



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

July 4, 2021

The Mission of the 72 Apostles



Next Sunday

The Spirituality of God's Messenger

Rom 8:1-11 (The Flesh and the Spirit)

Mt 12:14-21 (The Chosen Servant)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for June 20th - 26th

Online.....\$1,485.00

Collection.....\$788.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,273.00

YTD Total.....\$49,313.47

YTD Goal.....\$47,996.00

YTD Difference.....\$1,317.47

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, July 4th, 11:00am

Available

Monday, July 5th

Available

Tuesday, July 6th

Available

Wednesday, July 7th

Available

Thursday, July 8th

+Anne Bellet

Friday, July 9th

Available

Saturday, July 10th

Available

Sunday, July 11th

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, July 4th

Available

Sunday, July 11th

Available

MASS UPDATES:

Brothers and Sisters,

Given the bishop has removed the dispensation to attend Mass on July 1st, we will be discontinuing our live streaming of the Holy Mysteries. We want to thank, and acknowledge Jonathan Zogbi for his devoted service every week over these past 15 months. I would like to formally invite everyone back to church. Mask use will be optional —wear a mask if you'd like. It's your preference beginning this weekend. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your patience and generous support through this difficult period.

God Bless, Abouna

Parish Council

+Bruce Ashford
(Treasurer)

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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



****SUNDAY MASS TIME****

11:00am

Confessions: 10:35-10:50am



HAVE A SAFE &



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

Reflection

“Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves” (Luke 10:3) our Lord said without mincing words. This is what He told the first 72 disciples He sent out to go before Him while He taught Israel about the Kingdom of God. Those who are baptized into the spiritual and true Israel, the Church, follow Christ as His disciple and join those 72. It is no small task knowing we are sent out before Christ like lambs among wolves - but must always remain confident that our competence comes not from ourselves, but by God, for Whom we have become temples by our baptism.

Christ is “the Way, the Truth and the Life,” and “does not delight in the death of a sinner, but desires that they repent and live.” Those who turn to Christ and follow Him obtain eternal life in Him. To bring all back to Him, Christ sends His disciples out in every age in His love. But true love must be freely accepted, and therefore He both gives us the chance to accept or reject Him, and the chance to accept or reject His imperative to His disciples.

In the Maronite Church, we have a rich treasury of saints who accepted to bear witness to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the world out of love of Him that others might share in the joy. During this Season of Pentecost, we commemorate many of them, which demonstrate the great diversity of ways these disciples served their Lord. Within the same week, we celebrate St. Marina (July 16) and St. Nuhra (July 22), who show the vast range of ways those who follow God bear His witness among the wolves undaunted.

St. Marina occupies the quieter, but equally heroic, side of the spectrum in following Christ. In her life, she wished to live her whole life for God, as well as any man, and did not wish to impede her widower father from joining the monastery. So St. Marina joined the monastery with her father, disguising herself as a man. One day, a nobleman’s daughter slanders Marina, disguised as a monk, by claiming she impregnated her. Marina accepts her banishment from the monastery and lives a strongly ascetic life, even though it was anatomically impossible for her to have committed her accused crime. In a beautiful debate hymn in the Syriac tradition between her and Satan, Satan tries to convince her with the logic of the world to just reveal she is a woman and exonerate herself: he tries to scare her with fear of social isolation, loss of pride and fear of being attacked. But Marina defeats Satan by reminding him he has already lost, and all those who follow Christ follow victory, thus she continued to live her life for Christ in monastic practice.

St. Nuhra, on the other hand, was called by God to outwardly speak and profess his faith. According to the Maronite tradition, he went to Alexandria from Persia to profess the true faith in Christ. Eventually he was questioned by pagan lords, and cut to pieces for refuses to worship pagan gods. In the logic that Satan tried to use with Marina, it would seem Nuhra lost and the lords won. But Nuhra professed his faith, strengthened by God, and continues to live eternally in heaven. We have forgotten the names of the pagan lords who murdered him, but remember his name and know he has truly triumphed. Just as Christ died and His enemies said they had won, Nuhra died in body but will rise again with all the saints on the Last Day. We are called to the same by our baptism. Though the world suggests the wolves shall win, those who follow the Lamb of God shall have eternal life and all else will fade into nothingness.

Strengthen us, O Lord God, by Your power as You strengthened St. Nuhra in his steadfast witness of You. Perfect us in Your profession as You perfected Your martyr. Grant us that we may profess You before every man as he confessed You before kings and did not deny You. Ignite Your love in us like Your athlete who blazed with zeal. May we rebuke the transgressors of Your law as he rebuked the heathen king, the hater of truth. When You number us with him in Your Kingdom and delight us like him in Your bridal chamber, we shall joyfully offer glory and thanks together to You, and to Your Father, and to Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (From the Syriac Maronite Office for the Feast of St. Nuhra)



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

June 30, 2021

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings and Peace!

The past year and a half has been a difficult and painful time for many of us as the COVID-19 Pandemic raged at home and abroad but now we see the light at the end of the tunnel. We are finally able to return to gather with our families and friends, and most importantly, to gather as a community of Christian faithful.

As of **July 1, 2021**, the canonical dispensation from attending the Divine Liturgy will be completely lifted in our Eparchy, with a call on everyone to return to their second home and give the proper respect due to God. All of our Churches continue to take the proper health and safety precautions and follow the CDC requirements.

Please find below the list of guidelines for General Consideration:

- Liturgical celebration and other religious services are allowed indoors without limitations on capacity or social distancing.
- Masses may be celebrated without restrictions.
- The Holy Communion may be given by intinction or on the hand but will be at the Pastor's discretion.
- Holy Water will be available.
- Hymnals, missalettes, bulletins, and offertory baskets will be reinstated at the discretion of the Pastor.
- The Sign of Peace during Mass will also be reinstated at the discretion of the Pastor.
- We ask those who are not fully vaccinated or unable to receive the vaccine to continue to wear masks during any gatherings. Masks are not required for those who have received the full dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. We ask Parishes to post signs stating mask use for unvaccinated attendees. Vaccination verification is not required.
- Parishes may resume gatherings including social gatherings, group gatherings, and prayer meetings while observing the proper health measurements.
- Our parishes will continue to diligently clean the Churches after services and provide hand sanitizer for those in attendance.

Letter from Bishop A. Elias Zaidan

June 30, 2021

Page 2 of 2

- Those who are homebound, seriously ill, or immunocompromised will be exempted from the obligation to attend Mass.
- Live-streamed Divine Liturgical service continuation will be at the discretion of the Pastor and according to local needs.

We are joyous to welcome you back home and to celebrate the Divine Liturgy once again as a community. As Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matt 18:30). We have been physically, emotionally, and psychologically distant from each other and our Church for a long time, it is now time for us to celebrate and rejoice together.

My brother priests and I welcome all of you back with open hearts and open arms. We look forward to seeing you and your families back at the Liturgies and connecting once again with the greater community.

With my sincere best wishes and prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ,

+A. Elias Zaidan

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

**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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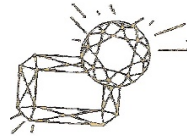
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