Jen Watson (1 yr anniversary, by Fr Chris) plus Ginnaz for +Badia Nomi

Monday, March 11th

Available

Tuesday, March 12th

+For All Living and Deceased Members of the Saint Sharbel Parish Community

Wednesday, March 13th

Available

Thursday, March 14th

Available

Friday, March 15th

Available

Saturday, March 16th

Available

Sunday, March 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 February 24th - March 2nd*

Online.....\$870.00

Collection.....\$664.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,534.00

YTD Total.....\$13,377.15

YTD Goal.....\$16,614.00

YTD Difference.....-\$3,236.85

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, March 10th

Available

Sunday, March 17th

Available

# Parish / Community Events

## Lenten Schedule:

Stations of the Cross in English and Arabic — **Fridays during Lent, 7:00pm**  
 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament — **Sundays during Lent, 9:00am**  
**Holy Week Schedule** available at [stsharbel.org](http://stsharbel.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



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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

March 10: Cedars Movie Matinee: Pope Francis: A Man of his Word

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

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

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



The National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM)  
 Presents

The 27<sup>th</sup> 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 \$10,000.00

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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.namnews.org)

Join Us  
**Saturday, May 11TH**  
**for a Mother's Day Hafli**  
 Featuring  
**Rabih Samaan**  
 and Band  
 2101 NE 162ND AVE-Portland, OR  
 The Hall @ ST. George Antiochian Orthodox Church  
 Tickets include Middle Eastern Dinner  
 Sponsored by & all proceeds for  
 ST. Sharbel Catholic Church  
 For Tickets Call Agopos Ghossein at 503.317.4164  
 or Husn Karam at 503.679.3880

Doors Open at 6:30

Dinner at 7:30-

Major Credit Cards Accepted

(Babysitting &

Dinner Included)

Starting at \$80-  
 Limited VIP Tickets  
 12 and Under \$25



# Reflection

## Cleansing of the Leper

Going to the doctor's office can always be a bit nerve wrecking whether because of the scrutiny of being examined, the possibility of getting injections or, worse, the need to have surgery. Sometimes a physician must even perform very painful procedures, like pull teeth or remove an organ. But, ultimately, we go to the physician, not for the pain, but in spite of it because we place our hope in him to make us better – even if that means feeling worse in the short run. These next few weeks of Lent we commemorate the different healing miracles of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Divine Physician. In the entrance to Lent, Cana Sunday, we witnessed that Jesus is truly the Creator of all things, demonstrated by His power to command even water to become wine, and so He can likewise easily make the sick well.

So often in the Syriac tradition do we hear Christ called a physician, such as in one of the *Hoosoye* for this Sunday of the Leper: "Heavenly Physician Who meekly appeared in the land of beings below to heal the sicknesses and blemishes of earthly men..." Christ is the Physician who has come down from heaven, lower Himself to be mistaken for a lowly servant even though He is God, to heal us from our wounds. But those who have faith in God see Him by the light of faith – that is why the leper in today's gospel boldly calls out to Him to heal him with confidence, saying, "If you are willing, you can make me clean" (Mark 1:40). Christ responds to the man, being moved to mercy, simply with "I will. Be clean!" (Mark 1:41).

How rich the man's faith to call out to Christ with such boldness, but how can he now repay Christ? Who could possibly pay a physician of such skill? The answer is we cannot and we need not for Christ's medicine and motivation are one in the same. As our office beautifully puts it, He is "the Heavenly Physician Whose mercy sent Him to those lost in sin to heal their illnesses by the medicine of His compassion..." It is His love for humanity that moves Him to come to us, reveal His divinity and heal us – not due to our merits, but due to His incomprehensible goodness. Over the next few weeks, we will see again and again the sick call out and our Lord heal them – whether they are leprous, blind, paralytic, hemorrhaging, possessed or even dead.

But Christ is not only the Creator and Physician of the body but also the soul. He revealed to us that He is the Physician to our souls by the healing of bodies as an outward sign. Indeed, the lesson we should learn from each of those healed in the Gospel is that someone calls out to Christ to hear them and have mercy. Just as in today's gospel, it says Jesus "*etraham 'alaw*" or "had mercy upon him," that is the leper. The leper called and the Lord heard him. Each Sunday before the readings during the *Qadishat* we call out *etraham alain* – have mercy on us! When we call out to Christ, Who is God, almighty and immortal, let us cry out "have mercy on us" in the same faith of the leper who called and was healed of all his illness. The leper knew he called to the almighty and immortal God Whom he could not repay, but instead had absolute trust in His love of humanity. When we call out "have mercy on us," let it not be sheer memorization of words but with the conviction of the leper who called out with faith and was saved from his sickness that decayed his body. We can have ever the more trust because, unlike the leper, we have the example of all these previous healings in the Gospel as proof that Christ is truly the Divine Physician Who has come to take away the illness that has taken root in us – worst of all, sin.

Let us implore our Lord Jesus Christ, the Divine Physician, Who heals in the abundance of His goodness to have mercy on us and heal us now for the sake of His love of humanity:

O Good and King Lord, in Your goodness You healed the leper who approached You. In Your compassion and Your abundant mercy heal our bodies and souls, we who are sinners and Your servants who have become leprous with sin and by the abundance of our transgressions. Purify us in Your mercy and with Your hyssop wash Your worshippers, now and at all times, forever. Amen.

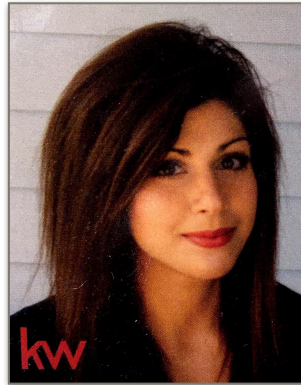
(Trans. from the Evening Prayer of the Sunday of the Leper)



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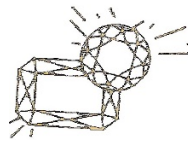
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