



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

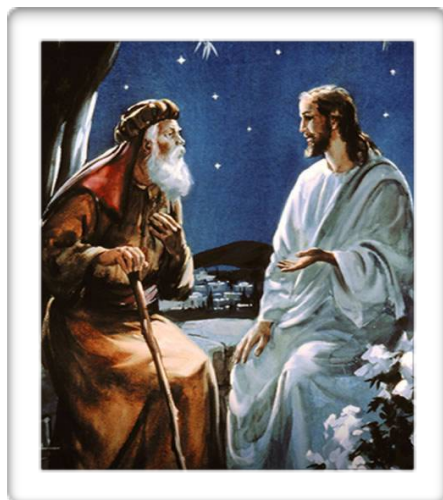
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[stsharbelpdx@gmail.com](mailto:stsharbelpdx@gmail.com)

[www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)

## January 26, 2020

### Third Sunday After Epiphany



#### Next Sunday

#### *Commemoration of the Priests*

1 Tim 4:6-16 (Counsel to Timothy)

Lk 12:42-48 (Vigilant and Faithful Servant)

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 26th 10:30 am

+Kameel Moammar - 40 Day memorial

Monday, January 27th

Frank Sorrentino

Tuesday, January 28th

Available

Wednesday, January 29th

Available

Thursday, January 30th

Available

Friday, January 31st

Available

Saturday, February 1st

+Maroulla Miller

Sunday, February 2nd

+Fozie Ghoson

*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 January 12th - 18th*

Online.....\$315.00

Collection.....\$935.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,250.00

YTD Total.....\$4,042.00

YTD Goal.....\$3,692.00

YTD Difference.....\$350.00

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, January 26th

Available

Sunday, February 2nd

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

### St. Sharbel MYA (Maronite Young Adults) Group

The group for ages 18+ is restarting monthly meetings at the Parish. They will meet the first Sunday of the Month.

Meetings will take place after mass in the Upper room of the church at 12pm.



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

All meetings held in upstairs classroom immediately following Sunday Mass.

<b>JAN:</b>	<b>26th</b> - Church Authority: What is It? and Apologetics
<b>FEB:</b>	<b>9th</b> - Youth and Young Adult Saints <b>23rd</b> - Mary : Her Motherhood, her Apparitions, the Rosary
<b>MAR:</b>	<b>8th</b> - Sacraments and Mysteries : Their meaning, Grace <b>22nd</b> - What does it mean to be a man?...a woman?...a family?
<b>APR:</b>	<b>19th</b> - The Truth About God and Human Sexuality
<b>MAY:</b>	<b>17th</b> - Social Event: TBA

# **Reflection**

## Third Sunday After Epiphany

Jn 3:1-16

Water is an essential of life. Our planet and our bodies are mostly made of water. Without water, a human cannot live more than a week nor would the food we eat grow. It is an irremovable part of our reality – in fact, both science confirms Scripture in that all life began in the waters of the ocean. In the very beginning, Genesis begins with the Spirit hovering over the waters (Gen. 1:2), and the gospels begin with the Spirit hovering over the waters of Christ's Baptism (Matt. 3, Mark 1, Luke 3, John 1). It is not a coincidence that creation – all life, and the Gospel both begin with water and the Spirit. God has chosen the visible sign of water to communicate the infinitely greater reality of life and the Spirit. What was created in the beginning is made anew by the waters of baptism by the Holy Spirit. As Christ tells Nicodemus in today's Gospel reading, without this new life brought about by the Spirit, one will not have life eternal (John 3:5). The Syriac Father Aphrahat relates the reception of the Holy Spirit at baptism with that of God breathing into the molded dirt in Genesis to give Adam life (Gen. 2:7) – if we refuse the waters of baptism we remain lifeless dirt.

At our Maronite wake services we sing, "It was unknown in the past that there was eternal life," referring to Isaac mourning Abraham, for baptism had not yet been given to us by God. Yet God in His mercy still alluded to it through signs and symbols through the prophets to give hope for His coming to remove death. Christ refers to Nicodemus one such sign in the life of Moses when Moses lifted up his staff as God instructed and those bitten by serpents were healed of the venom (Num. 21:9). Christ our God, being the reality behind this symbol, was lifted on the cross, and those who look on Him with eyes of faith are healed of the venom of the serpent, Satan, who poisoned Adam and receive eternal life (3:14-15). It is through baptism we enter into this mystery of the Son by the Holy Spirit, "Marked an innocent lamb of [His] flock... numbered amongst [His] spiritual herd" as the Maronite rite of baptism tells us. In the preparation for the waters of baptism, the rite tells us the Trinity makes the waters a "new womb for spiritual sons." Moses struck a rock in the desert at the command of God while Israel thirsted to death, and from it flowed water (Num. 20:11). Likewise, left to our own we would thirst to death in the desert of sin, but Christ has granted us a baptism of new life to remove from us this thirst.

Though coming to the spiritual, second birth through baptism is a one-time event we must continue to nourish our souls. Just as the second birth obtains eternal life for us like our first birth in flesh obtains life, we must nourish our spirits as we nourish our bodies. Revisiting the event of Moses striking the rock in the desert, the Maronite liturgy used to associate this with the priest removing the veil on the chalice, saying, "You are the flint rock which gave forth twelve rivers of water for the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel." Christ is the true rock from Whom flows the waters of life granting eternal life (John 4:14) that poured forth at His crucifixion. We are lambs branded with the sign of our Lord, the cross, given eternal life, and fed by the Body and Blood He has given us in His mercy. Nourished by these, we are consecrated as living temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19), and called to lives fitting to holy dwelling places of God.



**Gibran N Zogbi**

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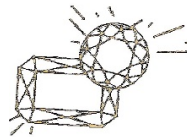
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