

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

March 24, 2019

The Parable of the Prodigal Son



Next Sunday

Healing of the Paralytic

1Tim 5:24-6:5 (False Teaching & True Wealth)

Mk 2:1-12 (The Healing of a Paralytic)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for March 10th-16th

Online.....\$675.00

Collection.....\$1,573.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,248.00

YTD Total.....\$18,050.15

YTD Goal.....\$20,306.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,255.85**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, March 24th 10:30 am

+*Hannah Marina Redmond*

Monday, March 25th

Available

Tuesday, March 26th

Available

Wednesday, March 27th

Available

Thursday, March 28th

Available

Friday, March 29th

Available

Saturday, March 30th

+*Joan Jensen*

Sunday, March 31st

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, March 24th

Redmond Family

Sunday, March 31st

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

EASTER LILLIES

Dear beloved St. Sharbel Parishioners,

The greatest Feast in the Church is almost here! Abouna Christopher will be offering our intentions for all our beloved faithful departed during the Divine Liturgy on The Great Saturday of the Light, April 20th through the New Sunday of the Resurrection, April 28th. And, your donations for Easter Lilies will decorate the altar on Great Saturday of the Light and Great Sunday of the Resurrection.

You can place your donations online or in the collection basket and mark your envelope, "Easter Lilies". And, to have your deceased loved one's name placed on the altar, please email your names to Nadia Redmond (n.redmond@comcast.net) by **Hosanna Sunday, April 14th** to be remembered in the Novena beginning on Saturday of the Light, April 20th to the New Sunday of the Resurrection, April 28th.

Thank you for your support and God bless you,
St. Sharbel Parish

TV MASS FOR THE HOMEBOUND

KRCW channel 32 (CW) at 6:30 a.m.

Is someone you love unable to join us at church during this holy time of Lent and Easter? For the faithful at home or in healthcare settings, the Heart of the Nation Sunday TV Mass brings spiritual comfort and the blessings of joy-filled hope in our Risen Savior. Please invite anyone you know who cannot get out to church to tune in Catholic Mass on TV or watch online anytime on Sundays at www.HeartoftheNation.org. (For those who can get to church, the TV or online liturgy does not fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation.)

Thank you for your outreach to the homebound in your parish.

Fr. Mark Payne
Chaplain



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.

March 24: Session 8: Mary Mother of God and Modern Media

April 28: Session 9: City of Jerusalem Presentation

May 12: End of the Year Bowling Excursion.



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 \$10,000.00

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 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

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

Starting at \$80-
(Babysitting & Limited VIP Tickets
Dinner Included) 12 and Under \$25

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Gus Bekahi

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Agopos Ghossein

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Anne Marentette
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Doug Raab

+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Mitch Siekmann

Laif Waldron

Ex Officio

+Deacon Tony

+Deacon Wadih

+Finance
Committee

Reflection

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

When we view a conflict in hindsight we often think about the gravity of the offense – what was done, how much damage was caused, who was hurt. And we should be mindful of the effects of our offenses, especially when they are sins directed at God. In today's Gospel, we see the Prodigal Son makes clear that he wished his father was dead, asking for his inheritance in advance and then going away to waste it all – truly a serious offense. In the Parable of the Prodigal Son it would seem that the Prodigal Son deserves nothing but punishment in our estimation of justice and rightfully so – previously he could not have cared about his father or family and left to enjoy himself, only to return when things went wrong. But the offense of this misbehaving son only receives a couple verses out of the entire story, and Christ does this one purpose. The story of salvation is not focused on the offenses of humanity against God, though great they may be, but on the infinite generosity of God's mercy to the contrite person.

Why does Christ present us with this parable, and why does the Maronite Church read it during the Fast of Lent? Sin is our death, and every time we stray towards sin we choose our own interests in spite of the abundant generosity of God – essentially saying we care that God neither lives nor dies, but we shall go our own way from the generous Father to see to our own lives. But it is not simply enough to react to sin, and to disavow sin; if we are reacting to sin, sin remains the center of our lives. The way to return back from death to life is through Life Himself, our Lord, who said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). The means to return to Christ is through constant repentance from our sin. When the older son is outraged that the father so warmly greeted the Prodigal, he responds, "We had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again" (Luke 15:32) reminiscent of when God spoke through the prophet Ezekiel, "For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God. Repent and live!" (Ez. 18:32).

Repentance is not to despair in our depraved we are because of our sins, but the acknowledgment of how much greater God is than our sin and His ability to wipe them away. Sin and death killed Adam in the Garden, but, by His cross, our Lord killed sin and death. If He did not intend to make available for us the forgiveness of sins, He would not have taught us in the Our Father to say, "Forgive us our trespasses" (Matt. 6:12). But Christ in His infinite mercy has made forgiveness available to those who simply and sincerely ask for it, in spite of their offense like the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

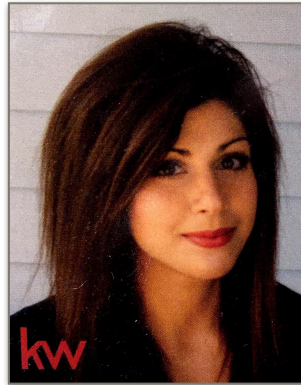
But how can we repay God for all He has given us in His generosity? Just like the Prodigal Son, we cannot now nor ever repay Him, but the first step begins with trying not to repeat the repayable offense – not because our relationship with God is some kind of transaction, but because we love God and do not wish to repeatedly harm those we love. By Christ's live, death and resurrection, He destroyed the sin we could never overcome ourselves. But out of our love, though our praise or fasting adds nothing to His greatness, we must offer Him our best, just like the widow who deposits the two coins in the Temple and her offering is more pleasing to God than the large donations of the wealthy (Luke 21:1-4).

God has no need for our fasting nor is He magnified by our praise, but we offer both of these during Lent because, like a child making gifts for his parents from construction paper of little monetary value, we love the Lord and He loves us. Let all we do be for the reunification with the generous father who welcomes us prodigal sons back in spite of our offenses.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

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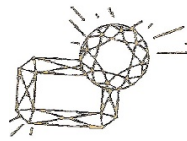
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