



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

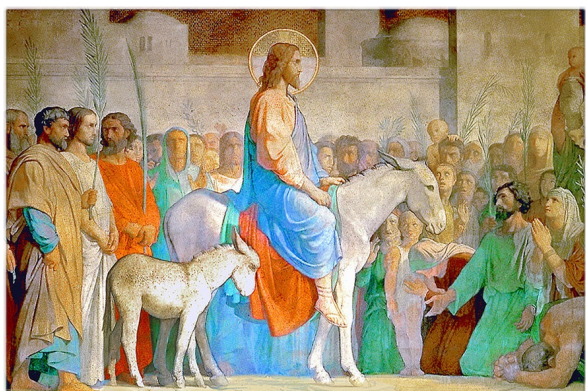
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stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

April 5, 2020

Hosanna Sunday



Next Sunday

Sunday of the Glorious Resurrection

1Cor 15:12-26 (Results of Denial/Christ the Firstfruits)

Mk 16:1-8 (The Resurrection of Jesus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for March 22nd -28th

Online.....\$1,145.00

Collection.....\$0.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,145.00

YTD Total.....\$20,599.00

YTD Goal.....\$22,152.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,553.00**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, April 5th 10:30 am

Available

Monday, April 6th

+Antoinette Semaan

Tuesday, April 7th

Available

Wednesday, April 8th

Available

Thursday, April 9th

Available

Friday, April 10th

Available

Saturday, April 11th

Available

Sunday, April 12th

Not 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, April 5th

Available

Sunday, April 12th

Available

Parish / Community Events

SUNDAY MASS LIVESTREAM LINK

THIS SUNDAY, April 5, 2020 — https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1a1NUU34JA&feature=youtu.be

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

HOLY WEEK LIVESTREAM LINKS

Holy Thursday — <https://youtu.be/Ao0BqfzzDzo>

Great Friday — <https://youtu.be/jAu6QqD57X0>

Easter Sunday — https://youtu.be/_yUw_16WE



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles
Office of the Bishop

Prot. 30/01/20

April 2, 2020

Dear Clergy and Faithful of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles,

I know these times have been challenging for us as individuals, as a Church, and indeed for the whole world. Many people are suffering from illness, lack of employment and the uncertainties that confront us. As you are aware most, if not all, of our churches are closed to the public as are many other places where people gather. From our understanding of this virus, this seems to be wise and prudent. Each day we hear stories of people coming forward and helping neighbors and strangers alike.

I write to ask those of you that have the resources to do so, to assist our parishes to pay their own bills and to offer additional assistance to those in need. The income of all of our parishes has been curtailed, sometimes to a very high decrease in donations. Utilities, salaries and overall maintenance bills continue.

People call our parishes and knock on our doors asking for some type of financial assistance. Most of our Churches have provided what they can, but the need continues to rise. As we worry about our individual homes and our loved ones, it is important we do not forget the Church which is our common home. Remember, the Church is here to assist in every way. We are here to serve you and we work for the well-being of everyone. We pray that no one is in need at this time, and we must always keep in mind to take care of each other, especially in these difficult times.

As His Holiness, Pope Francis said in his Extraordinary Moment of Prayer this past Friday, "Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying 'We are perishing' (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this." We need to work together during this difficult time. Whatever time it takes, we will overcome this adversity with the grace of God sooner than later.

Again, if you are in a position to assist, I ask that you do so. Many of our parishes have on-line giving or "donate" buttons on their websites. Please find a way to help. It is a call of solidarity to assist and support each other in times of need. However, I call on everyone to pray for each other, for the end of the pandemic, for the affected by the virus, and for people working to alleviate the pains and burdens.

With my gratitude, best wishes, and prayers for your well-being, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ A. Elias Zaidan

Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

Readings

Sunday April 5, 2020

Phil 1:1-13

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. I want you to know, beloved, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ.

Jn 12:12-22

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord the King of Israel!' Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: 'Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!' His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. The Pharisees then said to one another, 'You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!' Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Reflection

Hosanna Sunday

When you hear the word “cherub,” or its plural “cherubim,” the first thing you might think of is a chubby baby-faced angel with glimmering eyes and feathery wings, perhaps carrying a bow. In reality our Lord revealed to the prophet Ezekiel that the cherubim, who carry His throne in heaven, are angels each surrounded by fire, covered with eyes and having four-faces – of an ox, a human, a lion and an eagle. Isaiah also tells us that surrounding the cherubim, who carry the throne, are the legions that serve God, the seraphim, which are angels of burning fire and lightning with six thrashing wings, crying out, “Holy, holy, holy...” If imagining these angels in real life sounds more frightening than the chubby, popularly depicted cherub it makes sense why when an angel appears to a person in Scripture, such as Mary, the first thing he says is, “Do not be afraid!” Now if these angels sound powerful and amazing how much more is their Lord Jesus Christ Who commands their innumerable armies?

“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt,” wrote John in today’s Gospel reading. The same Lord Who Ezekiel saw carried by the dreadful cherubim today enters Jerusalem on a donkey, a lowly, smelly creature, and, instead of fiery seraphim, is praised with shouts of “Hosanna!” from the mouths of children. But why would the mighty Lord, Who has no superior, lower Himself so low? He traded splendor for humility and strength for weakness that He might come close to humanity. Just as in His birth, which we celebrated at Christmas, He had no need or obligation to become man. But He saw those made in His image, humanity, decaying in sin and in His love for mankind wished to free us from our affliction. He could have very well come in all His might and glory – as He said at His crucifixion when His enemies challenged Him, “Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and He will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?” But in His infinite love for us the Great One became small so as to allow us to freely choose Him without duress. He knew He was entering Jerusalem on the Sunday of Hosannas, Palm Sunday, only to be murdered at the end of the week, and He washed the feet of all His Apostles at the Last Supper knowing that Judas would yet betray Him. But in God’s mercy He would rather give opportunity to all rather than seek retribution against offenders.

So the Divine Physician, having made Himself lowly, came into Jerusalem to work the greatest act of healing after the few we celebrated this Lent that represent the far greater number of His ministry. As our traditional diaconal proclamation on this Sunday said:

On this holy day let Adam, the Ancient One and Father of All Generations whose body grew old in sin by the food of the fruit that begot death, rejoice. Today it [i.e. his body] was raised upon the colt of a donkey while united with divinity. Behold, He [i.e. Jesus] is placed upon the altar and distributed by the hands of priests!

Adam poisoned himself with sin and death by the fruit he ate in the Garden of Eden but Christ our God lowered Himself to become human, without change to His divinity, so as to join humanity with His divinity. Though He appears lowly to the naked eye seated upon a donkey today, He has uplifted all of humanity to the heights of heaven by joining humanity and divinity in His Body. He chose to replace the food, which killed Adam, with His own Body and Blood that grants us the remission of sin and life eternal. The offering of His Body and Blood is what He has come to offer as a final sacrifice in Jerusalem upon the altar of the cross, which we are given at every Divine Liturgy. Let us not be afraid but rejoice with Adam this day and all the days of our lives for the King of Kings has entered His holy Zion, the Church, and has promised, “Never again will an oppressor overrun my people, for now I am keeping watch” (Zec. 9:8).

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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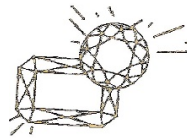
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