



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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www.stsharbel.org

September 6, 2020

Receiving the Word



Next Sunday

Prayer, The Fruit of the Word/The Feast of the Holy Cross

Rom 8:18-27 (Destiny of Glory)

Lk 18:9-14 (The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for Aug 23rd - 29th

Online.....\$1,145.00

Collection.....\$1,553.47

Weekly Total.....\$2,698.47

YTD Total.....\$56,042.76

YTD Goal.....\$62,764.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$6,721.24**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, September 6th 10:30 am

Trevor and Rana Rask

Monday, September 7th

Available

Tuesday, September 8th

Available

Wednesday, September 9th

Available

Thursday, September 10th

Available

Friday, September 11th

Available

Saturday, September 12th

Available

Sunday, September 13th

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, September 6th

Available

Sunday, September 13th

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 6, 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.

In-Person Mass Sign Ups

We are switching over to using Sign-Up Genius for our weekly in person sign ups. The system will allow you to access at any time and register or alter a reservation. It is able to update in real-time, where as I am not.

Here is the link in case you need to check or alter your reservation.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EA9AF23A4FC1-inperson>

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

If those [angels] clothed-in-lightning looked upon Him they would be burned but lowly dust [man] sees Him face-to-face while eating Him.

Receiving the Eucharist is the most sublime moment of one's week. To those who do not know Him, like in this Gospel of this Sunday, they say, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (John 6:52). But to those who know what they are receiving, they approach the altar knowing that they are about to receive the true flesh and blood of our God. The prophets could not even imagine so great a gift of God, as each time God appeared to them they hid their faces in fear, knowing not even the angels look upon Him. Yet He has taken flesh so that "If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever" (John 6:51).

The prophets revealed that the presence of God is magnificent – surrounded by fire upon a throne with legions of uncountable angels serving Him, yet hiding their faces to not look upon Him because of His exceeding brilliance. This is why St. Ephrem says we receive "Fire in the bread, Spirit in the cup." But the body and blood, which appears before us, is not on fire or shining brightly – why? Jesus, in His love for mankind, condescended to a lowly state for our salvation. The King of Kings became a poor child born to poor parents, born in an animals' trough. But how appropriate that the King of Kings should be placed into an animals' trough because He entered the world in a lowly state to feed us with His flesh that gives eternal life though we do not comprehend it, just as a caretaker feeds His flock though they do not fully understand. His love for us is so great that the Immortal God would die so that we may eat of Him, the Medicine of Immortality, and receive the forgiveness of our faults, freed from the death brought by sin.

"When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?'" (John 6:60). From the very moment Christ revealed His love there were those who doubted even among His disciples because of its great abundance. What need does God have to give us His flesh and blood so that we have life? None. But He does it in love of us for He does not wish to see His image, man, perish in the death that he chose through sin. Yet Christ does not force us to accept even what is good but He leaves us the option of receiving His body, just as He left Adam and Eve the choice of a tree of life and a tree of death.

For us, we are left with these two options: we can approach the tree of death, which our father Adam ate of in his pride, or we can approach the Tree of Life, the cross on which hung the food come down from heaven. If we approach the Tree of Life, we should be prepared for the trials that await us – the disbelief of others, the difficulty of following the cross, and the demands of Christian love. But if we should succeed in approaching the Tree of Life and eating of its food, the body and blood of our Lord, we shall obtain eternal life, the forgiveness of sins and union with God. Then, with St. Peter, let us say, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:67).

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish

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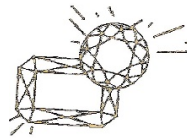
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