

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

December 15, 2019

The Revelation to Joseph



Next Sunday

The Genealogy of Jesus

Rom 1:1-12 (Greetings/Thanksgiving)

Mt 1:1-17 (The Genealogy of Jesus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for December 1st - 7th

Online.....\$450.00

Collection.....\$816.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,266.00

YTD Total.....\$87,408.14

YTD Goal.....\$90,454.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$3,045.86**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 15th 10:30 am

+***Elie Layoun***

Monday, December 16th

Available

Tuesday, December 17th

Available

Wednesday, December 18th

Available

Thursday, December 19th

Available

Friday, December 20th

Available

Saturday, December 21st

Available

Sunday, December 22nd

+***Barbara Beardsley, 40 day memorial***

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, December 15th

Available

Sunday, December 22nd

Available

Parish / Community Events

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) by December 1st, if your child(ren) are interested and can attend all rehearsals.

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

Novena Schedule 2019

Sunday, 15th	10:30am (Mass)
Monday, 16th	7:00pm
Tuesday, 17th	7:00pm
Wednesday, 18th	7:00pm
Thursday, 19th	7:00pm
Friday, 20th	7:00pm
Saturday, 21st	10:30am
Sunday, 22nd	10:30am (Mass)
Monday, 23rd	7:00pm

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



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



Reflection

The Revelation to Joseph

Mt 1:18-25

Everyone is familiar with the feeling of excitement while eagerly awaiting a guest we will be happy to see. There is a particular thrill to hospitality that our Middle Eastern culture knows very well, and, when particularly excited to receive a guest, we tell others of their future visit. The Old Testament in its entirety is that – the great anticipation of all the prophets, kings, and saints of God expressing their joy at the coming of their King, Jesus Christ, while making known the small glimpses the Holy Spirit gave them of Him. We may feel anxious waiting thirty minutes for a guest, but those saints of the Old Testament waited thousands of years.

But the coming of Jesus is such an immense occasion, no one would have thought they would have lived to see it – and yet our eternal God, Jesus, entered into a particular time. It should be no surprise that Joseph, though a holy and righteous man, did not expect to be the foster father of God Himself. Today, we celebrate the last announcement Gabriel made known in this Season of Announcements before the birth of our Lord. As the Syriac Fathers tell us, the Ever-Virgin and Pure Mother of God, Mary, was slandered by her neighbors and friends as having conceived through adultery. Joseph, hearing this lie, saw his betrothed, who was a consecrated temple virgin, pregnant. Feeling hurt because he thought he had been betrayed, he was going to quietly break off the betrothal – Joseph thought he was being merciful, since Jewish Law prescribed execution to adulteresses (Lev. 20:10). Gabriel was sent by God, however, to inform Joseph that he was mistaken – Gabriel tells Joseph that Mary is the virgin whom Isaiah was awaiting when he said, “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel” (Is. 7:14). Joseph, being a just man, joined the thousands of years of saints awaiting the coming of God. The very title the prophet Isaiah foretells of Jesus bears testimony to both His divine nature and the excitement the prophets had to see Him – Emmanuel, God is

with us. The title professes that Jesus is both truly God, and that He is truly amongst us by His taking flesh and becoming man. It is the title all the saints of old waited thousands of years to say, and it perfects God’s desire for us to be near Him mentioned in the reflection for the Consecration of the Church.

What Joseph dreaded at first by his own misunderstanding became the greatest honor. The next time he was to pray the psalms of David in his prayers he would know that his son shall be the one whom “all kings shall fall down before” and “all nations give him service” (Ps. 72:14). And when Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem, and Mary gave birth to Jesus, suddenly the words of the prophet Micah made sense to him when he said, “O Bethlehem ...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days” (Mic. 5:2). Along with those few verses, all the Old Testament proved to Joseph, Mary, and those who knew that Jesus was the Lord that this is whom all generations awaited.

How blessed we are that as Christians we can say each day of our life “Emmanuel” – God is with us, both as a statement of fact by our union with Christ by our baptism and communion, as well as a promise that He shall come again. And we, as Christians, do not fear His coming. One might fear a thief from entering the house, but Jesus is our King and God, an honored and eagerly awaited guest. Let us prepare ourselves for His coming by doing what He has asked us through His Church, that way when He comes again – in the Eucharist at Mass, at the feast of Christmas, and, ultimately, at His Second Coming – we may proudly receive Him singing with Isaiah, “Emmanuel – God is with us!”

**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

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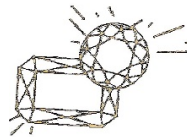
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