



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

October 18, 2020

Fifth Sunday After the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

Sixth Sunday After the Holy Cross

Gal 6:1-10 (Life in the Community of Christ)

Mt 25:14-30 (The Parable of the Talents)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for Oct 4th -10th

Online.....\$885.00

Collection.....\$895.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,780.00

YTD Total.....\$68,881.76

YTD Goal.....\$73,840.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$4,958.24**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, October 18th

10:30: +Dr. Thomas Rask

12:00: +Joseph Atie

Monday, October 19th

Available

Tuesday, October 20th

Available

Wednesday, October 21st

Available

Thursday, October 22nd

Available

Friday, October 23rd

Available

Saturday, October 24th

Available

Sunday, October 25th

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, October 18th

Redmond Family

Sunday, October 24th

Available

Parish / Community Events

St. Sharbel's First Holy Communion Preparation Information

If you have a child of age and you feel is ready to receive our Lord in Holy Communion, we can offer your child the opportunity to receive the Holy Mysteries of Penance and Holy Communion in Spring 2021. We are offering a hybrid program to give families the opportunity to grow in their faith life together. Textbook, worksheets, and lesson schedule will be provided to families for learning at home. Limited in-person connection will be once a month from November 2020 thru May 2021.

To register, please contact Nadia Redmond via email: n.redmond@comcast.net or call: 503-671-0440 by **October 25th.**

Thank you and God Bless,
Nadia

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

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>

YOUTH GROUP

Calling All Youth ages 13-18!!

The Cedars of Saint Sharbel is a "family" of young people who will meet in virtual meetings to discuss real life and how it relates to our faith in God and His tremendous love for humankind. We'll dig deep to answer some of life's greatest questions while developing friendships and having fun at the same time.

Next meeting will be on Saturday, October 24 1:00pm

Zoom invitation soon to come

Please email Gennifer Karam for questions or to sign up for the email list:

jmjkaram3@gmail.com

Sunday, October 18, 2020, 10:30am

Youtube 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. Once there click on the appropriate date for mass.

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

The Parable of the Ten Virgins awaiting the Bridegroom from today's Gospel (Matt. 25:1-13) is a commonly used theme in our Syriac tradition. Christ taught us this image because of its usefulness in mentally preparing for the last day, and so our wise Syriac Fathers have been certain to use it in their writings, hymns and homilies. There is a wealth of symbolism in it: the virgins and the Bridegroom, the oil of the lamps, and the wedding banquet.

The first element of the reading is the virgins and the Bridegroom. As Christ says, "Many are invited, but few are chosen" (Matt. 22:14). God wishes all to be saved, and so by His life-giving sacrifice on Earth He has called all peoples to His Church, but He does not force us to receive His loving salvation, as love cannot be compelled. Therefore, just like the virgins, while all are invited to His banquet, there are those who do refuse through their actions, even if they say with their mouths, "Lord, Lord, open the door for us!" (Matt. 25:11). The Bridegroom, then, is Christ Who has married His Church to bring His divinity to all of her children – that is us. If we enter into the banquet, then we shall obtain the life and love of God.

The second element is the lamps' oil. If God requires us to accept His loving salvation, what does that entail? Here we see it in the difference of the lamps of the virgins. All the virgins are invited to the banquet and none of them know when the Bridegroom will arrive. The five wise virgins brought enough oil that even if they should wait, their lamps would not burn out – while the foolish virgins did not bring enough oil. The Syriac Fathers say the oil of our lamps are our righteous and virtuous deeds that we commit for love of God and neighbor. We do not know when Christ the Bridegroom will return, but we can keep His commands on Earth while we wait, filling our lamps with the oil of righteousness. This righteousness is giving the Lord His due glory in prayer, as well as helping those in need on Earth, for all are made

in the image of God. Regardless of the dark of midnight, the wise virgins can see the Bridegroom because they brought enough oil. Likewise, no matter how dark the night of this world becomes with all its troubles, the wise will know the coming of Christ the Bridegroom by the light of their righteousness. But it is not something to prepare for tomorrow, but this very moment.

The last element is the wedding banquet. The Syriac Fathers refer to two things, which are intimately related, as the wedding banquet: the Eucharist and heaven. In this parable, it is clear that there are those who will not choose God, and therefore they reject heaven, rejecting life, love and fulfillment. But it is the same on Earth – Christ has prepared us the banquet of His flesh and blood in the Eucharist on Earth that we may have a foretaste of heaven. Just as heaven will be in union of God, so too are we when we rightly receive His flesh and blood from the priest for eternal life and the forgiveness of sins. Unlike the virgins, however, we have access to the Bridegroom at this very moment in the Eucharist.

Let us be prepared with an oil of righteousness with the five virgins that we may have our lamps brightly burning in the world. Then, when the Bridegroom comes, we can go out to meet Him and enter into His banquet rejoicing and celebrating.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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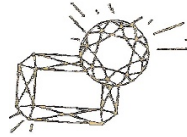
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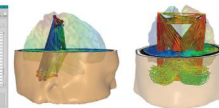
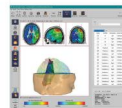


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*Board Registered EEG Technologist
**Board Certified in Neurofeedback

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