



# 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)

## October 13, 2019

**Fifth Sunday After the Holy Cross**  
**Next Sunday**



*Sixth Sunday After the Holy Cross*

**Gal 6:1-10** (Life in the Community of Christ)

**Mt 25:14-30** (The Parable of the Talents)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for September 29th - October 5th*

Online.....\$145.00

Collection.....\$924.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,069.00

YTD Total.....\$72,485.14

YTD Goal.....\$73,840.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,354.86**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, October 13th 10:30 am

**+Renee Saliba**

Monday, October 14th

*Available*

Tuesday, October 15th

*Available*

Wednesday, October 16th

*Available*

Thursday, October 17th

*Available*

Friday, October 18th

**+Lorraine Amsberry**

Saturday, October 19th

*Available*

Sunday, October 20th

**+Dr. Tom Rask**

***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, October 13th**

*Torker Family*

**Sunday, October 20th**

*Torker Family*

## 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

### November 1 Holy Day Mass Online for the Homebound

Is someone you love unable to join us at church for the November 1 Holy Day Mass in celebration of **All Saints Day**? Please invite anyone you know who cannot get out to church to experience the spiritual comfort of this joy-filled Catholic Mass. Online video will be available at [www.HeartoftheNation.org](http://www.HeartoftheNation.org) all day. (For those who can attend at church, the online liturgy will not fulfill the Holy Day Mass obligation.)

### The Cedars of Saint Sharbel Youth Group Discussion Schedule:

All meetings held in upstairs classroom immediately following Sunday Mass.

October 20

November 10 and 24

December 22 - Christmas Breakfast Service Project - Church Basement

January 12 and 26

February 9 and 23

March 8 and 22

April 19

May 17



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER  
**ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**AUTHENTIC LEBANESE DINNER**

Join us for our delicious and authentic Lebanese Dinner Fundraiser in our parish hall. We'll be serving generous portions of chicken & beef kabob with garlic sauce, beans over rice, tabouleh salad and hummus. GLUTEN FREE option available.

**October 27th • Noon to 6pm**  
\$15 Dinner Ticket Donation • To Go Orders Available  
1804 SE 16th Avenue, Portland • [saintsharbel.com](http://saintsharbel.com)

We'll also be holding a bake sale of tasty Middle Eastern and American pastries that will tempt any sweet tooth. Children's activities.

**COUPON: \$2 off valid between 3pm & 5pm**  
(excludes per capita)



  
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**MONASTIC DISCERNMENT  
RETREAT OCTOBER 18-20**

MONASTERY | SEMINARY | GUESTHOUSE | LIBRARY | BREWERY

Contact Fr. Odo Recker, OSB, Vocation Director  
503.881.8919 | [vocation@mtangel.edu](mailto:vocation@mtangel.edu)  
[mountangelabbey.org](http://mountangelabbey.org)

# **Reflection**

## Fifth Sunday After the Holy Cross

Mt 25:1-13

The Parable of the Ten Virgins awaiting the Bridegroom from today's Gospel (Matt. 25:1-13) is a commonly used theme in our Syriac tradition. Christ taught us this image because of its usefulness in mentally preparing for the last day, and so our wise Syriac Fathers have been certain to use it in their writings, hymns and homilies. There is a wealth of symbolism in it: the virgins and the Bridegroom, the oil of the lamps, and the wedding banquet.

The first element of the reading is the virgins and the Bridegroom. As Christ says, "Many are invited, but few are chosen" (Matt. 22:14). God wishes all to be saved, and so by His life-giving sacrifice on Earth He has called all peoples to His Church, but He does not force us to receive His loving salvation, as love cannot be compelled. Therefore, just like the virgins, while all are invited to His banquet, there are those who do refuse through their actions, even if they say with their mouths, "Lord, Lord, open the door for us!" (Matt. 25:11). The Bridegroom, then, is Christ Who has married His Church to bring His divinity to all of her children – that is us. If we enter into the banquet, then we shall obtain the life and love of God.

The second element is the lamps' oil. If God requires us to accept His loving salvation, what does that entail? Here we see it in the difference of the lamps of the virgins. All the virgins are invited to the banquet and none of them know when the Bridegroom will arrive. The five wise virgins brought enough oil that even if they should wait, their lamps would not burn out – while the foolish virgins did not bring enough oil. The Syriac Fathers say the oil of our lamps are our righteous and virtuous deeds that we commit for love of God and neighbor. We do not know when Christ the Bridegroom will return, but we can keep His commands on Earth while we wait, filling our lamps with the

oil of righteousness. This righteousness is giving the Lord His due glory in prayer, as well as helping those in need on Earth, for all are made in the image of God. Regardless of the dark of midnight, the wise virgins can see the Bridegroom because they brought enough oil. Likewise, no matter how dark the night of this world becomes with all its troubles, the wise will know the coming of Christ the Bridegroom by the light of their righteousness. But it is not something to prepare for tomorrow, but this very moment.

The last element is the wedding banquet. The Syriac Fathers refer to two things, which are intimately related, as the wedding banquet: the Eucharist and heaven. In this parable, it is clear that there are those who will not choose God, and therefore they reject heaven, rejecting life, love and fulfillment. But it is the same on Earth – Christ

has prepared us the banquet of His flesh and blood in the Eucharist on Earth that we may have a foretaste of heaven. Just as heaven will be in union of God, so too are we when we rightly receive His flesh and blood from the priest for eternal life and the forgiveness of sins. Unlike the virgins, however, we have access to the Bridegroom at this very moment in the Eucharist.

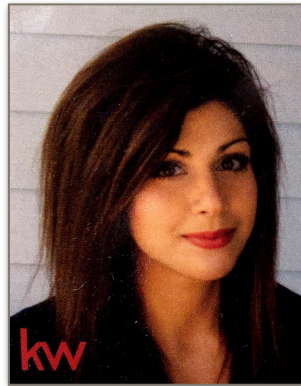
Let us be prepared with an oil of righteousness with the five virgins that we may have our lamps brightly burning in the world. Then, when the Bridegroom comes, we can go out to meet Him and enter into His banquet rejoicing and celebrating.



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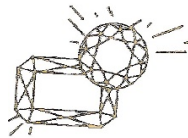
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