



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

November 10, 2019

Renewal of the Church



The Annunciation to Zechariah

Rom 4:13-25 (Inheritance through Faith)

Lk 1:1-25 (Announcement of the Birth of John)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for October 27th - November 2nd

Online.....\$175.00

Collection.....\$578.00

Weekly Total.....\$753.00

YTD Total.....\$78,369.14

YTD Goal.....\$81,224.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,854.86**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 10th 10:30 am

+Elie Layoun

Monday, November 11th

Available

Tuesday, November 12th

Available

Wednesday, November 13th

Available

Thursday, November 14th

Available

Friday, November 15th

Available

Saturday, November 16th

Available

Sunday, November 17th

+Joseph Tanious Atie

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, November 10th

Available

Sunday, November 17th

Redmond 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

The Cedars of Saint Sharbel Youth Group Discussion Schedule:

All meetings held in upstairs classroom immediately following Sunday Mass.

NOV:

10th - Sacred Scripture: Truth: How the Bible Answers Our Questions

24th - Evangelization: Called to Spread The Gospel

DEC:

22nd - Christmas Breakfast Service Project - Church Basement

JAN:

12th - Truth vs. Tolerance

26th - Church Authority: What is It? and Apologetics

FEB:

9th - Youth and Young Adult Saints

23rd - Mary : Her Motherhood, her Apparitions, the Rosary

MAR:

8th - Sacraments and Mysteries : Their meaning, Grace

22nd - TBA

APR:

19th - The Truth About Human Sexuality and God

MAY:

17th - Social Event: TBA



Reflection

Renewal of the Church

Jn 10:22-42

Today's Sunday is inherently coupled with last week's Sunday, the Consecration of the Church, and I highly recommend reading that reflection first as it speaks of God's eternal plans for His Church. And as discussed last week, the Church has existed for as long as humanity, and will exist for eternity, hence why we celebrate the Consecration of the Church as our first Sunday of the year. But the eternal Church is not a stagnant banquet, but one that is continually renewed, with new people contributing their own unique input, and lively activity.

This Sunday's Gospel reading mentions our Lord in Jerusalem during the Jewish Feast of the Dedication, or better Renewal, of the Temple. This feast was established by Judas Maccabaeus after re-dedicating the Temple after a Seleucid king named Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the Temple by sacrificing a pig on the altar, as a historian called Josephus tells us. In the Jewish tradition, the Renewal signals the Jews overcoming their invading enemy, and making holy again what had once become unholy. As we know from the Temple, the Jewish high priest had to repeatedly offer new sacrifices for the remission of sin, using its blood to remove ritual defilement. But as St. Paul tells us today in Hebrews, "He entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption (9:12)."

Christ in His love for mankind, the same love that created it, wished to renew humanity once sin had brought death "for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 6:23)." As St. Ephrem, the great Syriac poet tells us, God expelled Adam from the Garden of Eden not out of vindictive punishment, but so he will not eat of the Fruit of Life, and life in a state of permanent separation from God. Instead, Christ planned from all eternity to renew His damaged image.

And so the Maronite office for Sunday evening prayer says, "The fruit that Adam ate killed him. The Fruit from heaven redeemed him." The Fruit come down from heaven is Christ Himself, Who has made Himself the food of the eternal banquet of the Church so that we might eat the true Body and Blood of the immortal Lord and live forever. This is why we sing today in our night office:

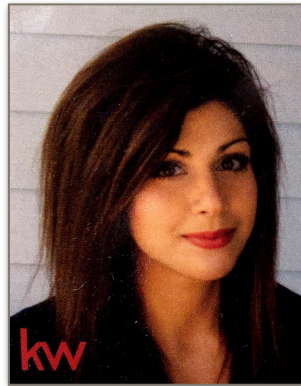
The Church offers to Him, on behalf of her children, the mystery of Body and Blood of the Prince, and it is distributed by the hands of priests for forgiveness of debts. Sinners receive it in true faith, and by it their debts and sins are forgiven, hallelujah and hallelujah!

God established the Church, the eternal banquet in His love for mankind that we know Him intimately, we delight in His company. But not being perfect, we have failed from the very beginning by being disobedient with Adam. But God does not grow impatient with us or tire so long as we show genuine sorrow for our sins. This is why He has placed in His Church His Body and Blood for the remission of our sins, and for our eternal life. In choosing to do wrong, we corrupt the image of God in which we were made (Gen. 1:27), but by the love of God He has established the means of renewal of ourselves, the temples of the Holy Spirit, in the Church through the sacraments – the most frequent of which is His Body and Blood, the Eucharist.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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& CATERING**

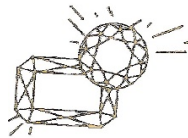
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