



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

January 17, 2021

Second Sunday of Epiphany



Next Sunday

Commemoration of the Priests

1 Tim 4:6-16 (Counsel to Timothy)

Lk 12:42-48 (Vigilant and Faithful Servants)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 17th, 10:30am

Available

Monday, January 18th

Available

Tuesday, January 19th

Available

Wednesday, January 20th

Available

Thursday, January 21st

Available

Friday, January 22nd

Available

Saturday, January 23rd

Available

Sunday, January 24th

12:00pm +Fouzi Ghosson

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.

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for Jan 3rd - 9th

Online.....\$745.00

Collection.....\$338.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,083.00

YTD Total.....\$2,746.00

YTD Goal.....\$3,692.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$946.00**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, January 17th

Available

Sunday, January 24th

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

Ex Officio

+Deacon Tony

+Deacon Wadih

+Finance
Committee

Sunday, January 17, 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-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.

Reflection

This Sunday continues the Season of the Epiphany. An important question to ask is why do we have an entire season dedicated to the feast? It is not because someone was trying to fill the calendar between now and Lent! Epiphany is an extremely important feast because, just as Christ entered the world at His birth on Christmas to save us from sin, our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, appeared to the whole world to complete the plan of salvation on Epiphany, the Baptism of Christ. God willed that the death that Adam brought into the world through his sin (Rom. 5:12) be washed away that anyone who loves Him might live forever with Him (John 11:25).

Because our Triune God is three Persons, but one single God, salvation was granted to mankind by the Trinity as one. Though the Son, having become man, was visible, the Father and the Spirit were always with Him. Christ's own baptism testifies to this when the Father called out and the Spirit appeared like a dove, a visible sign (Matt. 3:16-17). Christ, Who is our all-powerful God and King, became an infant, not because He needed to, but because He wanted to be amongst us and save us from sin. Likewise, the entire Trinity condescended from their hidden glory so that we might know them, even though they did not need to do so. The Father, Whose wisdom is beyond words, lowers Himself to speak words understandable to mankind. The Holy Spirit, Whose beyond physical experience, assumes the form of a dove so that mankind may see His presence. And the Son, Who is pure and sinless, receives the washing of baptism that He might purify the waters for our own baptisms.

What we must understand about salvation is that it is totally freely given to us by God, even though it is mankind that picked and picks sin. But in utter generosity of the hidden and incomprehensible Trinity, He goes even further and has condescended so that we might "come and see" (John 1:39) Him, as Christ says in today's Gospel reading. Christ, our hidden God, wants us to be *bnai rozo*, a Syriac phrase from the Fathers of the Church meaning partakers of His mystery (the same word we use for someone who receives the sacraments – the mysteries, not coincidentally). He has offered us entrance into His mystery by way of baptism. As St. Paul tells us, our old selves are buried in the waters of baptism so that we may be raised with new life with Christ (Rom. 6:4). In partaking in the mystery of

the baptism of the Son, we become children of the Father, and His brothers and sisters ourselves (Heb. 2:11) – if we accept to be partakers of His mystery. Of course, simply partaking does not merit us the life Christ offers us. Judas was a partaker of Christ's mysteries but betrayed Him because he did not "come and see," but instead decided for what he wanted to use Christ.

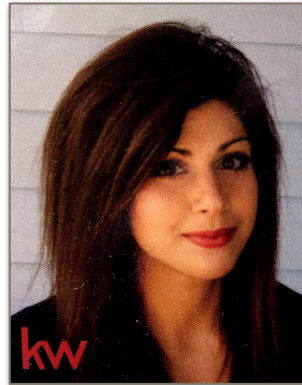
With childlike guilelessness let us "come and see" as sincere partakers of His mystery. The God of all time and creation has made His secrets available to us in His very flesh and blood in the Eucharist. Let us seek to see Him, and not betray Him. And when we cannot receive Him in flesh and blood, let us call upon Him in Spirit in prayer, even if it is 10 minutes a day driving to the store, for He has admitted us to be sons and daughters of the Father. Knowing the generosity of salvation He has shown us time and time again, let us ask Him:

O Unformed Former, You joined with the form of Your beloveds, and were baptized by a formed servant to form anew the form of His hands and renew the corrupted image by His baptism. Now, my Lord, renew our oldness by Your renewal, and form our form anew by the beckon of Your will. Create in us a new heart through the working of Your Holy Spirit that we may newly and purely offer glory and thanks to You, and to Your Father, and to Your Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (From Syriac Maronite Prayers for Epiphany)

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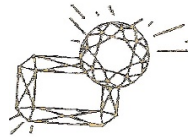
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