



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

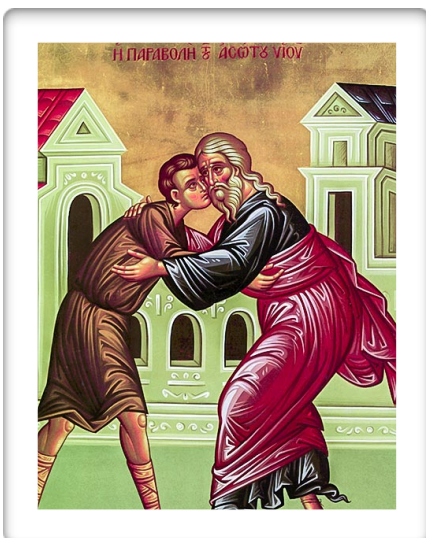
503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

March 7, 2021

The Parable of Prodigal Son



Next Sunday

Healing of the Paralytic

1 Tim 5:24-6:5 (False Teaching & True Wealth)

Mk 2:1-12 (The Healing of a Paralytic)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for February 21st - 27th

Online.....\$1,075.00

Collection.....\$2,446.00

Weekly Total.....\$3,521.00

YTD Total.....\$18,153.47

YTD Goal.....\$16,614.00

YTD Difference.....\$1,539.47

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, March 7th, 10:30am

Abbé AJ Garcia

Monday, March 8th

Available

Tuesday, March 9th

Available

Wednesday, March 10th

Available

Thursday, March 11th

Available

Friday, March 12th

Available

Saturday, March 13th

Available

Sunday, March 14th

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, March 7th

Available

Sunday, March 14th

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

Addressing the Use of the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 Vaccine

Archbishop Alexander K. Sample is in agreement with the joint statement issued by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Doctrine, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

FOR ARTICLE CLICK HERE



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, March 13, 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

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>

Sunday, March 7, 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

Lk 15:11-32

When we view a conflict in hindsight we often think about the gravity of the offense – what was done, how much damage was caused, who was hurt. And we should be mindful of the effects of our offenses, especially when they are sins directed at God. In today's Gospel, we see the Prodigal Son makes clear that he wished his father was dead, asking for his inheritance in advance and then going away to waste it all – truly a serious offense. In the Parable of the Prodigal Son it would seem that the Prodigal Son deserves nothing but punishment in our estimation of justice and rightfully so – previously he could not have cared about his father or family and left to enjoy himself, only to return when things went wrong. But the offense of this misbehaving son only receives a couple verses out of the entire story, and Christ does this one purpose. The story of salvation is not focused on the offenses of humanity against God, though great they may be, but on the infinite generosity of God's mercy to the contrite person.

Why does Christ present us with this parable, and why does the Maronite Church read it during the Fast of Lent? Sin is our death, and every time we stray towards sin we choose our own interests in spite of the abundant generosity of God – essentially saying we care that God neither lives nor dies, but we shall go our own way from the generous Father to see to our own lives. But it is not simply enough to react to sin, and to disavow sin; if we are reacting to sin, sin remains the center of our lives. The way to return back from death to life is through Life Himself, our Lord, who said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). The means to return to Christ is through constant repentance from our sin. When the older son is outraged that the father so warmly greeted the Prodigal, he responds, "We had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again" (Luke 15:32) reminiscent of when God spoke through the prophet Ezekiel, "For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God. Repent and live!" (Ez. 18:32).

Repentance is not to despair in our depraved we are because of our sins, but the acknowledgment of how much greater God is than our sin and His ability to wipe them away. Sin and death killed Adam in the Garden, but, by His cross, our Lord killed sin and death. If He did not intend to make available for us the forgiveness of sins, He would not have taught us in the Our Father to say, "Forgive us our trespasses" (Matt. 6:12). But Christ in His infinite mercy has made forgiveness available to those who simply and sincerely ask for it, in spite of their offense like the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

But how can we repay God for all He has given us in His generosity? Just like the Prodigal Son, we cannot now nor ever repay Him, but the first step begins with trying not to repeat the repayable offense – not because our relationship with God is some kind of transaction, but because we love God and do not wish to repeatedly harm those we love. By Christ's life, death and resurrection, He destroyed the sin we could never overcome ourselves. But out of our love, though our praise or fasting adds nothing to His greatness, we must offer Him our best, just like the widow who deposits the two coins in the Temple and her offering is more pleasing to God than the large donations of the wealthy (Luke 21:1-4).

God has no need for our fasting nor is He magnified by our praise, but we offer both of these during Lent because, like a child making gifts for his parents from construction paper of little monetary value, we love the Lord and He loves us. Let all we do be for the reunification with the generous father who welcomes us prodigal sons back in spite of our offenses.

Please make your gift to the Lenten Appeal through your local parish. Place your gift in an envelope noted "Bishop's Appeal", or note "Bishop's Appeal" on your check. You may also make a gift online at www.eparchy.org.

Additional Ways to Help

Make a Bequest. A bequest is naming the Eparchy (or your parish) in your will. This can be for a specific amount of money, or a percentage of your estate. To do this, include this language in your will:

"I give and bequeath to the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles _____% of the residue of my estate [or: the sum of \$_____]."

Give from your IRA. Generally speaking, taxpayers who are age 70½ years old and older may give up to \$100,000 each year from their IRA to the Eparchy without paying the mandatory tax on IRA distributions. This is a significant benefit because taxes on an IRA are normally very high. The practical effect of this is that you can give more, tax free, from your IRA – and this makes it a very effective way to support the Church. Contact your broker or the Eparchy for more information about this.

Make the Eparchy a Beneficiary of Your Retirement Plan. Another way to help the Church is to name the Eparchy as the beneficiary of your retirement plan. This avoids estate taxes (which are often very high on retirement plans) – and can be tremendously helpful to the Church.

Make a Gift of Life Insurance. Naming the Eparchy as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy is a way to help the Church in the future while not impacting your income or lifestyle today. Ask your insurance agent or contact the Eparchy for more information about this.

"God loves a cheerful giver!" (2 Corinthians 9:7)



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

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314-231-1021

admin@eparchy.org www.eparchy.org

EPARCHY OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON OF LOS ANGELES

2021 Lenten Appeal

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I sincerely thank you for your support of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, especially in light of the challenges of the past year. The Eparchy's mission is to serve the People of God and proclaim the Gospel message in today's world. We can only continue to do this with your prayers and financial support.

The past year was filled with adversity, including the pandemic and difficulties at home and abroad. But we are a people of hope, and God helps us through all adversity to get to a brighter future.

Today, I would like to ask for your help with our Annual Lenten Appeal, to address the Eparchy's most important and immediate needs. The proceeds of the Lenten Appeal will contribute to three especially key areas:

- **Opening New Parishes and Missions:** There are many areas across the country where Maronite communities are unable to have Maronite services due to the lack of parishes and priests. Our goal is to strengthen existing parishes and build new missions so that our people can celebrate their faith and heritage.
- **Expanding Services:** In light of the economic and emotional hardships of the past year, it is more imperative than ever to offer our support to young people, families, and those with the greatest need.
- **Helping our brothers and sisters in Lebanon and the Middle East:** Lebanon has been especially affected after the Beirut explosion in August of 2020. Many people were displaced; and homes, hospitals, schools, and businesses suffered extreme damage. We need to give our support to our brothers and sisters as they go through these trying times.

Some people have asked about the Eparchy's long-term Capital Campaign – Vision for the Future, Mission for Today. Unfortunately, the Campaign was temporarily suspended due to the pandemic, but we hope to re-start it at an appropriate time in the future.

In the meantime, I ask for your help through this Annual Lenten Appeal with the important and immediate needs described more fully in this short brochure. Please review it and prayerfully consider how you may help, and please be generous.

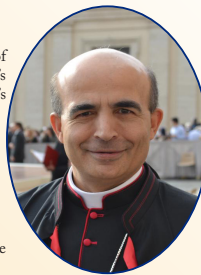
May God bless you and keep you!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ A. E. Zaidan

+A. Elias Zaidan

Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles



1. Seminarians and Retired Priests

The Eparchy educates and prepares men (called "seminarians") for the priesthood, so that there will be enough priests to serve in our parishes and missions in the future. The Eparchy currently has 6 seminarians and 8 married men in formation. The average cost of educating and supporting a seminarian is \$45,000 per year (our seminarians cost \$471,000 last year). When a priest retires, he receives a modest pension from the Eparchy, along with basic health insurance coverage. The Eparchy now has seven retired priests who served for over 224 years in parishes. The total cost of supporting them is estimated to be \$210,000 in 2021. **35% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will support Seminarians and Retired Priests.**

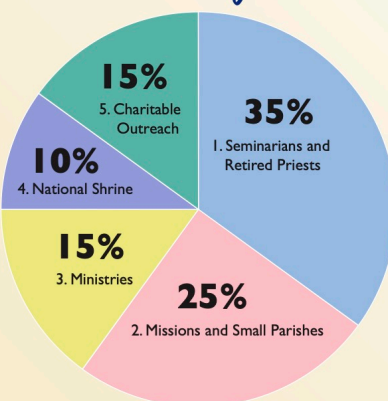


2. Missions and Small Parishes

The Eparchy consists of thirty-two [32] parishes and ten [10] missions with over 46,800 Catholics across 34 states of the Eparchy. Missions (new parishes) were opened in recent years in places like Milwaukee (WI), Riverside (CA) and Stockton (CA). Some missions and parishes are very small and need additional financial support with basic expenses such as insurance and utilities. It is a priority to strengthen our parishes and missions so that they may better serve the Maronite faithful. **25% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will support Missions and Small Parishes.**

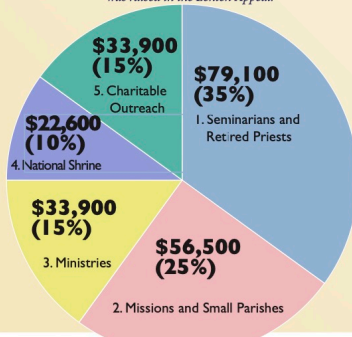


2021 Lenten Appeal Allocation of Funds



Report on 2020 Lenten Appeal Use of Funds (\$164,797)

*Due to the pandemic, the Eparchy was not able to raise the full Eparchial Appeal amount of \$226,000, so the Eparchy paid for the difference of \$61,203. The Eparchy has also paid more to each objective than was raised in the Lenten Appeal.



3. Ministries

The Eparchy maintains several ministries to serve Maronites, including Religious Education, Youth Ministry, Young Adults Ministry, Family Life Ministry, and Catholic Social Teaching. The Eparchy needs to increase the number and scope of its ministries to better serve the faithful in the Eparchy, especially when crises arise. **15% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will assist the Eparchy's Ministries.**



4. National Maronite Shrine

Our Lady of Lebanon National Shrine, located in North Jackson, Ohio, was founded over 50 years ago to invoke Our Lady's protection over all Maronites in the United States. It is a place of pilgrimage for the faithful 365 days a year. Due to the pandemic, the Shrine has experienced an increased need for support due to the restrictions on gatherings and pilgrimages. **10% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will assist the National Shrine.**



5. Charitable Outreach

As the Eparchy asks the faithful to be generous to it, the Eparchy strives to be generous to those in need. With your support, the Eparchy helps the less fortunate in the United States, and abroad in Lebanon and the Middle East. With your help, we are able to lend a helping hand to those suffering and in need. **15% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will go to charity, especially to help the needy in Lebanon.**



**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

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& CATERING**

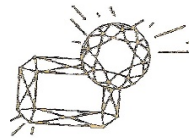
30 years in business

Beaverton Location
2800 SW Cedar Hills Blvd
Beaverton, OR 97005

Portland Location
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Portland, OR 97205



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