

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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www.stsharbel.org

October 6, 2019

Fourth Sunday After the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

Fifth Sunday After the Holy Cross

Phil 2:12-18 (Obedience and Service in the World)

Mt 25:1-13 (The Parable of the 10 Virgins)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, October 6th 10:30 am

Not Available

Monday, October 7th

Available

Tuesday, October 8th

Available

Wednesday, October 9th

+Yvonne Foulia

Thursday, October 10th

Available

Friday, October 11th

Available

Saturday, October 12th

Available

Sunday, October 13th

+Renee Saliba

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 September 22nd - 28th

Online.....\$1,155.00

Collection.....\$709.38

Weekly Total.....\$1,864.38

YTD Total.....\$71,416.14

YTD Goal.....\$71,994.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$577.86**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, October 6th

Available

Sunday, October 13th

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 all day. (For those who can attend at church, the online liturgy will not fulfill the Holy Day Mass obligation.)



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**MONASTIC DISCERNMENT
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Contact Fr. Odo Recker, OSB, Vocation Director
503.881.8919 | vocation@mtangel.edu
mountangelabbey.org

Reflection

Fourth Sunday After the Holy Cross

Mt 24:45-51

We await Your Second Coming.

(In every Anaphora of the Syriac Maronite Tradition)

Gargantuan monsters (whether political or actual), widespread natural disaster, and a blackened sky while the very fabric of society falls apart are the assumed elements of any standard apocalypse movie. However, these are probably not the ideas that come to mind when we say “We await Your Second Coming” every time we go to the Maronite Divine Liturgy. Whether or not these things occur before the Second Coming of Christ these are certainly not what we await nor what is really meant by the word “apocalypse,” which means the revealing of something.

As odd as it is to say, as Christians we have long awaited the apocalypse. But it is not an apocalypse of destruction and calamity for the Christian faith, but the revealing of the glory of God. As St. Paul writes in this Sunday’s epistle, the end is destruction for those who are not expecting it. However, we are children of light and the Last Day should not surprise us like a “thief in the night,” whether it is in a day or 10,000 years. For the unprepared, the apocalypse is a frightening idea because it marks the end of the material world and the coming of the Judge of Judges. But for those who put on “faith and love as armor, and the hope of salvation as a helmet,” the Second Coming is something worth mentioning every Liturgy because it marks the coming of our beloved Lord. Rather than unexpected, for those who await the Lord’s coming, it is a surprise visit like a dear family member or friend who comes to our house without our knowledge but we are nonetheless overjoyed to see them.

Sunday’s Gospel compares a good and a bad servant upon the arrival of their master’s return. The good servant has continued to do what he was asked because he has faith in his lord’s justice, love for his lord and his household, and hope that his lord shall actually return to him. When the master returns, the good servant is so happy to see his lord again because he missed him and the day he would see him again. The good servant is honored in the household. The bad servant, in turn, focuses on using his master’s possessions for his own good because he does not have faith, love or hope. When the master returns, he is taken by surprise and punished for selfishly abusing his master’s possessions given for the good of the household and the other servants. The bad servant thought he could fool his master, had no love of him or his servants, and did not wish to see him again because that marked the end of his “freedom.”

Likewise is the spiritual reality of the apocalypse; the preparation of the good Christian is faith, love and hope. In the end, the Second Coming is not meant as a threat or a device of fear – after all, as St. Paul says, “God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:9). For those who have faith in the Lord, love Him and His servants, and hope in His return, the apocalypse is not the end but the revelation of a new and greater life with Him. God is the God of the Living, not death, and therefore He comes to bring us life, love and light that we may forever live with Him. Let us recall this each time we say, “We await Your Second Coming.”

O Splendor of brilliant rays and the Illuminating Light of all Who shone forth from the Eternal Father, You illumined us lying in darkness, through Your bodily appearance rolled away the darkness of sin from the earth, and rejoiced the whole world by Your light. Now, O Lord, rejoice us on the day of Your glorious apocalypse and gladden us by Your sight. Shine Your mercy upon us and dawn Your compassion on us for You are the True Light and Illuminator of Creation, now and at all times, forever. Amen.

(From the Syriac Maronite Morning Prayer for Sunday)

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish

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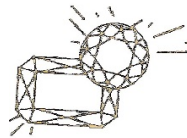
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