



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

July 26, 2020

The Mission of God's Messenger



Next Sunday

The Apostles Proclaim the Kingdom

1Cor 12:1-11 (Unity and Variety)

Mt 12:22-32 (Jesus and Beelzbul)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for July 12th - 18th

Online.....\$1,470.00

Collection.....\$1,351.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,821.00

YTD Total.....\$47,351.29

YTD Goal.....\$51,688.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$4,336.71**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, July 26th 10:30 am

Available

Monday, July 27th

Available

Tuesday, July 28th

Available

Wednesday, July 29th

Available

Thursday, July 30th

Available

Friday, July 31st

Available

Saturday, August 1st

Available

Sunday, August 2nd

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, July 26th

Available

Sunday, August 2nd

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, July 26, 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.



The poster features a gold cross icon at the top. Below it, the text reads "MARONITE SERVANTS' COME & SEE TOUR". It specifies the event is "Open to ladies (ages 18-35)" on "Saturday August 8th 6-8pm EST". A yellow button says "Visit our Website". Below this is a collage of three photos: a large white building, three women in headscarves, and a stone wall. The text continues: "Join the Sisters for a Come & See Virtual tour of the Convent, prayer and see how we live our day to day life." It says "See you on Zoom." and "Click on the below link by August 3 to RSVP." A final yellow button says "Register here".

REMINDERS FOR MASS

- 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.
- 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.
- Sit only in spot marked on pews. Remain physically distant as you enter and exit the church through the basement entrance only.
- No lingering after Mass, you will need to leave directly.
- 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.
- 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.
- We will not allow use of missals, or other books in the pews. Do your best with the responses.
- 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.

Reflection

“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing,” our Lord tells us. What our Lord refers to is a prophecy from Isaiah that the Father sent Him to proclaim good news to the poor, bring freedom to prisoners, recover the sight of the blind and liberate the oppressed (Is. 61:1,2). These are quite remarkable objectives our Lord says have been fulfilled in our hearing. But though He says they have been fulfilled, we are still saddled with all the burdens of our life. What kind of good news and freedom has liberated us if we still endure the misery and constraint of the same old?

The Old Testament, as recorded by the prophets, often had an immediate historical meaning. In the case of Isaiah, he spoke for God promising the Jews that they would be returned to the Holy Land from their forced exile and deportation to far Eastern lands. But God did not simply wish to speak to the exiles of that short time through Isaiah, but all who suffer the more serious and permanent exile and enslavement under sin and death. If the Old Testament was purely historical and literal, we would not read it today. But the word was revealed to prepare all for the coming of the fulfillment of all: the Word God, Jesus Christ.

When Christ says He has come to announce good news to the poor and liberate the oppressed, it is clearly understood in a different way from those who listened to Isaiah centuries before. Christ came to free us as prisoners of Satan and break the shackles of death. To His enemies, it seemed He was defeated Himself – He was publicly beaten and executed. But He descended to the dead to liberate them, and by His Mysteries, He has given us life.

The Scriptures He has given us, both through the prophets in the Old Testament and the evangelists and Apostles in the New Testament, prepare us once again for the Coming of the Lord. They are our means of knowing the liberation and freedom that Christ has granted us by His life-giving life, death and resurrection. As St. Ephrem explains, Scripture is an inexhaustible fountain, which quenches the thirst of the soul. We should return to it again and again like water – never would we stop drinking water simply because we are tired of drinking for we need it to live. Likewise, the Scriptures are so rich the wealth of revelation can never be fully comprehended, yet repeated use of it brings about life and health of the soul.

Fulfilled in our hearing of the Scriptures is the reception of our good news, freedom, healing and liberation, which Christ brought us by His coming. We have the means to these in reading the Sacred Scriptures. Each book of Scripture is like a piece of armor – one a shield, one a sword, one a helmet, one a breastplate, and the like. One would not go into battle without armor, and likewise one should not enter the conflict of the world without Scripture, often polished and sharpened by daily reading. Of course, one can misuse armor – if one puts a helmet on one’s foot, it not only does not work, but would probably be a hindrance. Likewise, Scripture does have proper interpretation. Not only has God sent us His revelation through the saintly prophets, evangelists and apostles, but also the means to interpret them in the Church – the great fathers, such as Ephrem the Syrian, Jacob of Sarug, Origen, and John Chrysostom. Wonderful places to begin are Ephrem’s Commentary on Genesis or Jacob’s many homilies on the Gospel.

If we neglect the Scriptures, we neglect what Christ has wished to reveal to us about Himself throughout thousands of years of revelation. But if we listen to them attentively, we shall find the good news and liberation which Christ Jesus has promised us.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

2925 SE 73rd Avenue
Hillsboro, OR, 97213
Bus 503-649-9514 Fax 503-649-1612
gibran.zogbi.qdmq@statefarm.com



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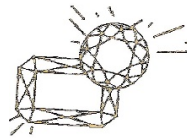
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