



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

May 16, 2021

Week of the Resurrection/Ascension



Next Sunday

Pentecost Sunday: Descent of the Holy Spirit

Acts: 2:1-21 (The Coming of the Spirit/Peter's Speech at Pentecost)

Jn 14:15-20 (The Advocate)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, May 16th, 11:00am

Graciella Zogbi

Monday, May 17th

Available

Tuesday, May 18th

Available

Wednesday, May 19th

Available

Thursday, May 20th

Available

Friday, May 21st

Available

Saturday, May 22nd

Available

Sunday, May 23rd

+Sonia Bsaiibes

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.

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for May 2nd - 8th

Online.....\$1,180.00

Collection.....\$370.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,550.00

YTD Total.....\$34,625.47

YTD Goal.....\$35,074.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$448.53**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, May 16th

Available

Sunday, May 23rd

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

You are invited to StandUpGirl.com Foundation's Spring Virtual Event & Auction

"Gift of Love"

Beauty of Adoption



Guest Virtual Speakers

Introducing Joey, Kristen & Charlene

Kristen came into the world May 23, 1980, daughter of Joey. She started her young life with Charlene & Paul who have been exemplary parents for her! Kristen and Joey reunited and met in person in 1998. Since then, daughter and birth mom have stayed close, attending each others' big life events. Through God's redemptive love, we have a beautiful extended family and the ultimate choice to choose adoption has continued through our family tree.

Get Ready to Bid!

May 18 - 23, 2021

Begins: 5 PM on the 18th

Ends: 5 PM on the 23rd

Every year we have wonderful items
that we are excited to unveil soon!

Registration Required at: StandUpGirlEvents.com

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Grad & Professional Scholarship

Gilbert Chagoury Graduate
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Study Abroad in Lebanon Opportunities

Notre Dame University-Louaize
Up to 10 scholarships total for Fall 2021 or Spring 2022

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik
Up to 12 students for Summer 2022 Semester

For more information and applications visit www.namnews.org, namships@gmail.com, or call NAM at 330-212-9207

Application Deadline: May 28, 2021

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Covid Mass Policies

****SUNDAY MASS TIME****

11:00am

Confessions: 10:35-10:50am

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, May16, 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

“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11)

This past Thursday we celebrated the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ into heaven. The above are the words His disciples heard as they stared at the sky, pained at His departure. The Apostles, those called “Men of Galilee,” loved Christ and followed Him. They must have felt a great loss – they thought they lost Him at His death on the cross, yet He rose again and appeared to them. Now that He returned to them He left once again. But as the Apostles learned, Christ is always with us in leaving us His Spirit and uniting us to Himself in baptism. Still, just like the Apostles, we desire to see Christ face-to-face, even when we believe He is present in the Church, sacraments and our very persons.

The Apostles stared at the sky as Jesus left because they could not hide the desire natural to every human heart, which cannot be overcome once it is learned – the desire to be with the God Who loves us. This is why the Apostles would maintain the Jewish tradition of facing East while praying; but no longer were they facing the Temple, but awaiting the Second Coming of Christ. Of course, they did not literally believe His Coming had to come from the East, but the rising of the Sun is a most powerful image for the Second Coming. This is also why Divine Liturgies were historically celebrated in the morning.

For nearly two millennia, the Church has turned East to pray because she, just like the Apostles, await the great Second Coming. Every time we profess our faith in the Creed every liturgy, we say, “He will come in glory to judge the living and the dead.” Every time we gather to pray, we recall how we anticipate His Coming because Christ is the Lord Whom we love, and we wait

eagerly. Just like wedding guests waiting for the Groom to come (Matt. 25:6), we wait the day the angels announce Christ’s coming. The Second Coming, though it will include the judgment of all, is something we hope for rather than fear as Christians because it means the arrival of our beloved Lord. For those who despise Him, it will be their judgment. For those who love Him, it will be a long-awaited reunion.

It is still very much the Christian practice to stand facing East to pray because it reminds us every day, in every little prayer why we do everything that we do. Everything as a Christian should be for the Lord and done in the Lord. We have no life without Him and He Himself is love, as St. John tells us (1 John 4), so it is no surprise the Apostles were pained when they thought He left for ever. But we await the hope of the Resurrection for ourselves, and turn to the East eagerly expecting when He will come again to be with us in His love for mankind.

We give thanks to Him for His great Feast of the Ascension, which raises our minds to contemplate all His goodness towards us:

O God, You came to the world for our salvation in Your goodness, freed us from the error of Satan in Your mercifulness seated us with Yourself in heaven on the right hand of Your Sender. O Lord, may the minds and hearts of us, Your worshippers, be lifted up to You. May we lift up Your constant pure and holy praises, and offer to You glory and thanks, and to Your Father, and to Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen.

(Trans. from the Syriac Maronite Morning Prayer for the Feast of the Ascension)

**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

2925 SE 73rd Avenue
Hillsboro, OR, 97213
Bus 503-649-9514 Fax 503-649-1612
gibran.zogbi.qdmq@statefarm.com



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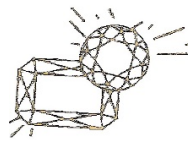
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