



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

February 16, 2020

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed



Next Sunday

Miracle of Cana in Galilee

Rom 14:14-23 (Consideration for the Weak Conscience)

Jn 2:1-11 (The Wedding at Cana)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 16th 10:30 am

+Raymond Bekahi

Monday, February 17th

+George and Dorothy Golomboqski

Tuesday, February 18th

Thad and Juliann Rask

Wednesday, February 19th

Available

Thursday, February 20th

Available

Friday, February 21st

Available

Saturday, February 22nd

In Thanksgiving for God's Mercy and Goodness

Sunday, February 23rd

+Linda Barnett

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 February 2nd - 8th

Online.....\$575.00

Collection.....\$1,228.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,803.00

YTD Total.....\$9,349.00

YTD Goal.....\$9,230.00

YTD Difference.....\$119.00

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, February 16th

Available

Sunday, February 23rd

Redmond Family

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

Please make your gift to the Lenten Appeal through your local parish. Place your gift in an envelope noted "Bishop's Appeal", or note "Bishop's Appeal" on your check. You may also make a gift online at www.eparchy.org.

Additional Ways to Help

Make a Bequest. A bequest is naming the Eparchy (or your parish) in your will. This can be for a specific amount of money, or a percentage of your estate. To do this, include this language in your will:

"I give and bequeath to the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles _____% of the residue of my estate [or: the sum of \$_____]."

Give from your IRA. Generally speaking, taxpayers who are age 70½ years old and older may give up to \$100,000 each year from their IRA to the Eparchy without paying the mandatory tax on IRA distributions. This is a significant benefit because taxes on an IRA are normally very high. The practical effect of this is that you can give more, tax free, from your IRA – and this makes it a very effective way to support the Church. Contact your broker or the Eparchy for more information about this.

Make the Eparchy a Beneficiary of Your Retirement Plan. Another way to help the Church is to name the Eparchy as the beneficiary of your retirement plan. This avoids estate taxes (which are often very high on retirement plans) – and can be tremendously helpful to the Church.

Make a Gift of Life Insurance. Naming the Eparchy as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy is a way to help the Church in the future while not impacting your income or lifestyle today. Ask your insurance agent or contact the Eparchy for more information about this.

"God loves a cheerful giver!" (2 Corinthians 9:7)



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles
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admin@eparchy.org www.eparchy.org

EPARCHY OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON OF LOS ANGELES

2020 Lenten Appeal

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Thank you for your support for the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles! The mission of the Eparchy is to serve you, the People of God, and to proclaim the Gospel message in today's world. But the Eparchy can only do that if it has your prayers and financial support.

As the Eparchy wraps up its 25th Anniversary celebration, we look ahead to a bright future. What does that future look like? Here are three key elements:

- We need to open new parishes to serve Maronites in many areas where there is not yet a parish, and build and strengthen our existing parishes and missions.
- We need to expand the services we provide for young people, families, and people who are going through difficult times in their lives.
- We need to continue to be a source of help and hope for the faithful in Lebanon and the Middle East, especially during these difficult days.

The Capital Campaign that the Eparchy is conducting over the next three years – *Vision for the Future, Mission for Today* – will help build the financial base to address these needs in the future.

Today, I would like to ask for your help with our **Annual Appeal** – to address the Eparchy's most important and **immediate** needs. These needs are described in this short brochure. Please read it carefully and prayerfully consider how you may help, and please be generous.

May God bless you and keep you!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+A.E. Zaidan

Bishop A. Elias Zaidan



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The Cedars of Saint Sharbel Youth Group Discussion Schedule:

All meetings held in upstairs classroom immediately following Sunday Mass.

FEB: 23rd - Mary : Her Motherhood, her Apparitions, the Rosary

MAR: 8th - Sacraments and Mysteries : Their meaning, Grace
22nd - What does it mean to be a man?...a woman?...a family?

APR: 19th - The Truth About God and Human Sexuality

MAY: 17th - Social Event: TBA



Save the Dates

*Ordination of Deacon Peter John
Feghli to the Order of Priests*

Vancouver, Washington
Saturday June 27, 2020

Celebration of his First Liturgy

Portland, Oregon
Sunday June 28, 2020

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.

Reflection

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

"I do not delight in the death of a sinner," said the Lord of Lords, "But that we should turn from his evil way and live" (Ez. 18:23). Scriptures makes God's mercy and compassion towards mankind very clear. At St. Ephrem points out, God gives every opportunity possible to Adam without infringing on his free will to make right his transgression. God, Who does not have feet, endows His presence with the sound of footsteps so that Adam knows God is coming. God, Who knows all things, asks where Adam is give him additional opportunity, asking him a series of questions He already to which He already knows the answers. Then God punishes the serpent and Eve before Adam to give Adam every last opportunity to repent and see the consequences before God turns to Adam. God gives every opportunity to Adam to repent for He does not delight in the death of a sinner. St. Ephrem says even the expulsion of Adam from the Garden is a mercy on God's part so that Adam would not eat of the Tree of Life and live eternally in separation from God. But from that very moment Christ began preparing the world with the Law and the prophets for His coming and self-sacrifice to restore mankind from its sin in His mercy.

This last Sunday of the commemorations we remember the faithful departed who have left from among us. Throughout our life on earth God blesses us with access to the wealth of mercies from His heavenly treasury through the priests, whom He has given them their role of distributing the mysteries of His Incarnation, the sacraments, for our salvation and life eternal. Knowing that we are sinners, God gives us every opportunity He can that we should turn to Him and ask for His mercy. Just as Christ descended to Sheol to bring Adam up to life eternal in heaven, so too does He give us an opportunity even in death. We try our very best, assisted by the Church, to serve God the best we can on Earth, and so wishes that each of us who love Him should be part of the righteous and just in heaven. For this purpose, He allows the dead to receive the assistance of the prayers of others still on Earth. As the deacon would chant on the memorial for a faithful departed in the traditional Maronite liturgy:

"O beloved of the dead who has left, show your love this way: do not mourn greatly for it does not benefit the departed. / Instead, make a banquet in the sanctuary of bread and wine through the priests on behalf of the soul of the departed for it shall give him rest. / The Lord shall see your love; He shall forgive the dead who has left, and He shall place his memorial in the sanctuary upon the table of forgiveness."

We do not mourn endlessly for the dead, as people without hope would, but we know just as Christ died and rose, He shall raise the dead (1 Thess. 1:13-14). The Mass is the greatest pledge of this eternal life for believers: Christ, Who is Life Himself, gave us His Body and Blood to consume by His death – but it is not dead Body and Blood, but living for He rose again, killing death itself. Therefore, it is most appropriate that we would ask for the forgiveness of sin for the dead in and through the sacrifice, the *Qurbono*, of the Mass. In confidence, we ask God, "May Your cross be an instrument of life, a bridge and an overpass for the souls and bodies who have been clothed in You by the waters of Baptism" (Mazmooro from the Memorial for a Faithful Departed). We who were baptized into Christ entered into His death so that we may also share in His immortal life (Rom. 6:4). He has granted us this not out of any obligation, but because He loves mankind, His image, and wishes to see us live, and live with Him for eternity. If we ever have any doubt of God's mercy, let us call to mind Adam who, despite his initial failure, was raised up from death for his faith. Knowing this, we have the Christian duty to pray for the faithful who have left from among us to the next world. Today and everyday, let us ask that God have mercy on them, and may He rest them in abodes of light with the righteous and the just.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

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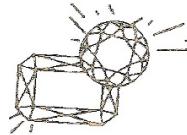
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