



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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www.stsharbel.org

December 13, 2020

The Revelation to Joseph



Next Sunday

The Genealogy of Jesus

Rom 1:1-12 (Greetings / Thanksgiving)

Mt 1:1-17 (The Genealogy of Jesus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for Nov 29th - Dec 5th

Online.....\$265.00

Collection.....\$243.00

Weekly Total.....\$508.00

YTD Total.....\$90,992.83

YTD Goal.....\$88,608.00

YTD Difference.....\$2,384.83

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 13th, 10:30am

+Andrew Thomas Walther, 40 day
Memorial

Monday, December 14th

Available

Tuesday, December 15th

Available

Wednesday, December 16th

Available

Thursday, December 17th

Available

Friday, December 18th

Available

Saturday, December 19th

Available

Sunday, December 20th

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, December 13th

Available

Sunday, December 20th

Redmond 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, December 13th, 2020, 10:30am

Youtube Channel Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi8CEQIEhX-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.

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-mass1>

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

As an unfortunate part of life we can sometimes suffer from false rumors that have no basis in reality. Often these rumors can damage others' impressions of us. This week we celebrate the Revelation to Joseph, when the angel Gabriel dispelled Joseph's doubt of the Virgin Mary's fidelity caused by the rumors of gossip. We celebrate knowing what the world has slandered with gossip actually the miracle of our redemption – the birth of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Syriac Fathers tell us that Mary went to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, during the visitation (which we celebrated just a couple weeks ago) because she received vicious suspicion and calumny in Nazareth. Her neighbors, and perhaps even family, said that her virginal conception of Jesus was actually out of infidelity to Joseph, to whom she was engaged. What a great shame that there are those who would even slander something as wonderful as the birth of our God, which He undertook voluntarily just to be among us! Upon hearing these rumors, Joseph was understandably greatly upset. But Joseph, being a righteous man, did not want to “expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly” (Matt. 1:19) because otherwise the Jewish Law would prescribe that she be stoned.

At the height of his despair, the angel Gabriel appeared to Joseph and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:20-21). What was a source of sadness and shame for Joseph became a cause of great rejoicing – the son of Mary was not a son of wedlock but the Son of God! This is the moment Isaiah foretold from centuries before that a virgin would bear a son Immanuel, which means God is with us (Is. 7:14).

What the world presented as a great sorrow and doubt to Joseph was actually the greatest blessing God could bestow upon mankind – His own Incarnation and visitation. As we know, Christ's birth was fundamental for His plan of salvation for mankind, that He should unite His divinity to our humanity and our humanity to His divinity. Though the world told Joseph that sorrow was with him, Gabriel assured Him that it was God Who is with us! This is a most appropriate message for the last of the angelic apparitions in the Season of Announcements, where we celebrate God sending Gabriel to reveal the good news of His plan of coming and salvation.

This encounter reminds us that the world may seem dark and a place without hope, but God has spoken through the prophet Isaiah that “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned” (Is. 9:2). The Light is our Lord Jesus Christ Who has come to save us from the death of sin. Though we might feel despair at times, we cannot help but rejoice in the news of our Lord's coming. And while we might suffer on Earth, we look forward to His second coming. While we may endure unpleasant or even extremely difficult things here, they are only fleeting and even the greatest evil is less than God. “What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31).

Let us pray for the same consolation and truth which St. Joseph received this day:

O Lord, sow Your serenity in our souls and Your peace in our minds, affix Your truth in our hearts on this day in which serenity was sewn by Your glorious revelation through the head of armies, Gabriel, in the soul of just Joseph who had doubted Your salvific conception. He removed from his mind the stumbling blocks and doubt of thoughts. Now, O Lord, make us worthy that, with him, we may be confirmed in Your love, praise and honor Your glorious Mother, and give thanks to Your name, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (Trans. from Syriac Maronite Vespers for Revelation to St. Joseph)

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish

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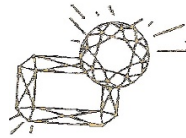
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