



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

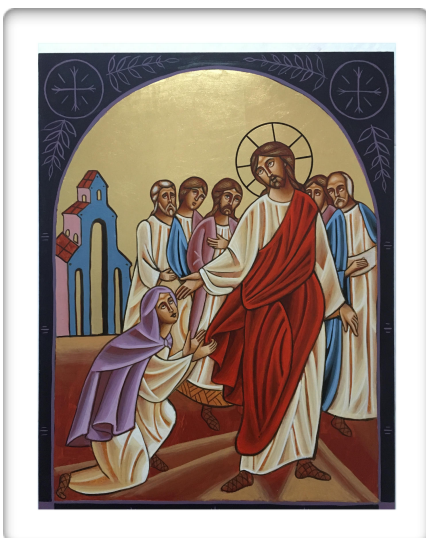
503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

February 28, 2021

Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman



Next Sunday

The Parable of Prodigal Son

2 Cor 13:5-13 (Final Warnings and Appeals)

Lk 15:11-32 (The Parable of the Lost Son)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for Feb 14th - 20th

Online.....\$400.00

Collection.....\$0.00

Weekly Total.....\$400.00

YTD Total.....\$14,632.47

YTD Goal.....\$14,768.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$135.53**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 28th, 10:30am

Available

Monday, March 1st

+Curtis Lee Graham

Tuesday, March 2nd

Philomena Phuong Nguyễn

Wednesday, March 3rd

Maria Jamine Loan Nguyễn

Thursday, March 4th

Available

Friday, March 5th

Lynette Brice

Saturday, March 6th

+Leonard Slusher

Sunday, March 7th

Abbé AJ Garcia

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, February 28th

Available

Sunday, March 7th

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

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.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, February 27, 1pm on ZOOM

Watch for invitation in your inbox

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

jmjkaram3@gmail.com

Sunday, February 28, 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.



" I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue always to pray the Rosary every day" ~Our Lady of Fatima



JOIN US AS WE PRAY THE

ROSARY

EVERY 2ND MONDAY OF THE MONTH
AT 8PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME

FOR THE INTENTIONS OF GOOD HEALTH,
PEACE, & STABILITY FOR OUR WORLD

FEBRUARY 8

LED BY BISHOP GREGORY MANSOUR

MARCH 8

LED BY CHORBISHOP MICHAEL THOMAS

APRIL 12

LED BY BISHOP ELIAS ZAIDAN

LOOKING AHEAD ■ **MAY 10**



ZOOM LINK

MEETING ID: 883 4965 1080

PASSCODE: rosary

<https://tinyurl.com/OFSLROSARY>

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

It is part of common human experience to be excluded from something. Perhaps you are excluded by fellow students or coworkers from a group for an old grudge or family members might keep you at a distance because of your faith. However it manifests, social exclusion is an unfortunate inevitability of human relationships and hurtful. In the today's reading from the Gospel the hemorrhaging woman is exactly that – a social reject. According to Jewish purity laws, she is dirty because of her illness. If any other Jew deemed pure by the Law were to touch her that person would become ritually impure, defiled and in need of being ritually purified else they make others impure as well. This poor woman was suffering, and her suffering was increased by her rejection from others. So she tried all earthly doctors' remedies, but none helped (Luke 8:43). Only Christ can help her, and so we see in this miracle, just like in the healing of the blind man, Christ's place as the Good Physician when He allows her to touch Him and be healed.

Christ knew rejection as He was the cornerstone that the builders had rejected (Ps. 118:22). Though without need, our all-powerful God descended to enter the trials of humanity and defeat them – rejection being one of them. Each time Christ heals someone or helps He is attacked by His enemies until the point where they kill Him. But He does so knowing He will die so that He can save humanity from the death of sin. The hemorrhaging woman, rejected by all, tries all human means of getting better. But, as King David says, "trust not in princes" (Ps. 146:3) for "our help is in the name of the Lord" (Ps. 124:8). Sin is a battle we cannot win by ourselves. Adam lost in the Garden, and if we try to be pure of sin on our own we will always fail. But, like the hemorrhaging woman who was discouraged by others, if we spiritually reach out and grab the Pure One, Jesus Christ, we shall be healed. Those who thought themselves pure laughed at the Pure One for their self-conceit blinded them from the truth of whose presence they were in (Luke 8:53). But that day, it was the hemorrhaging woman, the impure one, who was truly made pure because of her daring faith to grab the Pure One (Luke 8:48), and the "pure" who reviled her are truly the impure.

The sickness of sin is an epidemic in humanity, but the Good Physician has already come and prepared the cure in His love. Those who think they are healthy will not take the medicine – though in reality no one living is righteous before God (Ps. 143:2). We must look to the hemorrhaging woman as our inspiration for boldness, and our faith must overcome both our sense of self-sufficiency and fear. We will neither seek the medicine of our sin if we think we are well nor will we approach Him who gives it if we are too afraid. But let us not fear if we truly love Christ for He gives us every opportunity for our salvation. Let us receive the Good Physician's prescription, Lent, which He has written to prepare us to receive the ultimate Medicine of Life, His Eucharist made possible by His sacrifice on the cross. In keeping with this Lenten prescription, let us fast from food and negative deeds, as well as let us give alms to the poor and pray.

All the sick and sinful Christ heals and accepts are an example calling us to repent – the tax collector, the thief who was crucified with Him, Mary Magdalene, and the hemorrhaging woman. Though the Mass is the source and summit of our worship as Christians, and the Eucharist is receiving Christ Himself, we should constantly pray asking for His mercy. Our Syriac tradition stresses the power of the cross, the symbol that stands in place of all the life-saving actions of Christ. We might not have the highest medicine of the Good Physician available to us all the time, but every hour of the day we have His cross available to us. Let us make this holy sign, a holy means of access to Him, throughout our day, approaching Him in strong faith, and asking to be healed of all that sickens us for He wishes us to be well.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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