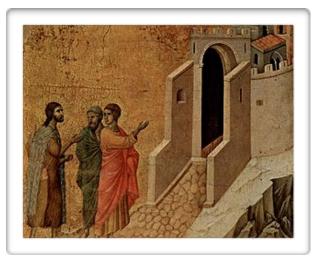


# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214 503.231.3853 <u>stsharbelpdx@gmail.com</u> <u>www.stsharbel.org</u>

May 5, 2019 Jesus Appears to the Disciples at Emmaus



Next Sunday Jesus Appears to the Disciples at Sea Heb 13:18-25 (Final Exhortation, Greetings, Blessings) Jn 21:1-14 (The Appearance to the 7 Disciples)

## Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for April 21st - 27th

Online	\$1,245.00
Collection	\$1,902.00
Weekly Total	\$3,147.00

YTD Total	\$31,774.65
YTD Goal	\$31,382.00

YTD Difference.....\$392.65

## **Liturgy Intentions**

Sunday, May 5th 10:30 am Dominic Havlicek Monday, May 6th Available Tuesday, May 7th Available Wednesday, May 8th +For All Living and Deceased Members of the Saint Sharbel Parish Community Thursday, May 9th Available Friday, May 10th Available Saturday, May 11th Available Sunday, May 12th +*Helen Attar Khalef* 

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

<u>Sunday, May 5th</u> First Communicant Families <u>Sunday, May 12th</u> Available

### Parish | Community Events

#### Parish Council

+Bruce Ashford (Treasurer) Charlie Ashou Gus Bekahi Nick El Hajj Agopos Ghossein Adib Karam +Claude Karam +Claude Karam Anne Marentette (Secretary) Doug Raab +Thaddeus Rask Nadia Redmond Mitch Siekmann Laif Waldron

Ex Officio +Deacon Tony +Deacon Wadih

> +Finance Committee



Please pray for our first communicants as they faithfully prepare to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. On Sunday, May 5th, the communicants will receive Our Lord's Precious Body and Blood in their First Eucharist during the Divine Liturgy. I thank Katherine Moffitt for her dedication and time to catechize the following first communicants: **Angelina Rafka Rita Massaad** 

-Abouna Christopher

**Olivia Ragehda Fought** 





BBQ and Workshop Meet the Bishops Our Lady of Lebanon Pool and Beach Party



## **Reflection**

#### Jesus Appears to the Two Disciples at Emmaus

On Sunday the Living One rose from the grave and He did not see corruption among the dead as was written. He killed death by His death, destroyed Sheol, broke the bow of its lord and shamed Satan for by His death He put to death sin. By His resurrection He justified our nature. Glory be to Him who redeemed His Church by His death and resurrection.

(Trans. from the Syriac Maronite Morning Prayer for the Sundays of Easter)

The Season of the Resurrection continues this Sunday and will continue until the Feast of Pentecost on June 9. The fact that we celebrate Easter on our calendar for fifty days illustrates that it is truly the greatest feast day of our faith. But we not only celebrate Easter until Pentecost but every day of our Christian lives. But why?

In today's Gospel reading Christ appears once again to His disciples. When He appears He begins to explain Christ is the fulfillment of everything the prophets foretold (Luke 24:25). Indeed, ever since the beginning of the world, God had been preparing it to enter into the world that He might join Himself to it and perfect creation by allowing us to share in His divine nature. He sent the prophets throughout every age to prepare the faithful to receive Him, and revealed Himself bit by bit, which is why we still read the prophets of the Old Testament, until He appeared Himself.

Easter is the Feast of Feasts that all ages have awaited prefigured by the prophets. Abraham is given a lamb to sacrifice instead of his only son, Isaac. Moses instructs the Jews to sacrifice a lamb on Passover in Egypt, and the Angel of Death passes over them. Lambs are continually sacrificed in the Temple of Jerusalem for the forgiveness of sin. But in each situation, a finite animal is sacrificed and it only averts a small situation – Isaac lives another day to die a natural death, Moses lives longer to die before entering the Promised Land and every year the Jewish priests sacrificed more and more lambs for the forgiveness of sins. All of it foreshadowed Christ, the True Lamb of God.

Christ, our God, was sacrificed as the True Lamb, prefigured by all the prophets of the Old Testament. But unlike their sacrifices, He was not an animal but our immortal God Who accepted to be sacrificed on the cross of Golgotha. By dying, He killed death and sin because Jesus, Life Himself, descended to death and killed death itself for all of us. Of course, bodily death still remains in this world, just as Christ died a bodily death. But just as Christ died, those who die in Him will also be resurrected on the Day of Judgment for those who believe in Him will never die, as He promised (John 11:26). The resurrection destroyed the oppression of death which threatened mankind and allows our nature to partake of the divine nature's immortality.

On Easter, Christ rose from the dead, ending death for all who unite themselves to Him. This is why we celebrate Easter as the greatest feast of the year – on this day, death itself died because, in His great love, the immortal God Who died for us rose again to new life.

O Christ, our God, You rose in glory and majesty, and woke the souls of those slumbering in the heavy sleep of death. Awake our souls, O Lord, from the immersion of sin. Grant that we may know and understand the wonders which You have done for our salvation, and we shall glorify You ceaselessly now and at all times, forever. Amen.

(Trans. from the Syriac Maronite Morning Prayer for Easter Monday)

- Article Credit: St Rafka Parish

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