

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

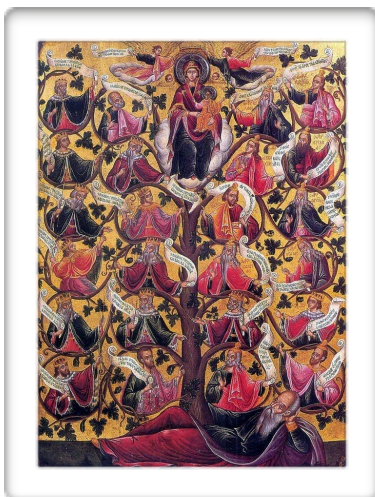
503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

December 22, 2019

The Genealogy of Jesus



Next Sunday

Sunday After the Birth of Our Lord

Heb 11:23-31 (Faith of the Ancients)

Mt 2:13-18 (The Flight to Egypt? The Massacre of the Infants)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 22nd 10:30 am

+ *Barbara Beardsley, 40 day memorial*

Monday, December 23rd

Bernadette Ibrahim

Tuesday, December 24th

+ *Gabby Bassil*

Wednesday, December 25th

Living and Deceased from Our Parish

Thursday, December 26th

Servant of God Cyril

Friday, December 27th

Kris and Iku Kochen Anniversary

Saturday, December 28th

Available

Sunday, December 29th

+ *Antoine and Georgette Zogbi*

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 December 8th - 14th

Online.....\$1,240.00

Collection.....\$852.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,092.00

YTD Total.....\$.89,500.14

YTD Goal.....\$92,300.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,799.86**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, December 22nd

Available

Sunday, December 29th

Karam Family

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.

- 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



From all of us at S^t. Sharbel we wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Reflection

The Genealogy of Jesus

Mt 1:1-17

The banquet was laid at the Consecration and Dedication of the Church, the guests were called through the Announcements, and now we are almost at the moment we have been awaiting for a long time - the Birth of Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is appropriate, then, that our period of long expectation should be concluded with Genealogy Sunday, named for the fact that the reading from the Gospel today lists Jesus's family descent from Adam, the first man, through his paternal side (that is, Joseph). And just as was seen last week with the reflection for the Revelation to Joseph, Christ's coming has been awaited for millennia!

Everything in the Old Testament bears witness to awaiting Christ. If we look at Genesis, the first book of the Bible, we find even Jacob, from the third generation of the forty-two listed in today's Gospel, expressing his hope for the coming of Christ. In Genesis 49:9-11, Jacob predicts a king from the children of Judah, who is also in the genealogy, that will be unmovable like a lion, universal in authority, and whose garments shall be soaked in what appears to be blood (similar to Is. 63:3). Jacob expresses his hope for the coming of Christ in his final earthly words - both His universal kingship and His salvific death.

Elsewhere in Scripture, a numberless amount of descriptions of the Lord to come is given by all the various prophets through the ages. Does this mean Jesus likes to keep His people waiting endlessly for the sake of suspense? Of course not. But since the Fall of Adam great damage was done to the relationship of God and man. The entire Old Testament details all the preparations for healing that damage - which is why the Old Testament is still very relevant to the Christian of today! It is not simply history past, but speaks to our relationship with Christ presently.

The idea of the application of Scripture both as a historical event and to our current relationship with God is known as typology. St. Ephrem and the Syriac Fathers used this very often. They sought out the images in the Old Testament, like those in Jacob's words, which give us insight into Christ. St. Ephrem said they are as endless and nourishing as a natural spring of water when we meditate upon them. One of the most common typology used by the Syriac Fathers is the Son of Man who appears in a furnace in Babylon when three saints of God are thrown into the same furnace by a pagan king, and the Son of Man (i.e. Jesus) protects them from harm (Dan. 3:25). The rich image speaks of Christ protecting us from spiritual and physical harm daily, as well as the fire of hell, from which He wishes to spare us.

A list of typologies that express the coming of our true Hope, Jesus, would fill volumes (as even St. Ephrem in his hundreds of works is unable to exhaust them all). But they can all be summarized by the St. Athanasius's words from his book *On the Incarnation*, "God became man so that man can become god," just as the priest says every mass, "You have assumed what is ours, and you have given us what is yours." God Who is incomprehensible and inexpressible lowered Himself in His mercy to human nature to not only restore what Adam lost, but offer participation in the divine nature, which we call theosis.

Since Adam mankind has awaited Jesus our God to united in relationship once again. But the coming of Christ did even more than we could have hoped - it united us in nature, elevating our humanity, granting us eternal life with Him when He comes again if we seek Him now. Let us give thanks to Him for His life-giving and saving Incarnation.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

2925 SE 73rd Avenue
Hillsboro, OR, 97213
Bus 503-649-9514 Fax 503-649-1612
gibran.zogbi.qdmq@statefarm.com



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& CATERING**

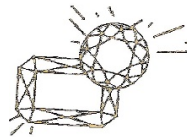
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