



# 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)

## December 1, 2019

### The Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth



**Next Sunday**

*The Birth of John the Baptist*

Gal 4:21-5:1 (An Allegory on Christian Freedom)

Lk 1:57-66 (The Birth of John)

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 1st 10:30 am

**+Marie and Wadih Germanos**

Monday, December 2nd

*Available*

Tuesday, December 3rd

*Available*

Wednesday, December 4th

*Available*

Thursday, December 5th

*Available*

Friday, December 6th

*Available*

Saturday, December 7th

*Available*

Sunday, December 8th

**Berna Sheehan on her Birthday**

**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 November 17th - 23rd*

Online.....\$605.00

Collection.....\$1,135.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,740.00

YTD Total.....\$84,695.14

YTD Goal.....\$86,762.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,066.86**

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, December 1st

*Available*

Sunday, December 8th

*Available*

# Parish / Community Events

## A NOTE FROM ABOUNA:

Brothers and Sisters,

Just a brief note about parish finances. We want to finish the year strong. We are a little behind in our goal for the collections plate for the year. That and the additional spending we did this year for parish refresh/remodel might impact our bottom line for the year. If you are able, and after prayerful consideration are able to, please consider a little extra gift for the parish sometime before the end of the year! God knows that I appreciate each and every one of you, and that I hate talking about money, but it has to be discussed. The Ladies Guild is preparing falafel for the end of the year fundraiser to kick in just a bit — please come down after church and have a lunch Sunday the 24th!

God Bless, Abouna Chris

## 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

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2019

**Christmas Breakfast:** Sunday, December 15

**Christmas Eve Vigil:** Tuesday, December 24, Kids Concert/play will be at 5:00pm, Mass will start immediately after.

**Christmas Day:** Wednesday, December 25, 10:30 am

**Feast of Circumcision:** Wednesday, January 1, 10:30 am

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

All meetings held in upstairs classroom immediately following Sunday Mass.

**DEC:**

**15th** - 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

**Give your extra day in 2020 to Catholic Charities! Join us for our the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual gala—Celebration of Hope, February 29, 2020.**

Event Co-Chairpersons, Pedro and Eva Garcia, invite you to Catholic Charities' annual gala - Celebration of Hope. It's one of Portland's premier social events honoring the transformative work we do every day to help more than 20,000 of our most vulnerable neighbors each year.

**Saturday, February 29, 2020**

**Together, we give hope to those who need it most.**

[www.catholiccharitiesoregon.org/events/](http://www.catholiccharitiesoregon.org/events/)

Reserve your table or tickets today! Special discount available to Parish hosted tables.

Contact us – 503-688-2623 or [celebration@CCOregon.org](mailto:celebration@CCOregon.org)

## St. Sharbel's Children Christmas Pageant

Ages 4 to 12 years old are all welcome to participate in the Christmas Pageant. Children dress up in costumes for the Nativity scene and will learn a two songs to sing on Christmas eve. Rehearsals will be immediately after Mass in the upstairs classroom.

The dates are **December 8, 15 and 22.**

Please email Nadia Redmond ( [n.redmond@comcast.net](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net)) by December 1st, if your child(ren) are interested and can attend all rehearsals.



SAINT SHARBEL PARISH  
Invites you to our

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

December 15, 2019

Following the Holy Mysteries

~With special guest: St. Nick!~

This event's proceeds will benefit:  
the Maronite Monks of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

and is organized by:  
the Cedars of Saint Sharbel Youth Group and Parents



## SANTIAM VICARIATE ADVENT PARISH MISSION

### LIFE OF PASSION LIFE OF LOVE

*A parish mission with Adam Storey*

## DECEMBER 1-3

ALL EVENINGS BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM



**Sunday, December 1**  
Passionate Hearts

**Monday, December 2**  
When the Rubber Meets the Road

**Tuesday, December 3**  
Let's get Real

*"Adam's unique and passionate gift for sharing  
his Catholic faith will leave you changed."*

-Jon Leonetti, Catholic speaker and author

**COMPLIMENTARY CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED!**

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church  
1035 N. 6th Ave, Stayton, OR 97383

**Come for each night... bring your family & friends!**



# Reflection

## The Visitation of the Virgin Elizabeth

Lk 1:39-45

Today's Sunday follows the seasonal theme of announcements, but instead of a message from an angel this Sunday commemorates Mary, already pregnant with our Lord Jesus, visiting her cousin, Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist. Though the Gospel passage is fairly short the imagination of Syriac Fathers drove them to write much on the encounter because it conceals many truths about our faith in Christ. Many of the Syriac Fathers write about Mary "going in haste" (Luke 1:39) to Elizabeth because, for the sake of her virginal birth by the Holy Spirit, other women already gossiped against her and accused her of adultery. The holiest, purest, and most ideal servant of God being slandered should not be surprising – as Christ will later say, "blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me" (Matt. 5:11) because even He Himself knew that He would later suffer death at the hands of jealous slanderers for the truth. So why does Elizabeth bless Mary upon greeting her, and why does John leap for joy in Elizabeth's womb if others slander them?

The Syriac Aramaic verb *s'ar* means both to visit and to cure/make whole, and this is exactly the way the predecessors of our tradition would have seen the Visitation. All things have been created by God, and God wishes that we be united to Him. However, since Adam's transgression in the Garden and the various failures of Israel against the commands of God down through the ages there was damage done to the relationship between God and man. Humanity had become sick, progressively poisoned by continually choosing to drink the very sin that was poisoning it! Humanity chose sin again and again, which brought death as St. Paul tells us (Rom. 5:12). But in spite of our choice of sin, God made it clear that He does not rejoice in the death of a sinner (Ez. 18:23), and would not give up on humanity. As He tells us, He is life (John 14:6) because all existence comes from Him, and He wishes to raise all to life eternal. So Elizabeth and John rejoice for Life Himself, Christ our God, has visited them. By His very visitation, while carried in the womb of His mother, He brought them happiness for anyone who receives the Lord's presence is made whole and healed from sin for God Himself is Being and the Giver of All Good Things.

John, Christ's Herald, could see as a fetus in his mother's womb what the grown men of Jesus's time were blind to – that Christ is the Lord of All. It does not change once Christ is born, nor a grown man. Christ multiplied food for 5000 people, made the blind see, made the paralyzed walk, and still certain people at His time accused Him of being a servant of Satan (Matt. 12:24). It was false reasoning that led those to denounce Christ, whereas even a child in the womb could plainly see that He is God. So we too must decide whether we will reject Christ and His servants, or acknowledge Him and welcome Life Himself into our lives Who wishes to visit us and bring us to Himself in life eternal. If we choose the latter in sincerity, we can pray with confidence in Christ:

Transcendent, hidden and incomprehensible God, in Your dispensation You dwelt in the Virgin Mary for our salvation and visited in Your caring Your Herald in the barren and sterile womb of old Elizabeth; now visit/heal our souls and bodies, which have fallen into sin, by Your divine assistances, and sanctify our spirits by Your holiness that we may excellently and holily give thanks to You for Your graces towards us, and we may worship and glorify You, and Your Father, and Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (Trans. from the Maronite Evening Prayer for the Visitation)

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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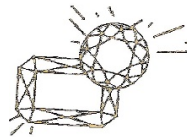
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