

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 31, 2019 Healing of the Paralytic



Next Sunday

Healing of the Blind Man

2Cor 10:1-7 (Accusation of Weakness)

Mk 10:46-52 (The Blind Bartimaeus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for March 17th-23rd

Online.....\$705.00

Collection.....\$2,432.00

Weekly Total.....\$3,137.00

YTD Total.....\$21,187.15

YTD Goal.....\$22,152.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$964.85**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, March 31st 10:30 am

*Living & Deceased Members of St.
Sharbel Parish*

Monday, April 1st

Available

Tuesday, April 2nd

Dennis Meyers

Wednesday, April 3rd

Available

Thursday, April 4th

+Souls in Purgatory (Faithfully Departed)

Friday, April 5th

Available

Saturday, April 6th

Available

Sunday, April 7th

+Michael Roger Redmond

**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 31st

Available

Sunday, April 7th

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

Shanini Sunday

****After Mass****

Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast
Hosted by the Cedars Youth Group



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



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

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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

Ex Officio

+Deacon Tony

+Deacon Wadih

+Finance
Committee

Reflection

Healing of the Paralytic

"When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:5).

This Sunday we remember the fourth miraculous healing Jesus, the Divine Physician, that our Syriac tradition recounts during the course of Lent. In our Lord's love of humanity He heals a great number of people during His earthly life – those suffer seemingly endless afflictions find rest from their suffering in Christ. But Jesus's goodness is not limited to a simple bodily healing – we often see, such as in the healing this Sunday with the paralytic, that Jesus heals the individual from sins along with the bodily ailment. It might seem an odd pair at first to associate sin and physical illness; some assume God punishes people through such illnesses, but as Christ Himself said during one of His healings, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him" (John 9:3).

To make clearer to us invisible realities, Christ and the Church use what is visible. A common example of this is water, such as the prayer used in the traditional Maronite liturgy by the bishop as he washed his hands:

"Come, let us wash, cleanse and purify ourselves with this washing external to that which is inside that with a pure and pleasant heart we may cry out and say with King David the Prophet, 'Intensely wash me from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sins.'"

We know from practical experience that water washes dirt away. In this ritual hand washing it is less important that it actually cleans one's hands and more so that this physical sign points to the deeper mystery that God is washing away sin. Christ, the God Who created both matter and spirit, uses the visible matter to reveal the invisible spirit. All this is to say that He healed the sicknesses of those who called to Him because He is good, but also to indicate a greater reality. He heals more than simply physical sickness, but the sicknesses no earthly physician can fix: sin.

Sin can seem like an abstract or unreal idea at times because we cannot see it. But Christ makes clear while physical sickness can kill the body that will eventually die, unattended spiritual illness can lead to an eternal spiritual death in hell. But Jesus does not desire the death of any sinner, that all should repent and live, as He demonstrated through His healings, for He loves us enough to die for us who are made in His image. As a hymn from this Sunday aptly says:

When our Savior, the Only-Begotten Son and God, came down, He showed the power of His authority in His image that had decayed. Through the medicine of His assistances, He illumined the earth which had darkened by idols. By His word He gave strength to the paralytic, and he stood and walked. The crowds who heard began to murmur and say, "Who can remit the sins of men but the one God?"

Christ chose to heal specifically those who no physician could help to demonstrate that He is the Divine Physician Who heals what no one else can heal. As we near the end of Lent, let us implore the Lord, as we do throughout the year, to heal us of the sin which He alone can lest we die of it. It is by His death and resurrection that He has killed death itself, which comes is the fruit of sin, and He wishes to grant His victory to us if we only ask Him:

O merciful Lord God, You forgave the paralytic his sin in secret and carried his bed which carried him upon his shoulder in public that by the carrying bed which was carried it may be made known that sin and impurity had been killed. O Lord, now forever kill the sin of us all, strengthen our limbs by Your power and empower our paralysis by Your mighty that wholly and purely we may give thanks and glorify You, and Your Father, and Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

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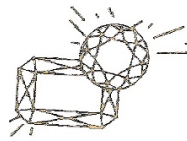
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