

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

August 18, 2019

The Fruit of the Message to the Jews



Next Sunday

The Fruit of the Message to the Gentiles

Eph 1:1- 13 (Commission to Preach God's Plan)

Mt 15:21-28 (The Canaanite Woman's Faith)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for August 4th - 10th

Online.....\$875.00

Collection.....\$0.00

Weekly Total.....\$875.00

YTD Total.....\$59,076.76

YTD Goal.....\$59,072.00

YTD Difference.....\$4.76

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, August 18th 10:30 am

+Abraham Khal - 40 Day Memorial

Monday, August 19th

PatrickRooney

Tuesday, August 20th

Michaela Rooney

Wednesday, August 21st

Francesca Rooney

Thursday, August 22nd

Available

Friday, August 23rd

Sister Mariam ~Hermit Anniversary

Saturday, August 24th

+Hyrum and Joan Jensen

Sunday, August 25th

+George Jannorah & +Jamileh Jannorah

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, August 18th

Redmond Family

Sunday, August 25th

Available

Parish / Community Events

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

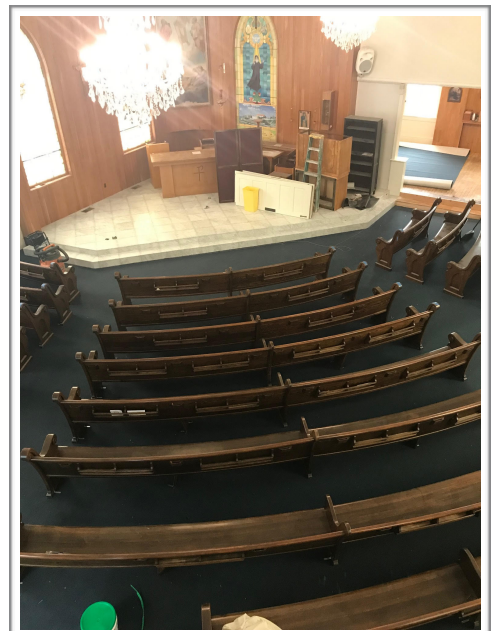
+Deacon Tony

+Deacon Wadih

+Finance
Committee

We are pleased to welcome everyone back to the Parish this weekend! Come celebrate the Food Festival and the completion of our Renovation!

Come see the finished product in person!!!!



2019 SAINT SHARBEL LEBANESE FOOD FESTIVAL

COME ENJOY A BITE OF LEBANESE CULTURE!

Kids activities, games and fun for the whole family!



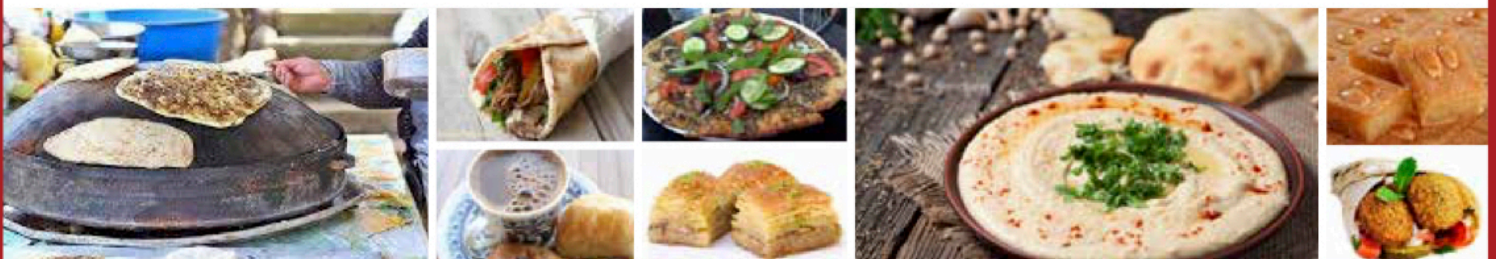
August 17th & 18th
Saturday 2pm–8pm
Sunday Noon–5pm

A SHOWCASE OF AUTHENTIC LEBANESE CUISINE & MUSIC

SERVING PLATES OR SANDWICHES

- Hummus
- Fattouch Salad
- Falafel
- Chicken/Lamb Shawarma
- Chicken Skewers
- Rice
- Manakish Zaatar (ground thyme with sesame seed)
- Middle Eastern Desserts

BEER & WINE GARDEN • VEGETARIAN & GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS



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Reflection

The Fruit of the Message to the Jews

“All the people saw this and began to mutter, ‘He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.’” (Luke 19:7)

In this Sunday's Gospel, we see Zacchaeus climb a tree to see Jesus in a crowd, and the crowd is annoyed when Jesus decides to visit Zacchaeus' house. After all, Zacchaeus is the chief tax collector, a traitor to fellow Jews by working for the Roman Empire and collecting extra taxes for himself. It is curious then if one looks at how often he (or more broadly, a tax collector) is mentioned every week in the Maronite Shhimto, the book of prayers. Along other figures from the Bible, such as the Prostitute (Luke 6:36-50) and the Good Thief (Luke 23:39-43), Zacchaeus, by name or job, is mentioned as an example to Christian life over a dozen times and six out of seven days every week.

But why did the Syriac Fathers hold up a traitorous extortion, a sexually immoral woman and someone crucified for thief as examples – after all, we are called to be holy church-attending Christians who do what is right and reject what is wrong. They are exemplary for just that reason – they reject their past evils and strive for what is right for love of God after encountering Jesus Christ. Anyone, even an atheist, can work towards ethical behavior, but the Christian does so for love of God. Whereas Zacchaeus formerly acted for himself, experiencing Jesus, he seeks to follow something infinitely greater than himself or worldly pleasures – God. Zacchaeus is the success story of the mercy of God:

Our Lord, call us to repentance as You called the sinful woman; open Your door to our prayers as You did to Zacchaeus, the Chief Tax Collector. As You stretched out a hand to Simon amidst the waves and pulled him out, draw out Your Church, O Lord, from divisions and strife.

(Trans. from the Syriac Maronite Shhimto)

As the hymn verse suggests, we are not above Zacchaeus. The people in the crowd who murmur against Christ for going to Zacchaeus' house are mistaken. All are in need of God's mercy for no one is justified before God (Ps. 143:2). Zacchaeus, not the crowd, is the one who receives salvation that day for he sought God to come to him. Likewise, Christ says the physician goes to those who are sick – the healthy have no need of a doctor (Mark 2:17). But to be treated by the Divine Physician we must allow Him to treat us, even if our sicknesses are less serious than those we compare ourselves with. Even a small illness can become deadly untreated.

Zacchaeus, along with the Prostitute and the Good Thief, are constantly invoked as examples in Syriac spirituality because it reminds us Christ does not withhold His mercy to those who repent. In fact, He said through the prophet Ezekiel that He does not delight in the death of a sinner, but seeks that he repent and live (Ez. 33:11). We constantly enter into sin, and we must therefore constantly seek Christ, Who is the Divine Physician and Who is the only one with the cure for our spiritual illness.

At times it may be futile, and we can either say that there is no point to continual conversion if we will just sin again or we might believe that we do not even sin seriously. To the former, if we become sick we do not resolve that we will not treat our cancer just because we might get a cold in the future until we resolve to die. Likewise, when we become sick by means of sin, we must seek Christ's cure of forgiveness, even if we might sin again – He gives His forgiveness freely to the sincere. Without His cure from sin, we will die the eternal death in hell. Cured, we will live the eternal life of heaven. But we are all in need of it for we all have sin that festers without God. Let us look to Zacchaeus' example and seek out the Divine Physician for our souls:

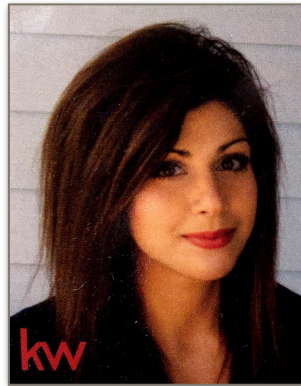
O Physician of Mercy Who was sent from His Father to heal the world, in Your mercy heal our illness and in Your compassion our grievous wounds. Through You, may Satan, who fights against us ceaselessly, be overcome. In Your mercy, have mercy on our souls.

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish

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& CATERING**

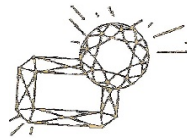
30 years in business

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