

# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

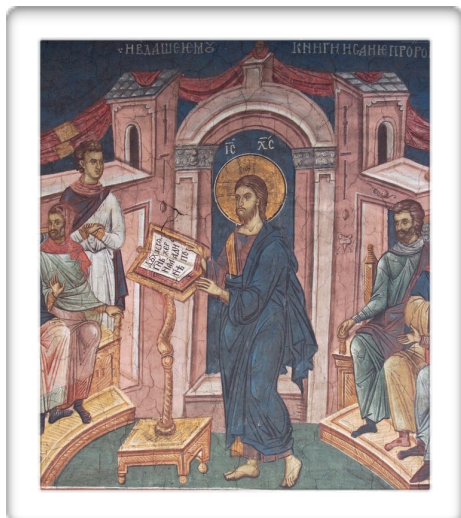
503.231.3853

[stsharbelpdx@gmail.com](mailto:stsharbelpdx@gmail.com)

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

## August 4, 2019

### The Mission of God's Messenger



### Next Sunday

### *The Apostles Proclaim the Kingdom*

1 Cor 12:1-11 (Unity and Variety)

Mt 12:22-32 (Jesus and Beelzbul)

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, August 4th 10:30 am

*Not Available*

Monday, August 5th

*Not Available*

Tuesday, August 6th

*Not Available*

Wednesday, August 7th

*Not Available*

Thursday, August 8th

*Not Available*

Friday, August 9th

*Not Available*

Saturday, August 10th

*Not Available*

Sunday, August 11th

*Not Available*

*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.*

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for July 21st - 27th*

Online.....\$1,220.00

Collection.....\$3,602.00

Weekly Total.....\$4,822.00

YTD Total.....\$58,056.76

YTD Goal.....\$55,380.00

YTD Difference.....\$2,676.76

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, August 5th

*Not Available*

Sunday, August 11th

*Not Available*

## Parish / Community Events

### MASS CANCELATIONS:

Please be aware there is no Mass for the following Sundays due to Construction:

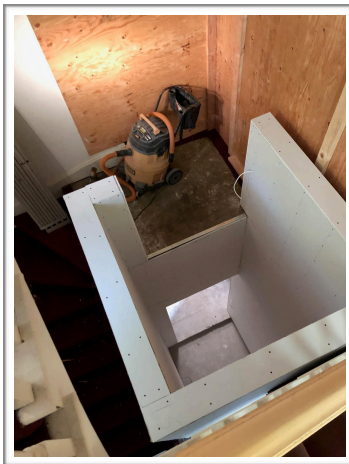
**July 28th**

**August 4th**

**August 11**

The first mass back in the newly refurbished parish will be **August 18th!**

Come help us celebrate the Food Festival and all God's Blessings!



Your generous donations at work...Progress is happening!

### 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

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# 2019 SAINT SHARBEL LEBANESE FOOD FESTIVAL

**COME ENJOY A BITE OF LEBANESE CULTURE!**

Kids activities, games and fun for the whole family!



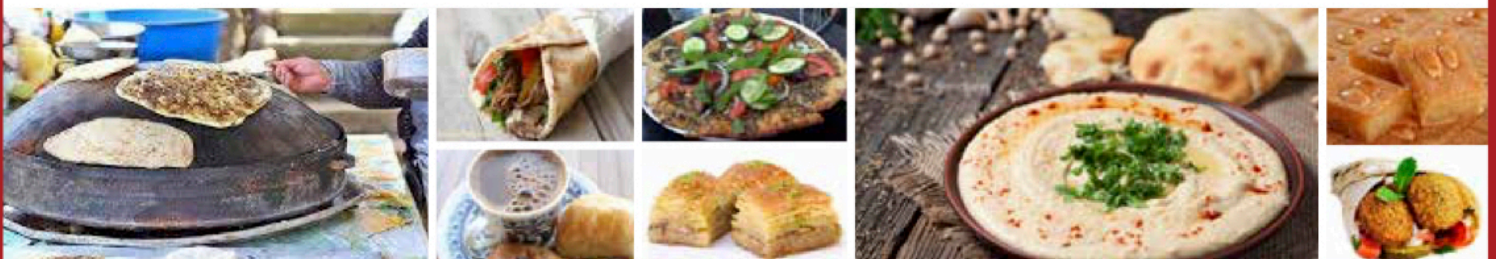
August 17th & 18th  
Saturday 2pm–8pm  
Sunday Noon–5pm

## 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**



**1804 SE 16th Ave Portland, Oregon 97214 | [stsharbel.org](http://stsharbel.org)**

# Reflection

## The Mission of God's Messenger

"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing," our Lord tells us. What our Lord refers to is a prophecy from Isaiah that the Father sent Him to proclaim good news to the poor, bring freedom to prisoners, recover the sight of the blind and liberate the oppressed (Is. 61:1,2). These are quite remarkable objectives our Lord says have been fulfilled in our hearing. But though He says they have been fulfilled, we are still saddled with all the burdens of our life. What kind of good news and freedom has liberated us if we still endure the misery and constraint of the same old?

The Old Testament, as recorded by the prophets, often had an immediate historical meaning. In the case of Isaiah, he spoke for God promising the Jews that they would be returned to the Holy Land from their forced exile and deportation to far Eastern lands. But God did not simply wish to speak to the exiles of that short time through Isaiah, but all who suffer the more serious and permanent exile and enslavement under sin and death. If the Old Testament was purely historical and literal, we would not read it today. But the word was revealed to prepare all for the coming of the fulfillment of all: the Word God, Jesus Christ.

When Christ says He has come to announce good news to the poor and liberate the oppressed, it is clearly understood in a different way from those who listened to Isaiah centuries before. Christ came to free us as prisoners of Satan and break the shackles of death. To His enemies, it seemed He was defeated Himself – He was publicly beaten and executed. But He descended to the dead to liberate them, and by His Mysteries, He has given us life.

The Scriptures He has given us, both through the prophets in the Old Testament and the evangelists and Apostles in the New Testament, prepare us once again for the Coming of the Lord. They are our means of knowing the liberation and freedom that Christ has granted us by His life-giving life, death and resurrection. As St. Ephrem explains, Scripture is an inexhaustible fountain, which quenches the thirst of the soul. We should return to it again and again like water – never would we stop drinking water simply because we are tired of drinking for we need it to live. Likewise, the Scriptures are so rich the wealth of revelation can never be fully comprehended, yet repeated use of it brings about life and health of the soul.

Fulfilled in our hearing of the Scriptures is the reception of our good news, freedom, healing and liberation, which Christ brought us by His coming. We have the means to these in reading the Sacred Scriptures. Each book of Scripture is like a piece of armor – one a shield, one a sword, one a helmet, one a breastplate, and the like. One would not go into battle without armor, and likewise one should not enter the conflict of the world without Scripture, often polished and sharpened by daily reading. Of course, one can misuse armor – if one puts a helmet on one's foot, it not only does not work, but would probably be a hindrance. Likewise, Scripture does have proper interpretation. Not only has God sent us His revelation through the saintly prophets, evangelists and apostles, but also the means to interpret them in the Church – the great fathers, such as Ephrem the Syrian, Jacob of Sarug, Origen, and John Chrysostom. Wonderful places to begin are Ephrem's Commentary on Genesis or Jacob's many homilies on the Gospel.

If we neglect the Scriptures, we neglect what Christ has wished to reveal to us about Himself throughout thousands of years of revelation. But if we listen to them attentively, we shall find the good news and liberation which Christ Jesus has promised us.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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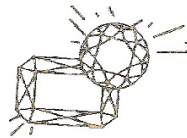
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