



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 4, 2020

Third Sunday After the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

Fourth Sunday After the Holy Cross

1 Thes 5:1-11 (Vigilance)

Mt 24:45-51 (The Faithful or the Unfaithful Servant)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for Sept 20th - 26th

Online.....\$1,305.00

Collection.....\$408.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,713.00

YTD Total.....\$65,076.76

YTD Goal.....\$70,148.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$5,071.24**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, October 4th 10:30 am

Available

Monday, October 5th

Available

Tuesday, October 6th

Available

Wednesday, October 7th

Available

Thursday, October 8th

Available

Friday, October 9th

Available

Saturday, October 10th

Available

Sunday, October 11th

+Yvonne Foulia

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 4th

Available

Sunday, October 11th

Torker Family

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, October 4, 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.

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.

Save the date and time!

First meeting will be on Saturday, October 10
1:00-2:30 pm

[Zoom invitation soon to come](#)

Please email Gennifer Karam for questions or to sign up for the email list: jmjkaram3@gmail.com

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

We have heard many times the prediction of the end of the world – sometimes as a joke, like when someone says it sarcastically, or certain people claim to be Christ and “reveal” the date of the day of the apocalypse. Even the word “apocalypse” has come to carry a frightening that also peaks our interest. Today's Gospel also evokes the image of the apocalypse, but our image of the apocalypse is very different from that of Hollywood or a sensational false prophet. We look forward to the apocalypse because we “will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matt. 24:30). If we love Jesus, we will not fear His return, but like a far away relative or beloved friend, wait excitedly to see His save and run out to meet Him.

The Gospel warns against those who claim to know that Jesus has already arrived again – those who claim to know the infinite mind of God. Our Lord has already told us in His Gospel that no one, not even the angels in heaven, know when He will come again (Matt. 24:36) so anyone who claims to know is not only mistaken but they contradict the Lord. Then how will we know when He truly comes? “Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man” (Matt. 24:30). What is this sign of the Son? The cross, the great sign that Jesus has left each of us with, the season we celebrate. The sign by which He saved us will be the way we shall know our Lord.

But talk of the apocalypse sounds all very abstract, especially if we have no way of knowing when it shall be. But precisely because we know not the hour – whether it is in a week or a thousand years – we should be ready at all times. We should not prepare in a frantic way – one of the most commonly repeated phrases of Scripture is God's consolation to His faithful, “Do not be afraid.” But we should prepare ourselves in the same way we would when we know our beloved family member or friend is going to come to us.

We await the great sign of His salvation, which we already know. Just as one dresses up for a special occasion, let us be always dressed in a robe of excellence – not one made of cloth, but of every virtuous action we do. When Christ comes, all things hidden will be made as plain as day, and so our actions will be worn on our sleeves. With every opportunity to do good let us be exceedingly generous to one another that our deeds done for love of God will be abundant. Let us pray fervently, both asking for the forgiveness of any offenses we have committed, as well as growing in love of God each day of our life. Let us be completely reconciled to God and neighbor without any ill-will because the next moment might be the last.

We prepare in such a way, once again, not from fear but from love to see Christ for Whom we do all things. And each time we draw the sign of the cross upon ourselves should be a reminder of that inevitable Last Day, but also a mini-apocalypse in itself. For Christ has made Himself present to us in the simplest of things, even in the imitation of the sign of his cross. The Good Thief at the crucifixion had a great consolation in seeing the cross of Christ, not because it was a sign of death, but a promise of deliverance though things seemed bleak because the Thief understood he had almighty God as his advocate in his faith. Though the world tells us the Last Day is a dreadful thing, let us with joy and eagerness:

We bow to the cross
through which our souls have salvation and we say with the Thief,
“O Christ, remember us when You come!”

(Trans. from Syriac hymn)

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish

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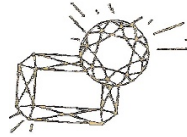
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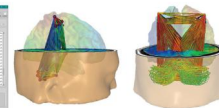
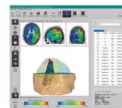


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*Board Registered EEG Technologist
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