



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

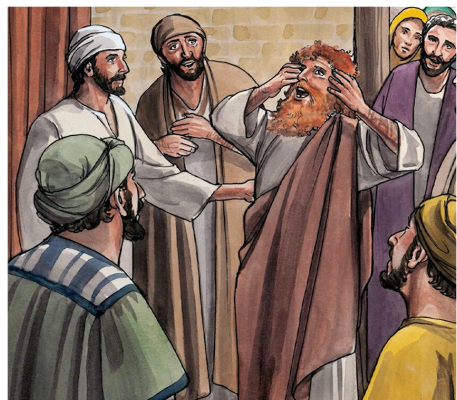
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stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

August 1, 2021

The Fruit of the Message to the Jews



Next Sunday

The Fruit of the Message to the Gentiles

12th Sunday of Pentecost

Eph 1:1-13 (Commission to Preach God's Plan)

Mt 15:21-28 (The Canaanite Woman's Faith)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for July 18th - 24th

Online.....\$755.00

Collection.....\$3,280.00

Weekly Total.....\$4,035.00

YTD Total.....\$56,801.47

YTD Goal.....\$55,380.00

YTD Difference.....\$1,421.47

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, August 1st, 11:00am

Available

Monday, August 2nd

Available

Tuesday, August 3rd

Available

Wednesday, August 4th

Available

Thursday, August 5th

Available

Friday, August 6th

Available

Saturday, August 7th

Available

Sunday, August 8th

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, August 1st

Available

Sunday, August 8th

Available

Parish / Community Events

****SUNDAY MASS TIME****

11:00am

Confessions: 10:35-10:50am

Parish Council

Bruce Ashford

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



Seek Things Above

MONASTIC DISCERNMENT RETREAT OCTOBER 15 - 17

at Mount Angel Abbey & Online

For information or to register, contact
Fr. Odo Recker, OSB, Vocation Director
503.881.8919 | vocation@mtangel.edu

MOUNTANGELABBEY.ORG



**HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC CLINIC**

**Natural Family Planning
Awareness Week
July 25 - 31**

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is the general title for the scientific, natural and moral methods of family planning that can help married couples **either achieve or postpone pregnancies**.

"NFP reflects the dignity of the human person within the context of marriage and family life, promotes openness to life, and recognizes the value of the child. By respecting the love-giving and life-giving natures of marriage, NFP can enrich the bond between husband and wife." www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/diocesan-ministry/standards-full-text

We are blessed to have a local resource for NFP. Contact Holy Family Catholic Clinic at 503-994-4353 or go to their webpage at www.holyfamilyclinic.com.

Reflection

Lk 19:1-10

“All the people saw this and began to mutter, ‘He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.’” (Luke 19:7)

In this Sunday’s Gospel, we see Zacchaeus climb a tree to see Jesus in a crowd, and the crowd is annoyed when Jesus decides to visit Zacchaeus’ house. After all, Zacchaeus is the chief tax collector, a traitor to fellow Jews by working for the Roman Empire and collecting extra taxes for himself. It is curious then if one looks at how often he (or more broadly, a tax collector) is mentioned every week in the Maronite *Shhimto*, the book of prayers. Along other figures from the Bible, such as the Prostitute (Luke 6:36-50) and the Good Thief (Luke 23:39-43), Zacchaeus, by name or job, is mentioned as an example to Christian life over a dozen times and six out of seven days every week.

But why did the Syriac Fathers hold up a traitorous extortion, a sexually immoral woman and someone crucified for thief as examples – after all, we are called to be holy church- attending Christians who do what is right and reject what is wrong. They are exemplary for just that reason – they reject their past evils and strive for what is right for love of God after encountering Jesus Christ. Anyone, even an atheist, can work towards ethical behavior, but the Christian does so for love of God. Whereas Zacchaeus formerly acted for himself, experiencing Jesus, he seeks to follow something infinitely greater than himself or worldly pleasures – God. Zacchaeus is the success story of the mercy of God:

*Our Lord, call us to repentance as You called the sinful woman; open Your door to our prayers as You did to Zecchaeus, the Chief Tax Collector. As You stretched out a hand to Simon amidst the waves and pulled him out, draw out Your Church, O Lord, from divisions and strife.
(Trans. from the Syriac Maronite Shhimto)*

As the hymn verse suggests, we are not above Zacchaeus. The people in the crowd who murmur against Christ for going to Zacchaeus’ house are mistaken. All are in need of God’s mercy for no one is justified before God (Ps. 143:2). Zacchaeus, not the crowd, is the one who receives salvation that day for he sought God to come to him. Likewise, Christ says the physician goes to those who are sick – the healthy have no need of a doctor (Mark 2:17). But to be treated by the Divine Physician we must allow Him to treat us, even if our sicknesses are less serious than those we compare ourselves with. Even a small illness can become deadly untreated.

Zacchaeus, along with the Prostitute and the Good Thief, are constantly invoked as examples in Syriac spirituality because it reminds us Christ does not withhold His mercy to those who repent. In fact, He said through the prophet Ezekiel that He does not delight in the death of a sinner, but seeks that he repent and live (Ez. 33:11). We constantly enter into sin, and we must therefore constantly seek Christ, Who is the Divine Physician and Who is the only one with the cure for our spiritual illness.

At times it may be futile, and we can either say that there is no point to continual conversion if we will just sin again or we might believe that we do not even sin seriously. To the former, if we become sick we do not resolve that we will not treat our cancer just because we might get a cold in the future until we resolve to die. Likewise, when we become sick by means of sin, we must seek Christ’s cure of forgiveness, even if we might sin again – He gives His forgiveness freely to the sincere. Without His cure from sin, we will die the eternal death in hell. Cured, we will live the eternal life of heaven. But we are all in need of it for we all have sin that festers without God. Let us look to Zacchaeus’ example and seek out the Divine Physician for our souls:

O Physician of Mercy Who was sent from His Father to heal the world, in Your mercy heal our illness and in Your compassion our greivous wounds. Through You, may Satan, who fights against us ceaselessly, be overcome. In Your mercy, have mercy on our souls



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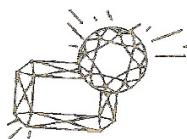
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