

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

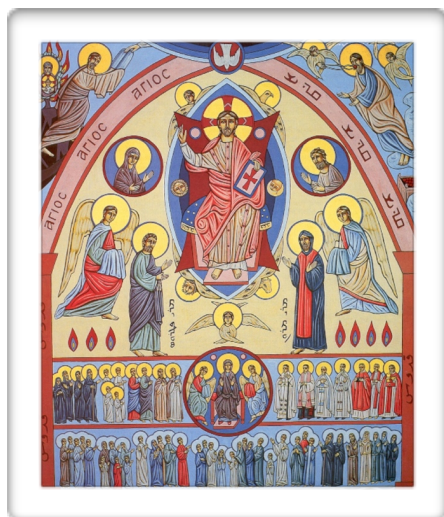
503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

February 9, 2020

Commemoration of the Righteous and the Just



Next Sunday

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

1 Thes 5:1-11 (Vigilance)

Lk 16:19-31 (The Parable of the Rich Man & Lazarus)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 9th 10:30 am

+Karam Karam

Monday, February 10th

Available

Tuesday, February 11th

Ella Rask

Wednesday, February 12th

Available

Thursday, February 13th

Available

Friday, February 14th

Available

Saturday, February 15th

+Sonia & Fayez Hatoum

Sunday, February 16th

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 at 10:00 am before the Liturgy begins.

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for January 26th - February 1st

Online.....\$145.00

Collection.....\$831.00

Weekly Total.....\$976.00

YTD Total.....\$7546.00

YTD Goal.....\$7384.00

YTD Difference.....\$162.00

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, February 9th

Available

Sunday, February 16th

Available

Parish / Community Events

DORIS SELLIKAN

A long time parishioner and one of our founding members, passed into eternal rest, May God rest her soul. Funeral plans are as follows:

Friday, February 14
Rosary at 10:30, St. Sharbel
Funeral Mass at 11:00
Mercy Meal 12:00 in parish hall

FEAST OF SAINT MARON

This weekend we celebrate the feast of St. Maron, the Patron of the Maronite Church. St. Maron was a priest of great asceticism, living in the open air, who converted a pagan temple into a church made for the worship of the One True God. Maron's faith in God and asceticism attracted disciples and followers that would eventually found a monastery in his name. From that monastery the Maronite Church and her people were born and flourished throughout the Levant. We pray with the Church throughout the world.

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.

The Cedars of Saint Sharbel Youth Group Discussion Schedule:

All meetings held in upstairs classroom immediately following Sunday Mass.

- FEB:** 9th - Youth and Young Adult Saints
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

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

Reflection

Commemoration of the Righteous and the Just

Let us laugh at death again with St. Paul, saying, “Where is your sting, oh death?” for on this second week of commemorations we recall the righteous and the just. As St. Matthew recorded in today’s Gospel reading, they have escaped death in eternal life (Matt. 25:46) because they pleased the Lord through their faith and actions in this world. But why do we remember them? They certainly provide us an example how to lead our lives. Rarely is Abraham, a biblical patriarch whose life is recorded in Genesis, ever mentioned in the Syriac tradition without being called righteous or just because he dedicated his life to the service of God. He left a land he knew for a land he did not, and when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac he was ready to do so, even though Isaac was what God had promised him (Heb. 11). Trusting in God, Abraham followed what he was instructed, and he was led to the Promised Land, and his son, through whom all the promises of God until Jesus Christ would come, was unharmed.

It is important to look to their lives to know, even in spite of their failures, they were still righteous, and the truths about salvation this reminds us. Christ descended to the dead to bring up Adam, who had disobeyed God’s commandment, both because of Christ’s immeasurable merciful love towards mankind, and the righteousness that came to Adam through faith in God. But our commemoration of the righteous and the just is more than calling to mind mere examples and truths. We know that through participation in the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, which we entered in baptism “if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of

righteousness” (Rom. 8:10). The righteous and just who have departed from this world now have a truer, eternal life with God – this is not a platitude, but it is an integral part of our faith. Having such proximity to God, the righteous and the just have the ability to intercede, or speak on our behalf, to God because of the merits of their righteousness and faith. St. Peter, a beloved friend of Jesus, and Mary, His mother, will implore Christ on our behalf if we only so much as ask them. Our Syriac tradition affirms the assistance of their prayers, as we often say on the feast of a saint “May your prayers be a fortress to us” – their prayers are not simply thoughts or feelings, but they obtain for us a protection and help that is spiritual and physical, manifest and unseen.

We know Mary and St. Peter are, of course, righteous and just, but who else? Anyone who has entered into the Kingdom of Heaven. The Church, with the authority Christ has given her, tells us who she knows is certainly there, and we call them canonized saints. Of course, the lists of these saints alone could fill vast books, so I will just mention a few traditional Maronite saints, apart from our currently well-known St. Sharbel and St. Rafka, whom we can rely upon for their help. Each are named righteous for very different reasons, but their lives illustrate the diverse manners we can please God with our lives. St. Shmooni, the name we give the Maccabean woman in 2 Mac. 7, refused to deny her faith with her seven sons and so all died in persecution at the hands of a pagan king. St. Simon the Stylite, a monk in the time and locale of St. Maron who dedicated four decades of his life to prayer and fasting upon a pillar (stylitis meaning pillar). Last but not least, St. Ephrem, the Harp of the Holy Spirit, who wrote many of our hymns and much of our theology. Just as each part of the body has their role, each part of the Body of Christ has its own role but it all works towards accomplishing His Kingdom.

Let us ask the Lord, through the prayers of all the righteous and just whom we commemorate this week and every day of our lives, that “we may be worthy of the banquet at the eleventh hour with the laborers who toiled in Your vineyard in justness and righteousness, now and at all times, forever. Amen.” (From the Syriac Maronite Evening Prayer for Monday).

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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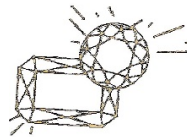
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