



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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[www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)

## May 2, 2021

**Jesus Delivers the Office of Shepherd to Peter**



### Next Sunday

*Jesus Appears to the Apostles in the Upper Room*

**Rom 10:1-13** (Righteousness Based on Faith)

**Lk 24:36-48** (The Appearance to the Disciples in Jerusalem)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for April 18th - 24th*

Online.....\$830.00

Collection.....\$758.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,588.00

YTD Total.....\$31,760.47

YTD Goal.....\$31,382.00

YTD Difference.....\$378.47

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, May 2nd, 11:00am

*Available*

Monday, May 3rd

*Available*

Tuesday, May 4th

*Available*

Wednesday, May 5th

*Available*

Thursday, May 6th

*Available*

Friday, May 7th

*+Hanna Semaan*

Saturday, May 8th

*Available*

Sunday, May 9th

*+Emily Faddoul, 40 Day Memorial*

***Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 10:00 am before the morning Liturgy.***

***Confession every Sunday 10:35-10:50am before the morning Liturgy.***

***Also join us to pray the Rosary on Sundays at 10:30 am before the Liturgy begins.***

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, May 2nd

*Available*

Sunday, May 9th

*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

## *First Holy Communion!*

*OLIVIA*

*BEKAHI*



*VICTORIA*

*RASK*

On this Special Sunday, May 2nd, the Church rejoices with Olivia Bekahi and Victoria Rask as they receive their first Holy Communion! May you always be sustained by this Most Blessed Sacrament of the Catholic Church as you continue to grow in God's love and friendship.

*Congratulations to you and to your families!*

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: TBA**

Watch for invitation in your inbox

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

[jmjkaram3@gmail.com](mailto:jmjkaram3@gmail.com)

**\*\*SUNDAY MASS TIME\*\***

11:00am

Confessions: 10:35-10:50am



# *Covid Mass Policies*

## **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. The sign up sheet is emailed every Wednesday, prior to the week's masses.

**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.

**Sunday, May 2, 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.**

## Reflection

“Do you love me?” is a question that can evoke many different feelings from its recipient, especially after a fight. In today’s Gospel, Peter is eating with our Lord after seeing Him for the first time after Peter denied Him three times before His Crucifixion. One can only imagine the tension Peter held in his heart for his betrayal – when His Lord and beloved friend needed him most, he not only ran away but denied him. Then our Lord asked Peter, “Do you love me?” The Gospel tells us that Peter was hurt after Christ asked a third time, but perhaps Peter was hurt from the first time he was asked because of His own denial of the Lord three times. But Christ does not ask Peter “Do you love me?” in condemnation, but in negation for his previous rejection of Christ. In God’s mercy, for every denial against Him He invites Peter back to Him!

God’s mercy is wider than the sea, which is why He asks Peter the question “Do you love me?” for every time he denied the Lord. As Christ said earlier in the Gospel, “If you love me, you will keep my commands” (John 14:15). As the Lord of Mercy, Christ came to forgive our sins and so always gives us renewed opportunity to be forgiven. “Perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment” (1 John 4:18). It is God Who always initiates with us, even when we do not realize, but responding to the Lord with love, Peter is restored in his relationship with Jesus. Likewise, no offense of ours is too great for the Lord of Mercy – we must respond in contrition and love towards the Lord at His constant invitation to return to His love by denouncing our sin instead of denouncing Him.

When Peter responds three times that he does love the Lord, Christ restores him to a trusted place in the mission of the Church. As one of the diaconal proclamations during the Ordination Rite proclaims:

*The Lord gave His sheep to Peter’s care for he obeyed; He made him a shepherd for He saw he loved Him.*

*Christ had asked him if he loved Him to feed His lambs;*

*He knew Peter’s love for Him was much so He gave much.*

Love does indeed drive out fear and the fear of punishment, and “God is love” (1 John 4:8). When we separate ourselves from God, we delve into fear itself. And shortcomings are inevitable because we are imperfect people. But when we turn back to the Lord and seek to reunite with Him, we are restored just as Peter. But in desiring to be united to the love of the Lord, Peter was asked to be a light to the world (Matt. 5:14), and see that others are brought to the true faith and the eternal life of the Resurrection. Peter’s love of God was not to be a “personal matter,” but required him to change the very nature of his life. Because Peter loved the Lord, the Lord asked him to shepherd other lambs to the True Shepherd’s sheepfold, the Church.

How shall we then respond to the Lord’s constant inviting question “Do you love me?”

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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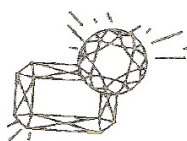
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