



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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www.stsharbel.org

May 9, 2021

Jesus Appears to the Apostles in the Upper Room



Next Sunday

Week of the Resurrection/Ascension

Acts: 1:1-14 (The Promise of the Spirit/Ascension of Jesus/The First Community in Jerusalem)

Mk 16:15-20 (The Commissioning of the Eleven/The Ascension of Jesus) Jerusalem)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for April 25th - May 1st

Online.....\$895.00

Collection.....\$420.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,315.00

YTD Total.....\$33,075.47

YTD Goal.....\$33,228.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$152.53**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, May 9th, 11:00am

+Emily Faddoul, 40 Day Memorial

+George Faddoul

Monday, May 10th

Available

Tuesday, May 11th

Available

Wednesday, May 12th

Available

Thursday, May 13th

Available

Friday, May 14th

Available

Saturday, May 15th

Available

Sunday, May 16th

Available

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 9th

Available

Sunday, May 16th

Available

Parish | Community Events

Happy Mother's Day

To all of the Mother's and Mother Figures!

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

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.

LAST MEETING until Fall: May 8, 2021 @1pm

Watch for invitation in your inbox

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

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 9, 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

This week we will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension on the 40th day of Easter. It is an important commemoration, as it marks the day when Christ ascended to heaven after His Resurrection. But it is curious to ask why and how we celebrate Jesus' leaving when He promised "I am with you every day until the end of the world. Amen" (Matt. 28:20).

Until this point in the Church year we celebrated Christ's Incarnation, God becoming man, because by Him becoming man He joined His divinity to our humanity. From celebrating His annunciation and birth in December until last month when we celebrated His resurrection from the dead, each event recounts how Christ had no need to be humbled yet He did so to save us from death and sin. It would seem, then, His leaving should be a sad event. But He has joined Himself to humanity, and by Baptism we clothed ourselves in Him (Gal. 3:27).

Though Christ ascends to heaven on the Feast of the Ascension, He does not leave us just as He did not leave His heavenly Father when He became man because He unchangingly remained God, united to His Father. Christ's promise is true when He promised that He would remain with us forever, which is why even on the Feast of His Ascension in Evening Prayer, we sing:

Glory be to Him Who came down.
Glory be to Him Who ascended.
Glory be to Him Who brought us up
with Him to heaven.

We give thanks to God for, though He did not need, He became man to unite His immortal and sinless self to our weak human nature. After He taught us on Earth of His Father and Spirit, He suffered, died and rose to destroy death and sin. He did all of this in His love for mankind. But He ascended to heaven that He could bring us up with Him. The image often given of Christ the Good Shepherd is a shepherd carrying a lamb on His shoulders. The lamb is Adam, who strayed from God's instruction, but He nonetheless went after the lamb to find him. Upon finding Adam, who represents all of humanity, He saved him from death and brought him back to heaven. What is beautiful about the Ascension is that Christ ascended in the flesh – bringing our human nature to heaven, where His divine nature was already forever.

Christ united divinity to our humanity, and by so allowed us, humanity, to participate in divinity – it is a mystery we call theosis. Just as Christ loved us and did all things for us in His mercy, coming down to be near us, so too do we live to be close to Him, Whom we love. On this day we do not celebrate His departure for He never left from amongst us. On His Ascension, He carried our human nature to the Father, that we may aspire to be like Him as He became like us. We thank Him for the greatness of His love and implore His goodness:

In Your love of mankind, O Lord, You emptied Yourself and became man for our sake. You ascended in the flesh to heaven and You amazed the hosts of heaven by Your Ascension near them. Now show us, O Lord, the glory of Your Lordship and make us gods just as You became like us in all things apart from sin. Make us worthy that we may purely and holily glorify You all the days of our lives, and Your Father, and Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen.
(Trans. from the Syriac Maronite Evening Prayer for Ascension)

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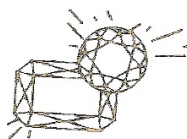
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