

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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www.stsharbel.org

November 3, 2019

Consecration of the Church



Renewal of the Church

Heb 9:11-15 (Sacrifice of Jesus)

Jn 10:22-42 (Feast of the Dedication)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 3rd 10:30 am

*+Halim Slilaty- 40 Day Memorial offered
by Rita Pipes*

Monday, November 4th

+Pantarleo Wadanda Warwa

Tuesday, November 5th

Available

Wednesday, November 6th

Available

Thursday, November 7th

Available

Friday, November 8th

Available

Saturday, November 9th

+Semaan & Ghosson Families

Sunday, November 10th

+Elie Layoun

*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 October 20th - 26th

Online.....\$1,305.00

Collection.....\$658.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,963.00

YTD Total.....\$77,616.14

YTD Goal.....\$79,378, 00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,761.86**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, November 3rd

Available

Sunday, November 10th

Available

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.

November:

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

24th - Evangelization: Called to Spread The Gospel

December:

22nd - Christmas Breakfast Service Project - Church Basement

January

12th - Truth vs. Tolerance

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

February

9th - Youth and Young Adult Saints

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

March

8th - Sacraments and Mysteries : Their meaning, Grace

22nd - TBA

April

19th - The Truth About Human Sexuality and God

May

17th - Social Event: TBA

Reflection

Consecration of the Church

Mt 16:13-20

Elijah and the pleasant young man, Daniel, are diligent groomsmen. Dear Thomas is the messenger, and Isaiah the collector of gifts. / [Mary] Magdalene is carrying spices and the sinful woman ointments. Matthew sets the tables and Luke mixes the wine vessels. / Abel sent her the first-born lamb from his flock and just Jacob set aside a tenth of his possession for her from the very beginning.

(Trans. from the Syriac Maronite night prayer of the Consecration of the Church)

People running around preparing food and setting tables might evoke the image of a *haffleh* in some minds, but the above is no earthly feast. This hymn from our tradition describes the wedding banquet of the Church, the Bride of Christ, whose feast we celebrate today. It is not a coincidence that this feast is the first at the beginning of the Church year – our tradition emphasizes the existence of the Church from the very beginning with Adam. The servants of Christ have been preparing His Bride's banquet even before He arrived! This is why the above hymn mentions both figures from the Old Testament, such as Elijah and Abraham, as well as from the New Testament, such as Mary Magdalene and Luke, working together. Though separated by thousands of years, all those whom Christ has raised to His service work together throughout time.

This might sound strange, but today we celebrate the continuity of the Church throughout all of time. Christ, our all-knowing and loving God, wanted to establish a way that humanity could be in an intimate relationship with Himself. The means He picked was to become the Bridegroom of the Church, to whom we belong. From before all time, He began to prepare this great wedding banquet with Israel and the prophets of old. The prophets organized the feast by their prophecies, preparing the hearts of the world to receive the Bridegroom. The apostles came to invite all the peoples of the world to this banquet, for Christ wishes all to be with Him. And today, our Church is the continuation of that true Israel, as St. Paul writes in Rom. 9:8, it is "the children of the promise" of God, not a physical descent.

All the saints before us have assisted in preparing this banquet through their own vocation to which Christ has called them until the moment He signed His wedding contract by His own blood when "He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption," as our first reading tells us (Heb. 9:12). And the very food of the banquet and purpose is the same in this action – at the banquet, Christ sets on the Holy Table, the altar, His Body and Blood for our eternal life and salvation, so that we may live with Him, glorify Him, and delight with Him for eternity with the rest of those invited to the banquet.

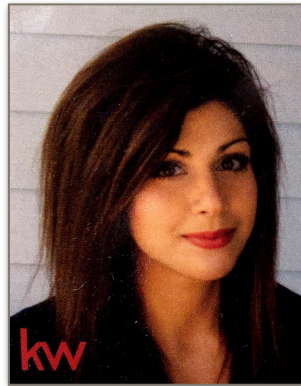
Indeed, every time we enter into the church for the Mass, we enter into this Mystical Banquet with all the saints before us, and the Bridegroom comes to delight with His Bride. Today, we celebrate the love of Christ towards His Bride, the Church, for He had no need to take her as His Bride or prepare the grand banquet that continues until today. Let us join in the banquet He has prepared us and assist. We are not forced to attend the banquet – we have the privilege of being the guests of honor.

Today the sons of the Church shall gather together and offer glory and thanksgiving with joy to God for His love has descended and dwelt in the Church. He has graciously made her a true bride for Himself. Today the true priests surround the holy altar in the likeness of angels. Our Lord gave her the authority for His flock to receive His body and Blood for forgiveness of their debts.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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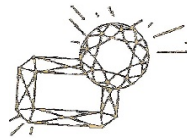
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