

# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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

## April 7, 2019

### Healing of the Blind Man



**Next Sunday**

**Hosanna Sunday**

**Phil 1:1-13** (Greeting/Thanksgiving)

**Jn 12:12-22** (The Entry into Jerusalem/Coming of Jesus' Hour)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for March 24th-30th*

Online.....\$930.00

Collection.....\$807.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,737.00

YTD Total.....\$22,664.15

YTD Goal.....\$23,998.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,333.85**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, April 7th 10:30 am

+Michael Roger Redmond

Monday, April 8th

Available

Tuesday, April 9th

Available

Wednesday, April 10th

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

Thursday, April 11th

Available

Friday, April 12th

Available

Saturday, April 13th

Available

Sunday, April 14th

+Fayda Abla & Jagger

**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, April 7th

Available

Sunday, April 14th

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

## 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](mailto: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 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<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 Gennifer Karam in order to be on the email list for up to date reminders and possible changes to this schedule.

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

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

Ex Officio  
+Deacon Tony  
+Deacon Wadih

+Finance  
Committee

# Reflection

## Healing of the Blind Man

Every time we attend the Divine Liturgy or pray the office we call out three times in the Qadishat, "Holy are You, O God. Holy are You, O Almighty One. Holy are You, O Immortal One. Have mercy on us!" Each time we call to our holy, almighty and immortal Lord and God, Jesus Christ to have mercy upon us. But precisely what does this mercy do?

In today's Gospel we hear that Bartimaeus, a blind man, calls out loudly to the Lord, "Have mercy on me!" Again and again he cried out because he knew the Lord was nearby and only He could heal him. Many nearby told him to be quiet. Perhaps there were those who thought he was crazy, those who thought he was unworthy and those who simply did not want to hear him. But in spite of what others might have thought, Bartimaeus yelled even louder. "Have mercy on me!" While others told him to be silent, the Lord instructed others to call him over. Bartimaeus's faith overcame the demands of his peers. And when Christ asked him what he wanted Him to do, Bartimaeus responded he wanted to see, because he knew the Lord could grant him sight. Christ responds to him, "See! Your faith has given you life!" and the Gospel tells us Bartimaeus immediately saw (Mark 10:52, Pshitto).

Bartimaeus provides us such a great example of faith. In his blindness he could see better than the rest of those around him. For whatever reasons, others tried to discourage him from calling upon the Lord. Yet Bartimaeus knew the Lord invites all to Himself because, in His mercy, He desires cure all. Like the rest of the healings in this Season of Great Lent, each one who calls out to the Divine Physician is healed. Though we are unable to pay, He is happy to heal us – not because we deserve it or can repay Him, but He wishes us to be whole. He gives to each what they need if they ask Him in mercy, "Have mercy on me!"

We may ask why the Lord does not respond to us as we desire, but in the faith of Bartimaeus we believe that the Divine Physician knows what He is doing. He Who made us knows what we need. Just as a physician must sometimes operate and cause some pain for the overall betterment of a patient, so does the Lord sometimes pain us so that we may be bettered overall. A surgery out of context seems like damage – someone cutting into another person, perhaps removing an organ. But stepping back, one can see perhaps the organ is cancerous and the physician is preventing the spread of cancer to other organs, which would kill the whole body. Likewise, when we sincerely call out to the Divine Physician, "Have mercy on me!" He responds as we need, for He knows the souls He created. In His goodness, He removes those things of which He wishes to relieve us and gives us those situations, which He knows is for our betterment.

Let us be mindful of the faith of Bartimaeus every time we cry out, "Have mercy on us!" Just as those who were healed by the Lord had confident faith in that He could heal them, let us call to Him with our petitions in mind. Knowing that the Lord is the Physician without fail, Whom not even death can conquer, let us cry out, "Have mercy on us!" And let us pray:

O Lord, heal our souls and minds, and gather them from being scattered and wandering in evil thoughts. As You healed and cured the paralysis of soul by the work of Your hands may we likewise by the mystical reception of Your holy body and blood be thrice healed in soul, body and mind. We shall offer glory and thanks to You, and to Your Father, and to Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen.



**Gibran N Zogbi**

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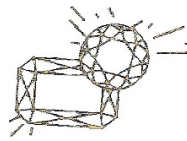
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