



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

January 12, 2020

First Sunday After Epiphany



Next Sunday

Second Sunday After Epiphany

2 Cor 4:5-15 (The Paradox of the Ministry)

Jn 1:35-42 (The First Disciples)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 12th 10:30 am

Maronite Monks of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Monday, January 13th

Rask Family

Tuesday, January 14th

Available

Wednesday, January 15th

Available

Thursday, January 16th

Available

Friday, January 17th

Thad Rask

Saturday, January 18th

Available

Sunday, January 19th

Available

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

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for December 29th - January 4th

Online.....\$225.00

Collection.....\$2,542.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,767.00

YTD Total.....\$94,833.14

YTD Goal.....\$97,838.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$3,004.86**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, January 12th

Available

Sunday, January 19th

Available

Parish / Community Events

Join us Sunday, January 19, 2020
for **Manakeesh** after Mass

Za'atar, Cheese, and Laham be Ajeen, Meat Pizza

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.

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 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

First Sunday After Epiphany

Jn 1:29-34

We have all had experiences of stumbling around in the dark, stumbling feeling around for something familiar, only to trip over something unseen or become frightened by something we think we might hear. Pitch darkness can even be disorienting when we are unfamiliar with where we are. Unsurprisingly, people before the invention of electric lights associated this darkness of night with death, and the eagerly awaited light of the morning with life.

Having celebrated the great feast itself a few days ago, today we celebrate the first of several Sundays dedicated to the Epiphany, the memorial of our Lord Jesus Christ's baptism. In Syriac, our tradition calls the feast denho or dawn referring to the passage in Zechariah 6:12 in the ancient Syriac version of the bible, known as the Peshitta, "His name is Dawn (denho), and He shall dawn from below." Why is our Lord and His baptism called dawn by the Prophet Zechariah?

As we reflected upon for the Consecration and Renewal of the Church, Christ established, in His love and mercy, the Church as His Bride as a means of bringing all of humanity in union with Him. Throughout the Season of Announcements we reflected upon how the Old Testament expressed the Bride's anticipation of her Groom's coming throughout the ages. Finally, we saw how John the Baptist is the forerunner of Christ who was sent to prepare things, much like a best man for a groom. In this role, John the Baptist prepared the rite of his baptism that was a placeholder and anticipation of the baptism of Christ, Who baptizes with "the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). Jesus knew humanity was "walking in [the] darkness" (Is. 9:2) of sin, wandering far away from Him. But in His mercy, just as He descended from heaven in His humility, He descended to the Jordan River where He had sent John the Baptist. John the Baptist hesitated to baptize Him at first because he knew he could not give anything to Jesus, Who created all things. John was correct, for Jesus had no need of baptism, just like He had no need to become a weak human since He is our all- powerful God. But it was in Christ's love of humanity that He descended to the Jordan so that the waters of baptism themselves may be sanctified for He is the Pure One Who chose water as a means of spiritually purifying us, giving us eternal life, and sharing with us His divinity, which is why St. Paul says, "All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Gal 3:27).

The Light that has dawned from below is the eternal Light from above, Who came dawn to illumine those who were blinded by the dark gloom of sin. As St. Jacob of Sarug said in his homily on the Epiphany, Christ was in want of nothing except to bring Adam back up from the pit of death, which he entered through sin. And by Christ shining His light upon the world and granting the opportunity for us to put Him on by baptism, He allowed us to enter into the Trinity, Who appeared fully for the first time in history of humanity at His baptism – the voice of the Father, the Son in the Jordan, and the Holy Spirit taking the visible sign of a dove (Luke 3:22). The Light which has dawned from below not only opened our eyes to the reality of our God, but has invited us to share in His divinity if we partake of the baptism He sanctified for us and follow what He has asked us through His Bride.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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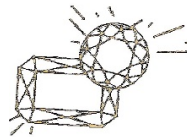
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