

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

March 3, 2019

Miracle of Cana in Galilee



Next Sunday

Cleansing of the Leper

Rom 6:12-23 (Freedom from Sin/Life in God)

Mk 1:35-45 (Jesus Leaves Capernaum/The Cleansing of a Leper)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for February 17th -23rd

Online.....\$705.00

Collection.....\$541.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,246.00

YTD Total.....\$11,843.15

YTD Goal.....\$14,768.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,924.85**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, March 3rd 10:30 am

+*Fouzie Ghousan 40 day memorial*

Monday, March 4th

Available

Tuesday, March 5th

Available

Wednesday, March 6th

Available

Thursday, March 7th

Available

Friday, March 8th

Available

Saturday, March 9th

Available

Sunday, March 10th

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

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 3rd

Available

Sunday, March 10th

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

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 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.

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 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

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for a Mother's Day Hafli
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 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

Miracle of Cana in Galilee

This Sunday we prepare to enter into the Season of Lent with the recalling of our Lord Jesus Christ's first miracle – when He turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana. Each Sunday in Lent commemorates a different miracle of Christ in which He shows us that He is God Who has come amongst us to save us, and each miracle tells us more of Who He is. This Sunday of the Miracle of Cana is no different.

The image of the wedding banquet appears throughout the Gospel because it is so powerful – it is a scene of delight and enjoyment, and those who are excluded certainly feel the sting of being left out. The wedding banquet serves as a great allegory or image for the spiritual life. Perhaps this is why Christ chose a wedding banquet as the place of His first miracle. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords accepted an invitation to a wedding of a man who was either too poor or negligent to buy enough wine for his own party. This is a bit like the state of humanity – we have many shortcomings and, yet in spite of them, our God Jesus Christ became man to be amongst us and save us, even when our trouble is our own cause. Likewise, the groom runs out of wine and Jesus, proving that He has power over all things, takes ordinary water and turns it into choice wine, demonstrating that He is truly the Lord Who created water:

Invited to the wedding feast was the Son of God Who desired to invite the whole feast to come with Him.

Because of this He command the waters and they became wine – He showed in Galilee how much change He produces in the world.

(Trans. from Evening Prayer of the Sunday of the Miracle at Cana)

At this first miracle, Christ showed Who He is by His command of all things – He is the Creator of All. But He did not lower Himself to attend this wedding to shame the groom or strike fear into those who witness His power, but to both invite those in need to Him and help when called upon. Though He attended as a guest, He is “the [true] Groom Who invites the ages to His wedding banquet” in heaven.

As He Himself said, Jesus Christ “did not come to judge the world, but to save the world” (John 12:47). In His generosity, our Lord turns the ordinary water of life into the enjoyment of wine even in our situations of lacking. But we must admit that we are lacking in ourselves and turn to Him, otherwise our water will remain ordinary, flavorless water! This is what Lent, and any fasting period, calls us to do – to empty ourselves of our ideas of self-sufficiency and turn to Christ for His mercy and compassion. Fasting denies those things of our immediate desires so that we may focus on those things of Christ. As our Lenten prayers say:

Fasting is an armor which Jesus gave to all fasters; servants of the King, take this breastplate of war for fasting resembles a competition in which man stands until the moment he seizes the crown from the contest.

From the view of the world, fasting is silly because we are depriving ourselves of food inasmuch as we want. But this is filling ourselves with ordinary water when we have choice wine with which Christ can supply us! What seems like lacking to others is an armor and a crown Christ has given us to focus on the divine. The fruit of fasting is not our own strength in denying ourselves food for many hours but precisely because in our weakness we realize that we are but ordinary water and we are awaiting Christ at His banquet to make us a great wine – all we must do is ask Him:

O Guest Who marveled guests with His wonders, made known to the diners the power of His Lordship, and rejoice and gladdened by His wedding gift, changing water into good wine by His command, now change us, Lord, from sinners into penitents, from offenders into pleasing persons, and from unprofitable men into diligent glorifiers to give thanks to You, and to Your Father, and to Your Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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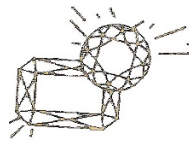
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