



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

March 29, 2020

Healing of the Blind Man



Next Sunday

Hosanna Sunday

Phil 1:1-13 (Greeting/Thanksgiving)

Jn 12:12-22 (The Entry into Jerusalem/Coming of Jesus' Hour)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for March 15th -21st

Online.....\$515.00

Collection.....\$318.00

Weekly Total.....\$833.00

YTD Total.....\$19,454.00

YTD Goal.....\$20,306.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$852.00**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, March 29th 10:30 am

+Doris Selliken

Monday, March 30th

Available

Tuesday, March 31st

Francesca Rooney

Wednesday, April 1st

Available

Thursday, April 2nd

Available

Friday, April 3rd

Available

Saturday, April 4th

Available

Sunday, April 5th

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.

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, March 29th

Available

Sunday, April 5

Available

Parish / Community Events

SUNDAY MASS LIVESTREAM LINK

**THIS SUNDAY, March 29, 2020 — <https://youtu.be/gMMVuYU4oCE> **

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

LETTER FROM ABOUNA

Brothers and sisters,

Know that I am praying for you daily as I offer a private Mass for your intentions. We must all continue, united in prayer, especially during this time. Last week I was worried about people becoming ill, this week I remain concerned but now worry about financial security. Let us recall that all things are made easier with God on our side.

We must follow the lead of civil authorities which prohibit gatherings, we are also choosing to follow Archbishop Sample's guidelines which call for all Masses to be cancelled through Holy Week, including Easter. Stay tuned for options were you might be allowed to come pray at church but only in very small numbers. I am hopeful that the restrictions might ease, but Easter is very close and it will be difficult to manage but let us not give up hope. I have a few ideas but I must vet them with the bishops, and the local authorities.

The Evil One wants to catch us during this time of weakness and the answer is clear and simple -- prayer! Here are ideas:

- Gather as a family, pray the Divine Office* especially on Sunday mornings
- Gather a family or in very small group and pray the rosary on any day
- Make an Act of Spiritual Communion, do this on Sundays especially

In other news, **we have no choice but to cancel the Mother's Day Hafli.** Know that I am convening the Parish Finance Council to review our finances, but my initial assessment is we are in adequate state for at least 4-5 months. That assumes we don't run the heat and we are prudent.

The most important thing to me is your health and safety, and your salvation. As long as we stay together as a community -- calling one another, sharing resources, gathering in prayer, we will be fine.

I can honestly say, now more than ever, that I love each of you as my own family.

You are in my constant prayer, day and night.

God bless,
Abouna

*The Deacons or Gibran Zogbi can help direct you to the Divine Office -- Kristina posted on the website, but it is also posted on www.maronitefaith.com (choose Sunday morning prayer).

It's that time again for NAM's annual Spring Raffle - see flyer.

Contact Nadia Redmond email: n.redmond@comcast.net or call: 503-671-0440 if you are interested in purchasing a ticket for yourself or as a group.

We have 4 tickets to sell out of 450 tickets that are sent to all the Maronite parishes. Deadline is April 1st.



*The National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM)
Presents*

*The 27th Annual Spring Raffle - 2020
Only 450 Tickets are printed
Donation: \$100 per ticket*

This just may be the year your lucky number is chosen!!!!

Cash Prizes!!!

1st	\$10,000.00
2nd	\$3,000.00
3rd	\$2,000.00
4th	\$1,500.00
5th	\$1,000.00

This year's drawing will be held on **April 26th, 2020** at St. Joseph, Sandy Springs (Atlanta), Georgia;

Thank you for your support in previous years for this raffle fund-raiser, as it is an important part of the NAM annual budget. We are counting on your generosity once again, to support our community projects.

To purchase a personal ticket(s), your parish NAM Delegates have 4 tickets to sell, please contact Christopher or Nadia Redmond at 503-671-0440 or email: n.redmond@comcast.net

All requests and payments must be received by **April 1st, 2020.**

www.namnews.org

Readings

Sunday March 29, 2020

2 Cor 10:1-7 (Accusation of Weakness)

I myself, Paul, appeal to you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold towards you when I am away! I ask that when I am present I need not show boldness by daring to oppose those who think we are acting according to human standards. Indeed, we live as human beings, but we do not wage war according to human standards; for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ. We are ready to punish every disobedience when your obedience is complete. Look at what is before your eyes. If you are confident that you belong to Christ, remind yourself of this, that just as you belong to Christ, so also do we.

Mk 10:46-52 (The Blind Bartimaeus)

They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Reflection

Healing of the Blind Man

Bartimaeus the blind man gives testimony to the immeasurable generosity and love for mankind of the Good Physician, Jesus Christ. Our Lord Himself said to those who listened to Him, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened" (Matt. 7:7-8). God's generosity towards us cannot be overstated for, as we know, the Immortal and Untouchable became mortal and vulnerable to heal us and forgive our sins ultimately even dying so that we may live. Though God's generosity is so abundant, we must also ask for His help for He has given us free will in His love because love cannot be received involuntarily. So let us look to Bartimaeus as an example of someone who knows how to call upon the Lord and ask Him for His assistance.

Our Lord Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a physician, but the sick" (Mark 2:17). One who is healthy would not consult a physician because they would see no need. But Bartimaeus calls upon Christ because he knows that he is blind and that he is limited by his blindness. It would be an absurd image if Bartimaeus insisted he was not blind and tried to live his daily life as not impeded, stumbling around town and struggling through daily tasks. The first guidance the story of Bartimaeus gives to the Christian through his life is that we must acknowledge our sickness. Everyone is alive is spiritually sick in some sense, and so all must seek the Physician of the Soul – Jesus Christ. However, many are spiritually blind and think they are healthy and without need of the Physician. It is just as absurd as a blind man claiming to have sight if one thinks about how often we might fail throughout our daily lives. That is why the first step we must take to becoming spiritually better is acknowledge that we do indeed have something wrong, even if we are not quite sure what it is.

Bartimaeus could have despaired in his blindness but instead he chose to have hope that Jesus Christ was a wise enough physician to heal him so he calls out loudly to Christ. It is not enough to recognize that one is sick – but that person goes to a physician whom they trust to cure them. Bartimaeus confidently chooses the Physician Who can heal all illnesses. Even when others might have laughed at him or told him to keep quiet, perhaps because he or his illnesses was not important enough in their minds, he persisted. Because of his faith, Christ called him to himself. If we have true faith in Christ to heal us we must call Him with confidence. Though others may laugh or tell us to keep quiet, and He might not respond the first time, we must persist in knowing only Christ can heal all infirmities.

One must pay a physician appropriately for their work, but how does one pay the One Who needs nothing? You cannot. But Bartimaeus, knowing this, gives Christ the only thing he can – his faith in calling out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Bartimaeus has nothing he can give Jesus other than his abandonment in sincere faith. Jesus, in turn, heals him for this very reason. The acts we perform, the alms we pay, the fasting we make during Lent are all pleasing to God – in fact, He asks that we do all this – but He does not need them, nothing we can give God can make Him greater or wealthier. Recognizing this, Bartimaeus calls to Him in love and faith, though it adds nothing to Jesus. Bartimaeus gives us, then, a great pattern for prayer. In fact this is why the Eastern Christians have adopted a custom for many centuries of repeating to oneself throughout the day a slightly modified version of Bartimaeus's prayer, "Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!" Though we could not offer God anything to make Him richer, He responds in generosity to our love and faith in Him. Once we have recognized we have made ourselves ill by the wounds of sin we can call upon God for His assistance. Without fail the Physician will always outdo our love in responding to our call.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

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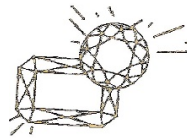
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