



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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www.stsharbel.org

May 17, 2020

Jesus Appears to the Apostles in the Upper Room



Next Sunday

Week of the Resurrection/Ascension

Rom 10:1-13 (The Promise of the Spirit/Ascension of Jesus/The First Community in Jerusalem)

Mk 16:15-20 (The Commissioning of the Eleven/The Ascension of Jesus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for May 3rd - May 9th

Online.....\$1,433.00

Collection.....\$0.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,433.00

YTD Total.....\$27,447.00

YTD Goal.....\$33,228.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$5,781.00**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, May 17th 10:30 am

Available

Monday, May 18th

Available

Tuesday, May 19th

Available

Wednesday, May 20th

Available

Thursday, May 21st

Available

Friday, May 22nd

Available

Saturday, May 23rd

Available

Sunday, May 24th

+40 day memorial Abdo Massad

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 17th

Available

Sunday, May 24th

Redmond Family

Parish / Community Events

Sunday, May 17, 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.

Parish Council

+Bruce Ashford
(Treasurer)

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Nick El Hajj

Agopos Ghossein

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Anne Marentette
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+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Mitch Siekmann

Laif Waldron

Ex Officio

+Deacon Tony

+Deacon Wadih

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Readings

Sunday May 17, 2020

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

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I can testify that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they have not submitted to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" ' (that is, to bring Christ down)'or "Who will descend into the abyss?" ' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

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

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?

Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Reflection

“Who amongst kings would have a crown of thorns placed upon himself? When and where have you heard of such a king who would wear this kind of crown?” scoffed the wicked thief at the crucifixion of our Lord on Good Friday (according to our Syriac tradition of dialogue hymns). In the eyes of the world, Jesus, Who saved so many and worked such great miracles, was a failure on Good Friday – He was hanged upon a cross and crowned with a crown of thorns in mockery. But the Good Thief retorts with wisdom that surpasses even the Apostles at that time, “A man is unable to do this, but Jesus is imperishable. He has uprooted the thorns of the earth by His thorns in order to free Adam from the curse.” A human king, which is what the wicked thief thought Jesus claimed to be, would wear a gold crown and struggle to exert his rule over those who defy him. Jesus, our God, is a king without question, Who assumed the lowest parts of our humanity to elevate us in our fallen state to His divine nature. Jesus is the Immortal and Almighty God, but as the priest prays in our liturgy, “You have assumed what is ours and You have given us what is Yours.” In today’s Gospel reading, Christ assures His Apostles by His own appearance in a real body that His true bodily and human death was to offer immortal life to us.

“It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have” (Luke 24:39) said our Lord in appearing to His disciples once again. Having seen Christ in the flesh and as a man, many of the disciples believed Jesus was dead after His crucifixion. And He did truly die – He was not a ghost, but He had actual hands and feet that were nailed, as well as His side that was pierced, blood that was spilled and breath that left Him. Christ died in His humanity, but He is the Immortal Lord and so He rose again from the dead three days later with the same human body. If Christ had not truly been human, He would not have assumed all our human frailties and raised them up to participate in His divine nature redeeming us from the fall of Adam. If Christ had not truly been divine, He would have simply died, not been raised and all we do would be in vain as St. Paul says (1 Cor. 15:14) because a mere man would not have had power to save us from sin and death. But God, Who does not have hands or feet, assumed them in His human birth so that He might be near us as another human being, and ultimately die as a human. But, being God, He descended to the place of the dead, Sheol, and destroyed death and sin for all Who follow Him – this is why He says elsewhere that, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). Christ has already seen death and conquered it for those who follow Him for “the one who believes in me will live, even though they die” (John 11:25). They will live not only in memory but in the Kingdom of Heaven and will rise from the dead, as Christ did, sharing in His divine reality if they only follow Him through the trials He has already faced before us.

Assuring His Apostles, Luke records Jesus as having said, “Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me...This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem” (Luke 24:44,46-47). Death seems to be a hopeless reality if we face it as humans. Those who thought Christ was only man thought He was destroyed at His death. A crown of thorns was the perfect mockery as all His suffering would have been pointless had He only been a man dying for Himself. But Christ is God and life itself Who destroyed death by His death, and gave to humanity His divinity in eternal life by His rising. We need only to repent from our sins, which bring death upon us like Adam, and turn back to Him Who patiently waits for us to respond to His appearing.

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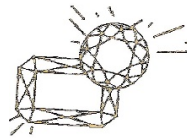
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