



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

March 8, 2020

Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman



Next Sunday

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

2Cor 13:5-13 (Final Warnings and Appeals)

Lk 15:11-32 (The Parable of the Lost Son)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for February 23rd -29th

Online.....\$1,645.00

Collection.....\$862.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,507.00

YTD Total.....\$15,690.00

YTD Goal.....\$14,768.00

YTD Difference.....\$922.00

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, March 8th 10:30 am

Available

Monday, March 9th

Available

Tuesday, March 10th

Available

Wednesday, March 11th

Available

Thursday, March 12th

Available

Friday, March 13th

Francesca Rooney

Saturday, March 14th

Available

Sunday, March 15th

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 8th

Available

Sunday, March 15th

Available

Parish / Community Events

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

SUNDAY AFTER MASS

Meet to Discuss: Financial Statements & Hafli

ALL parish Council Members and anyone interested in Hafli should please attend.

Meet in the church on side altar area outside Abouna's Office.

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

Lenten Schedule

Stations of the Cross in English and Arabic — **Fridays during Lent, 7:00pm**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament — **Sundays during Lent, 9:00am**

Holy Week Schedule available at stsharbel.org

The Cedars of Saint Sharbel Youth Group Discussion Schedule:

All meetings held in upstairs classroom immediately following Sunday Mass.

MAR: 8th - CANCELLED!

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



*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

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.

Reflection

Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman

It is part of common human experience to be excluded from something. Perhaps you are excluded by fellow students or coworkers from a group for an old grudge or family members might keep you at a distance because of your faith. However it manifests, social exclusion is an unfortunate inevitability of human relationships and hurtful. In the today's reading from the Gospel the hemorrhaging woman is exactly that – a social reject. According to Jewish purity laws, she is dirty because of her illness. If any other Jew deemed pure by the Law were to touch her that person would become ritually impure, defiled and in need of being ritually purified else they make others impure as well. This poor woman was suffering, and her suffering was increased by her rejection from others. So she tried all earthly doctors' remedies, but none helped (Luke 8:43). Only Christ can help her, and so we see in this miracle, just like in the healing of the blind man, Christ's place as the Good Physician when He allows her to touch Him and be healed.

Christ knew rejection as He was the cornerstone that the builders had rejected (Ps. 118:22). Though without need, our all-powerful God descended to enter the trials of humanity and defeat them – rejection being one of them. Each time Christ heals someone or helps He is attacked by His enemies until the point where they kill Him. But He does so knowing He will die so that He can save humanity from the death of sin. The hemorrhaging woman, rejected by all, tries all human means of getting better. But, as King David says, "trust not in princes" (Ps. 146:3) for "our help is in the name of the Lord" (Ps. 124:8). Sin is a battle we cannot win by ourselves. Adam lost in the Garden, and if we try to be pure of sin on our own we will always fail. But, like the hemorrhaging woman who was discouraged by others, if we spiritually reach out and grab the Pure One, Jesus Christ, we shall be healed. Those who thought themselves pure laughed at the Pure One for their self-conceit blinded them from the truth of whose presence they were in (Luke 8:53). But that day, it was the hemorrhaging woman, the impure one, who was truly made pure because of her daring faith to grab the Pure One (Luke 8:48), and the "pure" who reviled her are truly the impure.

The sickness of sin is an epidemic in humanity, but the Good Physician has already come and prepared the cure in His love. Those who think they are healthy will not take the medicine – though in reality no one living is righteous before God (Ps. 143:2). We must look to the hemorrhaging woman as our inspiration for boldness, and our faith must overcome both our sense of self-sufficiency and fear. We will neither seek the medicine of our sin if we think we are well nor will we approach Him who gives it if we are too afraid. But let us not fear if we truly love Christ for He gives us every opportunity for our salvation. Let us receive the Good Physician's prescription, Lent, which He has written to prepare us to receive the ultimate Medicine of Life, His Eucharist made possible by His sacrifice on the cross. In keeping with this Lenten prescription, let us fast from food and negative deeds, as well as let us give alms to the poor and pray.

All the sick and sinful Christ heals and accepts are an example calling us to repent – the tax collector, the thief who was crucified with Him, Mary Magdalene, and the hemorrhaging woman. Though the Mass is the source and summit of our worship as Christians, and the Eucharist is receiving Christ Himself, we should constantly pray asking for His mercy. Our Syriac tradition stresses the power of the cross, the symbol that stands in place of all the life-saving actions of Christ. We might not have the highest medicine of the Good Physician available to us all the time, but every hour of the day we have His cross available to us. Let us make this holy sign, a holy means of access to Him, throughout our day, approaching Him in strong faith, and asking to be healed of all that sickens us for He wishes us to be well.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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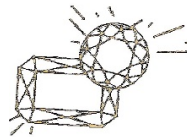
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