

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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www.stsharbel.org

May 10, 2020

Jesus Delivers the Office of Shepherd to Peter



Next Sunday

Jesus Appears to the Apostles in the Upper Room

Rom 10:1-13 (Righteousness Based on Faith)

Lk 24:36-48 (The Appearance to the Disciples in Jerusalem)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for April 26th - May 2nd

Online.....\$245.00

Collection.....\$0.00

Weekly Total.....\$245.00

YTD Total.....\$26,014.00

YTD Goal.....\$31,382.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$5,368.00**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, May 10th 10:30 am

Available

Monday, May 11th

Available

Tuesday, May 12th

Available

Wednesday, May 13th

Available

Thursday, May 14th

Available

Friday, May 15th

Available

Saturday, May 16th

Available

Sunday, May 17th

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, May 10th

Available

Sunday, May 17th

Available

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

Sunday, May 10, 2020, 10:30am

We're doing things a little differently this Sunday. Rather than sending out a link to a specific video, we'll be sending out the link to the Youtube Channel itself. Then Parishioners will just have to click on the video with the corresponding Mass date.

Channel Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi8CEQIEnX-VeERKBMqhKRA>

We'll be using this same link every week since it connects to St. Sharbel's Youtube Channel. The only thing that will change is that each week new videos will be added to that channel. Some changes are being made to the streaming process this Sunday so we've had to adjust for the changes.

REMINDERS FOR MASS

Saturday and Sunday Masses — Must Sign up ahead of time.

1. You will need to come with a mask. Mask may be removed to receive Communion obviously. We don't have masks to give you so please bring one.
2. I cannot give Communion outside of Mass – this means in your cars, on the sidewalk, etc. Communion for the homebound is suppressed also at this time.
3. Sit only in spot marked on pews. Remain physically distant as you enter and exit the church through the basement entrance only.
4. No lingering after Mass, you will need to leave directly.
5. If your name is not of the sign up list the ushers cannot allow you to come in. We will need to be strict about this and apologize in advance for problems that might arise.
6. I will not be offering private confessions. I will offer corporate general absolution in the few minutes before Mass starts to those who are seated and prepared.
7. I request you only use the downstairs entrance, below the main stairs, the other doors will be closed, this will help us to be able to clean commonly touched surfaces.
8. We will not allow use of missals, or other books in the pews. Do your best with the responses.
9. There will only be Communion in the hand, not by intinction. I am sorry, but at this time it is the best I can do. If you have a real and abiding problem with this and have been scheduled to attend Mass you are welcome to take it up with me personally before coming to church.
10. Only people who are members of the parish are eligible at this point to attend our limited Masses. If you have been coming regularly, and are not registered elsewhere but have not registered with us, now is the time to do this. Archbishop has asked that we keep people going to the parishes they are registered as a way to respect fair and equitable access to all.

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Readings

Sunday May 10, 2020

Eph 2:1-10 (Generosity of God's Plan)

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Jn 21:15-19 (Jesus and Peter)

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

Reflection

Would you consider yourself holy? It is an interesting question if we are ever asked. It might prompt you to recall saying a recent hurtful remark in impatience, skipping prayer or one of the many other abundant flaws of messy human life. If we sit down and thoroughly think of all our faults it could seem that there is an insurmountable distance between us and the holiness of God. And perhaps at certain moments of our lives there is such a divide – but as St. Athanasius said, “God became man so that we might become God” (CCC460). Adam damaged the image of God in which we were all made, but Christ came to recast it!

Nowhere does God make His compassion towards our broken nature clearer than when He picks St. Peter, an uneducated and unimpressive fisherman who often did not understand Christ’s miracles or sayings, to be the head of the Apostles. When Christ gives Peter the power to walk on water as he requests, Peter doubts Him and sinks (Matt. 14:22-33). When Jesus tells His disciples that He will be crucified and resurrected for the salvation of mankind, Peter rejects the divine plan for his little plans (Matt. 16:21-23). When Peter tells Christ he will never abandon Him, in the same night he denies Christ three times (Luke 22:54-62). Peter shows his weakness of faith and understanding, but Jesus does not abandon him – instead He pulls him up out of the waves, He corrects Peter in his error, and, in today’s Gospel reading, we hear Jesus give him a chance to undo his triple denial by a triple question, “Do you love me?”

How patient and longsuffering God is! When He created everything for Adam and Adam sinned against Him, God began to immediately plan for his salvation. He sent no less than 70 prophets to Israel to bring them back to Him over the course of thousands of years, and when Israel killed His prophets He came Himself. Even St. Peter, the man He appointed as the head of His Church, failed again and again. But Christ did not abandon him because of Peter’s repentance and love – which he proclaimed three times to Christ today. It is by both repentance and love Christ wipes away his sins. But it is not enough that Peter simply repents by telling the Lord he loves Him – Jesus sends Peter to work, “Feed my lambs. Take care of my sheep. Feed my lambs” The true work of penance for Peter is the distribution of Christ’s abundant upon Earth, which Christ has made available to us through the Church.

Peter has been given the keys to the heavenly treasury from which the priests distribute the riches of God to those who need them. These men who distribute them are nowhere near perfect – look at Peter! However, their imperfections do not lessen the greatness of God – if anything, their weakness shows how mighty God is that He could work His mercy through such weak and sinful servants. The treasures they distribute are the holy mysteries of our Lord Who made them available that we might partake of His holiness. From this treasury, the priests dressed us in the rich robe of Christ at our baptism, removing the filthy robe of sinful decay from us. The Body and Blood of our Lord are the fiery coal that Isaiah said not even the angels could touch without a tong (Is. 6:6) but that the human priests hold in their hand and give to us that our sins be burned away. Like the Sinful Woman, our tears of penance wash away the sin that covers up these adornments and the priests give us the gold assurance of God “I absolve you.” Of course, these are only three of the innumerable riches Christ gives us through the Church!

Would you consider yourself holy? Perhaps there is still a great distance to go in life and many improvements to be made, but let us look to the example of St. Peter. Instead of falling deeper into sin because we know it is in us, let us turn to Christ in our love for Him and have Him take it away. He has given us all these countless blessings for love of us, who are His image. Let us make use of them, crying out and praying:

Simon Peter called to You in the sea and You answered him between the waves, and You helped him in at a fearful time. O, I am drowning in the sea of sins! Pull me out because of Your goodness and have mercy upon me! (From the Syriac Maronite Midnight Office of Saturday)

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish

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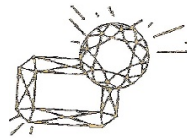
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