

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

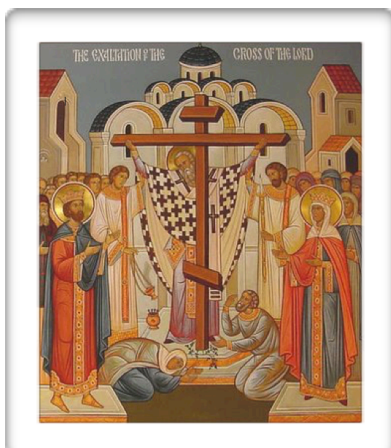
503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

September 15, 2019

Feast of The Holy Cross



Next Sunday

Second Sunday After the Holy Cross

1 Cor 15:19- 34 (Christ the Firstfruits/Practical Arguments)

Mt 24:1-14 (The Destruction of the Temple Foretold/ Beginning of Calamities)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for September 1st - 7th

Online.....\$145.00
Collection.....\$1,048.00
Weekly Total.....\$1,193.00

YTD Total.....\$66,513.76

YTD Goal.....\$66,456.00

YTD Difference.....\$57.76

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, September 15th 10:30 am

Available

Monday, September 16th

Available

Tuesday, September 17th

Available

Wednesday, September 18th

Available

Thursday, September 19th

Available

Friday, September 20th

Available

Saturday, September 21st

Available

Sunday, September 22nd

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.

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, September 15th

Available

Sunday, September 22nd

Redmond Family

Parish / Community Events

St. Sharbel Sunday School Program

Begins on Sunday, September 22, 2019 at 9:15 am.

Our Sunday School program is for ages 6 to 12 years old. Children who are preparing for their first Holy Communion and Penance are taught in the upstairs classroom (above the Sanctuary). Older Children who have completed their First Holy Communion will join Angel Scouts and they are taught in the parish hall classroom (just below the cry room).

Please see attached registration form for further information. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Nadia Redmond at 503-671-0440 or via email: n.redmond@comcast.net.

The Cedars of Saint Sharbel

Is group of teens which meets twice a month for the purpose of discipleship, fellowship, service, and fun.

The topics of discussion this year will be relevant, exciting, and of interest to girls and boys ages 13 – 18. Gennifer Karam and Michael Gama will be facilitating the discussions this year.

The first meeting will be on **Sunday, September 29** after the mass. Please see Gennifer or Michael for more information, or email Gennifer at jmjkaram3@gmail.com.

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

JOIN THE ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL

TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF MARONITE SEMINARIANS
AND HELP BUILD THE FUTURE OF THE MARONITE CHURCH

Meet this year's Seminarians for the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon



JOIN THE ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL TODAY

Enroll online at www.orderstsharbel.org or in your Parish.

For more information about the Order, please contact your Parish Priest or Order of Saint Sharbel President Jim Abdo at jabdo@abdobooks.com or call the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles at (314) 231-1021.

If you are interested in becoming a Priest or Religious Sister, contact Vocations Director Father Gary George, CSSR at (314) 363-3300 or abounag1@hotmail.com

Reflection

Feast of the Holy Cross

Jn 12:20-32

Each year we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Cross on September 14. Not only do we have a feast for the Holy Cross, but the entire season from the Feast until the beginning of the new Church year (usually the first Sunday of November) is devoted to it. The cross is a central Christian symbol, but why do we Syrians give it a feast and an entire season?

St. Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine, built many churches in honor of our Lord in many important locations, spanning from Rome to Jerusalem. One of churches she built in Jerusalem is known as the Holy Sepulcher, which includes many important sites under one roof such as where Christ was crucified, died, was buried and rose from the grave. In the same spot she had also found the cross of our Lord. The feast, September 14, marks the consecration of the Holy Sepulcher, where the cross was found, in the year 335.

We venerate the cross, not as a historical object used to crucify Christ, but as the symbol that summarizes His entire worldly and heavenly actions towards us. The abundance of His mercies are innumerable and inexpressible, so He has given us a symbol to incapsulate all of them. The cross mystically represents everything He has done and continues to do on our behalf. As our prayers for the feast say, "The cross is the key to the door of paradise. The cross is the tree planted in the garden of joys." The cross was both the instrument Jesus chose to redeem us and the instrument He has given us to continue nourishing us spiritually. He sanctified and redeemed us from sin, which Adam's sin brought into the world, by His cross in His passion. But the cross was not used once only to become irrelevant, but after His life-giving passion, He gives us the same instrument in our own lives.

The cross encapsulates all of Christ's saving dispensation on our behalf. As such He gives it to the priests of the Church to perfect the Mysteries [i.e. the sacraments]: "O you wood of the cross, how many mysteries are found in you! By your mark all the Mysteries of the Holy Church are performed. Without your holy power, none of them [i.e. the Mysteries] come to completion." Priests do not perfect the Mysteries by their own power, but by the power that has saved us and continues to save us – the power of Jesus Christ. In each Mystery, the priest makes the sign of the cross because each Mystery draws on the power of the sacrifice of Christ.

The same power of the cross is made available to us. As the prayers of the feast say, "By it [i.e. the cross] we ascend to heaven and by it we are protected in every hour for it has been made for us a refuge day and night." Each time we draw the sign of the cross upon ourselves, we not only remember the sacrifice of Christ, but we access the power of it. It protects us from harm and sanctifies us in our endeavors; it strengthens us and arms us against spiritual foes. The power of God – beyond comprehensible, expression or summary – is at our disposal simply by tracing it upon ourselves. All we need to do is make the sign of the cross in faith. It is a testament to God's immense love and mercy towards us – both in that He has saved us and continues to avail His cross to us. For this, we not only celebrate the Holy Cross, but sign ourselves and the Mysteries with it each and every day. May the cross be our refuge and protection!

**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

2925 SE 73rd Avenue
Hillsboro, OR, 97213
Bus 503-649-9514 Fax 503-649-1612
gibran.zogbi.qdmq@statefarm.com



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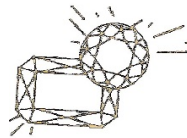
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