



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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www.stsharbel.org

January 10, 2021

First Sunday of Epiphany



Next Sunday

Second Sunday of Epiphany

2 Cor 4:5-15 (The Paradox of the Ministry)

Jn 1:35-42 (The First Disciples)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for Jan 1st - 2nd

Online.....\$100.00

Collection.....\$1,563.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,663.00

YTD Total.....\$1,663.00

YTD Goal.....\$1,846.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$183.00**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 10th, 10:30am

Available

Monday, January 11th

Available

Tuesday, January 12th

Available

Wednesday, January 13th

Available

Thursday, January 14th

Available

Friday, January 15th

Available

Saturday, January 16th

Available

Sunday, January 17th

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, January 10th

Available

Sunday, January 17th

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

Ex Officio

+Deacon Tony

+Deacon Wadih

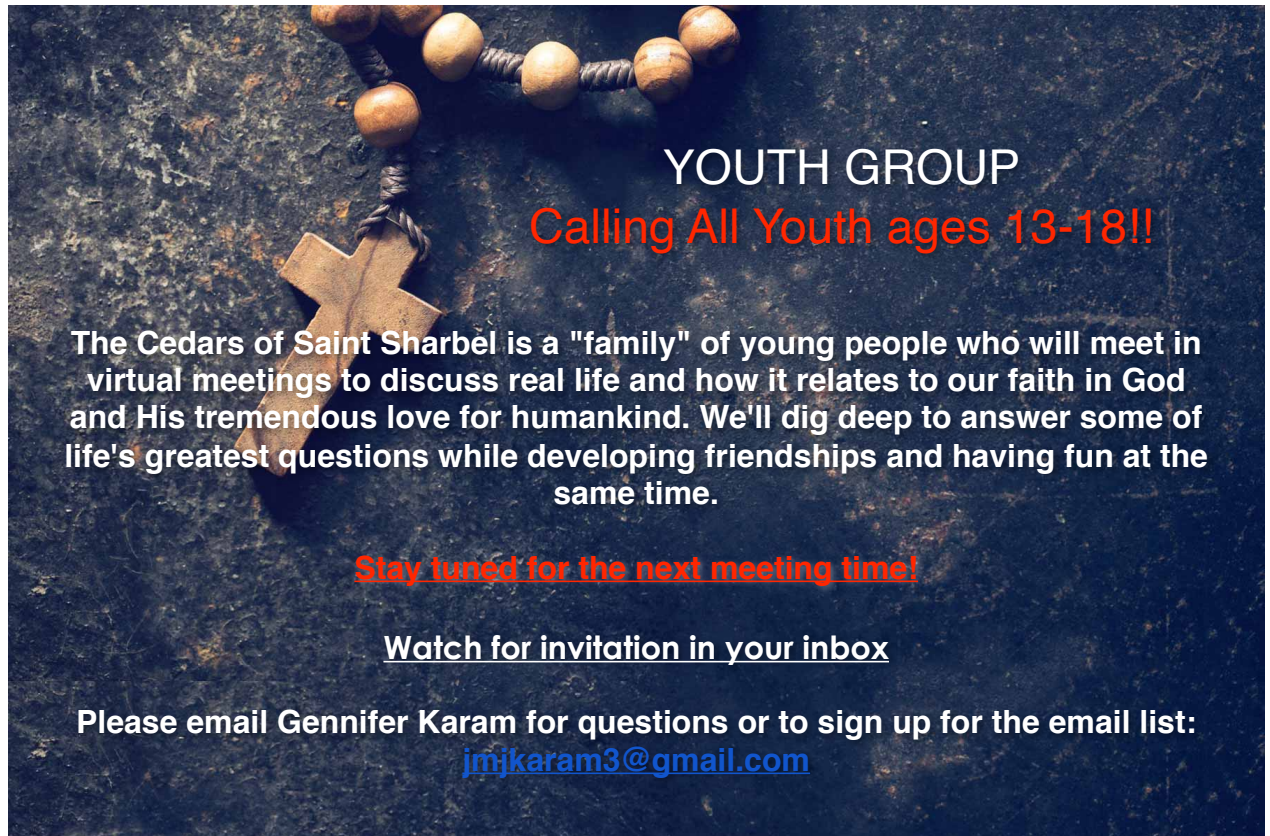
+Finance
Committee

Sunday, January 10th, 2021, 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.



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.

[Stay tuned for the next meeting time!](#)

[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

Jn 1:29-34

We have all had experiences of stumbling around in the dark, stumbling feeling around for something familiar, only to trip over something unseen or become frightened by something we think we might hear. Pitch darkness can even be disorienting when we are unfamiliar with where we are. Unsurprisingly, people before the invention of electric lights associated this darkness of night with death, and the eagerly awaited light of the morning with life.

Having celebrated the great feast itself a few days ago, today we celebrate the first of several Sundays dedicated to the Epiphany, the memorial of our Lord Jesus Christ's baptism. In Syriac, our tradition calls the feast denho or dawn referring to the passage in Zechariah 6:12 in the ancient Syriac version of the bible, known as the Peshitta, "His name is Dawn (denho), and He shall dawn from below." Why is our Lord and His baptism called dawn by the Prophet Zechariah?

As we reflected upon for the Consecration and Renewal of the Church, Christ established, in His love and mercy, the Church as His Bride as a means of bringing all of humanity in union with Him. Throughout the Season of Announcements we reflected upon how the Old Testament expressed the Bride's anticipation of her Groom's coming throughout the ages. Finally, we saw how John the Baptist is the forerunner of Christ who was sent to prepare things, much like a best man for a groom. In this role, John the Baptist prepared the rite of his baptism that was a placeholder and anticipation of the baptism of Christ, Who baptizes with "the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). Jesus knew humanity was "walking in [the] darkness" (Is. 9:2) of sin, wandering far away from Him. But in His mercy, just as He descended from heaven in His humility, He descended to the Jordan River where He had sent John the Baptist. John the Baptist hesitated to baptize Him at first because he knew he could not give anything to Jesus, Who created all things. John was correct, for Jesus had no need of baptism, just like He had no need to become a weak human since He is our all- powerful God. But it was in Christ's love of humanity that He descended to the Jordan so that the waters of baptism themselves may be sanctified for He is the Pure One Who chose water as a means of spiritually purifying us, giving us eternal life, and sharing with us His divinity, which is why St. Paul says, "All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Gal 3:27).

The Light that has dawned from below is the eternal Light from above, Who came dawn to illumine those who were blinded by the dark gloom of sin. As St. Jacob of Sarug said in his homily on the Epiphany, Christ was in want of nothing except to bring Adam back up from the pit of death, which he entered through sin. And by Christ shining His light upon the world and granting the opportunity for us to put Him on by baptism, He allowed us to enter into the Trinity, Who appeared fully for the first time in history of humanity at His baptism – the voice of the Father, the Son in the Jordan, and the Holy Spirit taking the visible sign of a dove (Luke 3:22). The Light which has dawned from below not only opened our eyes to the reality of our God, but has invited us to share in His divinity if we partake of the baptism He sanctified for us and follow what He has asked us through His Bride.

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish



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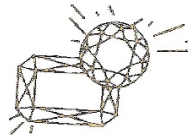
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