



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 8, 2019

Heeding the Word



Next Sunday

First Sunday After the Holy Cross

2 Tim 2:1- 10 (Timothy's Conduct)

Mk 10:35-45 (Ambition of James and John)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, September 8th 10:30 am

Sr. Mariam Sharbel Vianney &

+Shaheen Abboud

Monday, September 9th

Available

Tuesday, September 10th

Available

Wednesday, September 11th

Available

Thursday, September 12th

Available

Friday, September 13th

Available

Saturday, September 14th

Available

Sunday, September 15th

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 August 25th - 31st

Online.....\$845.00

Collection.....\$1,947.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,792.00

YTD Total.....\$65,320.76

YTD Goal.....\$64,610.00

YTD Difference.....\$710.76

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, September 8th

Available

Sunday, September 15th

Available

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.

Parish Council

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(Treasurer)

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Gus Bekahi

Nick El Hajj

Agopos Ghossein

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Anne Marentette
(Secretary)

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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 abounagi@hotmail.com

Pictures from Bishop
Zaidan's visit last
weekend and Peter's
Deaconate



Reflection

Heeding the Word

Lk 10:38-42

This upcoming Sunday is the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God. We do not normally commemorate the births of saints, but John the Baptist and Mary, the Mother of God, are two exceptions because, like Christmas, the Birth of Christ, they impact our salvation. Mary's Nativity in particular is second only to Christmas, when our Lord and God was born as a man, come to mankind to save us from sin. His Mother's birth, then, is important because it allows His birth – her birth is the beginning of the fulfillment of what had been promised to the prophets for thousands of year.

Mary's birth is a sign of Christ, the Hope of All, because it fulfills the ancient promises He made to His people awaiting His coming since the Fall of Adam. With Mary's birth, three hopeful promises are fulfilled, which our tradition emphasizes in their hymns. The first is that "the Lord will not forsake His people" (Ps. 94:14). The People of God are those who love Him and follow His commands. Joachim and Anna, the parents of Mary, are two steadfast examples of God-loving people. They were known for being righteous, and for praying and fasting constantly. But for sixty years they were childless – and as such, for sixty years they were considered cursed by God by their contemporaries and prohibited from offering sacrifice in the Temple. But they did not despair, though other humans claimed their hard times were a curse from God. They continued their lives in love of God and God did not forsake them, remaining true to His word. But instead blessed them with the daughter who is blessed by all generations as the holiest of women to bear the Son of God.

As our Lord promises His disciples, He turns sorrow into joy for those who follow Him (John 16:20). From the very beginning of the prophets and patriarchs, God promised both fruitfulness and great nations while Abraham and Sarah were barren. Rachel was barren for Jacob, and the High Priest Samuel's wife could not conceive. But when least expected, God granted them the promise given to them. This theme is repeated throughout the prayers of the Nativity of Mary because she is the descendant and fulfillment of all the patriarchs. The Syriac prayers emphasize the transmission of this great blessing, the Hope of the Hopeless, Who is Christ, until it reaches Mary. The most terrible barrenness that has plagued the world since Adam is sin, which stole life from us. With the birth of Mary, the vessel for Life Eternal is prepared.

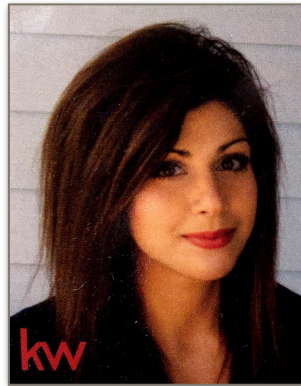
The greatest and most ancient promise which Mary's birth fulfills is the promise our tradition says Christ made to Adam. Reflected in Ezekiel (33:11), we believe our Lord is grieved by sin, which brought death into the world and decayed His image in Adam. From the Fall of Adam, Christ began to prepare the way for Him to heal the barrenness of sin. That is why He blessed the prophets repeatedly to foreshadow and transmit His blessing that He will never abandon His people or the sinner, but instead make the barren fruitful and the dead living if they follow Him. Christ became incarnate after the holiest woman ever was born who would become His Mother, Mary. Mary, though Virgin, is the Mother of the Creator of All, Who died to bring us life, in this great paradox.

The Nativity of Mary is a reminder that strife is not a curse from God, but an opportunity for Him to bless us. Moreover, He will not abandon us in our need. That is why we so fondly call Christ throughout our prayers the Hope of the Hopeless. May the prayers of the Mother of God be a rampart to us!

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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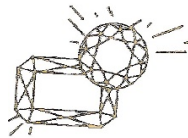
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