



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

November 29, 2020

The Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth



Next Sunday

The Birth of John the Baptist

Gal 4:21-5:1 (An Allegory on Christian Freedom)

Lk 1:57-66 (The Birth of John)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for Nov 15th -21st

Online.....\$680.00

Collection.....\$7,416.91

Weekly Total.....\$8,096.91

YTD Total.....\$86,341.83

YTD Goal.....\$84,916.00

YTD Difference.....\$1,425.83

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 29th, 10:30am

+Georgette and Antoine Zogbi

Monday, November 30th

Available

Tuesday, December 1st

JoAnn Abraham Gilbert

Wednesday, December 2nd

Virginia Gilbert

Thursday, December 3rd

Available

Friday, December 4th

Andrew & Francesca

Saturday, December 5th

Available

Sunday, December 6th

+Marie and Wadih Germanos

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, November 29th

Available

Sunday, December 6th

Available

Parish / Community Events

Sunday, November 29, 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.

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

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.

The next meeting will be December 12 at 1pm via Zoom

Watch for invitation in your inbox

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

jmjkaram3@gmail.com

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.



THE FEAST DAY OF ST. BARBARA

Friday, December 4th

**DUE TO THE NEW
RESTRICTIONS WE ARE
CANCELING THE ST. BARBARA
FEAST DAY CELEBRATION THAT
WAS SCHEDULED FOR NOV 29th**

in all things
GIVE
thanks

Reflection

The receiving of guests is a great honor, held in particular importance in Middle Eastern culture. Imagine one day you are going about your business when the President or a Supreme Court Justice decides to ring your doorbell and visit with you. The visit of such a person generally bring great joy. Today in the Syriac tradition, we celebrate the Visitation of our God, the Lord of All still in the womb of His Mother, to His cousins. Mary, the Mother of God, after receiving the revelation from the angel Gabriel that she will bear a child conceived by the Holy Spirit goes to her cousin Elizabeth's house. If one recalls, the second week of the Season of Announcements celebrates the Announcement to Zechariah – the husband of Elizabeth, and father of John the Baptist. To the surprise of many, Elizabeth was pregnant with John, though she was barren all her life and was in her eighties, and Mary, though being a virgin, was pregnant with our Lord. The Syriac Fathers emphasize the juxtaposition of the oldness of Elizabeth bearing the new life of John, and the youthfulness of Mary bearing the Ancient of Days, Jesus Christ Who is God Who preexists all things. In this we see God's greatness in making the old ever new yet never changing Himself.

The visit of Jesus gives such joy that Elizabeth says, "Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy" (Luke 1:43-44). It is a joyous occasion, motivated by the love of God. If one thinks about the plan of salvation, God had no necessity in visiting Elizabeth and John – just like He had no obligation to restore mankind after Adam's fall. But in God's infinite love, He wishes to restore us to union with Him. Out of no motivation other than His own love for humanity, God became incarnate of the Virgin Mary so that He might be among us and unite His divinity to our humanity. Likewise, He had no obligation to visit His cousin John but did so because He loves His servants. We might even ask ourselves in our daily experience "Why am I so favored, that the Lord should come to me?" The answer is that God is so merciful and good that He wishes to extend His infinite and incomprehensible to us.

In God's visitation to His servants, He draws us up from our lowly state to His divinity, making the barren fruitful and the dead living. In visiting Elizabeth and Zechariah, God makes Elizabeth a foreshadowing of the entire plan of salvation – what was fruitless and never bore anything now produces the Prophet of the Most High. Likewise, Christ takes the cross – a dead piece of wood and an instrument of torture – and makes it the tree of life, from which He grants life eternal and the forgiveness of all sin. God had no need to come among us, but in His love of us He is constantly endowing new life and making fruitful that which seems fruitless to human estimation if it is dedicated to His purpose. That is why both Isaiah and St. Matthew in his Gospel refers to Jesus as Emmanuel, meaning God is with us, because that very fact alone means life itself has visited us and elevates our lowliness.

In all things reserved for His purpose, God raises up fruit where it would seem there is none, and He makes useful that which seems useless. Even from our failures and lacking, God can use it for the sanctification of the world and His glorification, just as He allowed profound depth of God's goodness, let us implore Him in the words of our fathers of faith:

O God, Supreme, Hidden and Incomprehensible, You dwelt in the Virgin Mary for our salvation according to Your plan and in Your care visited Your herald in a barren and unfruitful womb. Likewise, now visit our souls and bodies fallen in sin with Your divine assistances and sanctify our spirits by Your holiness that we may excellently and holily give thanks to You for Your graces towards us, and worship and glorify You, Your Father, and Your Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (Trans. from the Syriac Maronite Vespers for the Visitation)

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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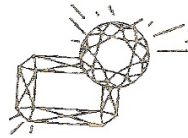
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