



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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[www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)

## Aug 9, 2020

### The Fruit of the Message to the Jews



### Next Sunday

*The Fruit of the Message to the Gentiles*

**Eph 3:1-13** (Commission to Preach God's Plan)

**Mt 15:21-28** (The Canaanite Woman's Faith)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for July 26th - Aug 1st*

Online.....\$305.00

Collection.....\$0.00

Weekly Total.....\$305.00

YTD Total.....\$49,551.29

YTD Goal.....\$55,380.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$5,828.71**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, August 9th 10:30 am

*Available*

Monday, August 10th

*Available*

Tuesday, August 11th

*Available*

Wednesday, August 12th

*Available*

Thursday, August 13th

*Available*

Friday, August 14th

*Available*

Saturday, August 15th

*Andrew Billington*

Sunday, August 16th

*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, August 9th

*Available*

Sunday, August 16th

*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

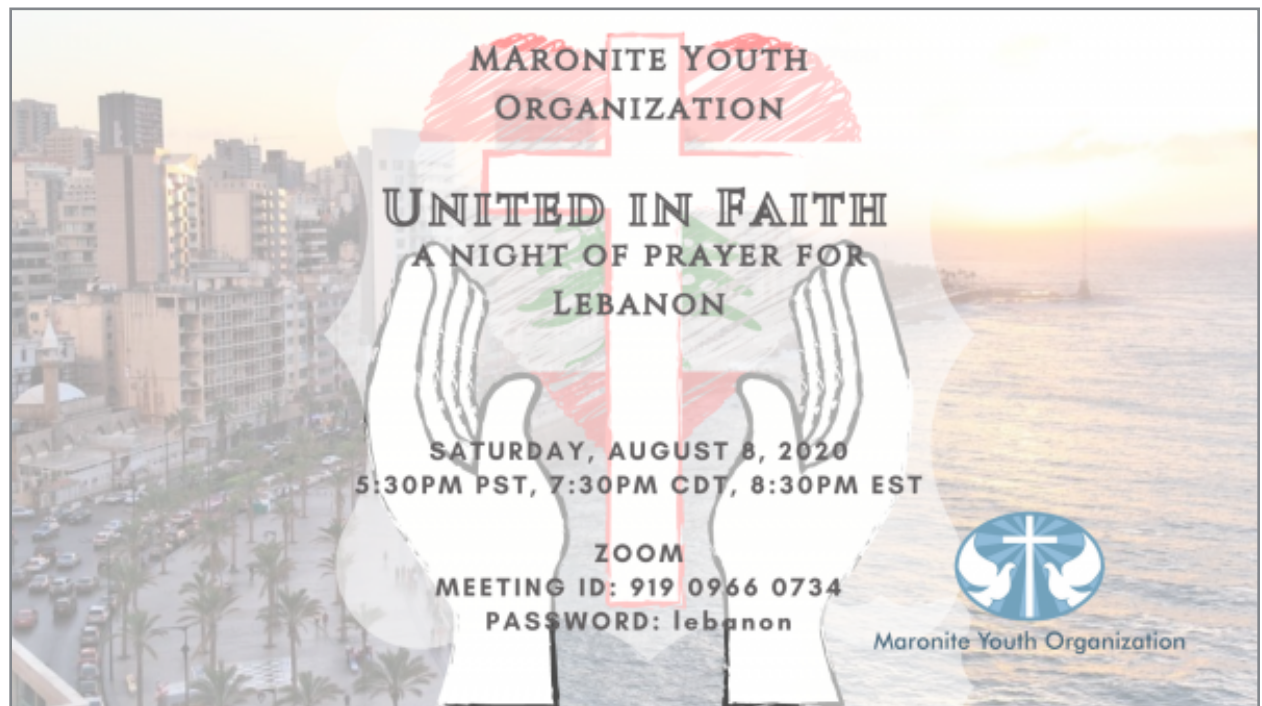
Sunday, August 9, 2020, 10:30am

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.



## **COVID MASS POLICIES**

- 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

A common protest to going to church is that it is full of hypocrites – “why should I go to church if it is full of sinners?” “These people claim to be seeking God yet I know their many faults!” In today’s Gospel reading, the people of Jericho mutter similar things when Jesus accepts to be a guest in the house of Zacchaeus the tax collector. Zacchaeus was seen as a public enemy and a sinner because he collected taxes from fellow Jews on behalf of the Roman Empire, which was seen as an invasive foreign power. Worse, Zacchaeus not only worked for the enemy but he overcharged taxes to take the extra for himself. It was a shock, then, when Jesus, our God known in Israel as a just prophet and teacher, accepted to go to Zacchaeus’s house instead of those who keep all the Law and call themselves righteous. Why would Christ go to this sinner rather than those who are known amongst men as righteous?

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10) as Christ says Himself. Earlier in Luke’s Gospel, Christ says, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:31-32). As St. Jacob of Sarug wrote about Zacchaeus, “The Good Physician did not descend to heal the healthy...whoever is sick calls a physician to come to him.” As we so often emphasize in the Syriac tradition, Christ came down from heaven out of love for mankind alone – He had no obligation to save us. He did not come to condemn but to save in His mercy those who heed Him (John 3:17). It is not strange, then, that the Physician should be seen with the sick Zacchaeus – in fact, it only makes sense for Christ came to lift up our fallen state.

The true arrogance falls with the people who declare Zacchaeus a sinner in protest of Christ going to be his guest. Zacchaeus was certainly a sinner in need of Christ’s redemption. However, if they recalled the Psalms they sang in the synagogue they would remember the rhetorical verse, “If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?” (Ps. 130:3). The verse implies that everyone is guilty before God because no one is perfect, and if God were to call us to account for our sins fairly, we would all be condemned! It is truly arrogant, then, to think that we could be justified of our own doing.

Fortunately for us, Christ has not come to condemn but call to repentance that we might obtain the forgiveness of our sins and have eternal life in Him. As St. Jacob says, Christ would not have taught us to say, “Forgive us our trespasses” in the Our Father if He would not forgive us the same trespasses! As the Lord said through His prophet Ezekiel, “I receive no pleasure in the death of the wicked. Instead, my pleasure is that the wicked repent from their behavior and live” (Ez. 33:11). So Christ not only grants us the opportunity, but really wants us to be forgiven that we may live, and live with Him, His Father and His Holy Spirit. Zacchaeus is the prime example – if a man of such lowly reputation can be saved, anyone can, just as St. Jacob says:

*Through Zacchaeus the Tax Collector He [Christ] made a marketplace for repentance that everyone should come and deal in it without restraint. Through that swindler He gave encouragement to the sons of evil that if they should repent they will not be punished by justice.*

Let us cast aside our inhibitions with Zacchaeus of how we look in our shortcomings, whether known or secret, and climb to see Christ. There, for love of Him, let us call out by our very lives to Him that He visit us and heal us of our sin in His mercy. No sin is too great nor is it ever too late until the last moment of life for our God’s mercy is that abundant. Church is not the meeting place of hypocrites, but the hospital of the Good Physician Who rejoices when sinners enter His house for He heal them of sin and grant them eternal life if they only ask in sincerity.



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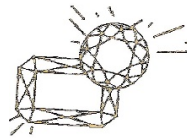
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