



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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

## August 8, 2021

**The Fruit of the Message to the Gentiles**



### Next Sunday

*Preaching the Word*

**1 Cor 3:1-11** (The Ministers of a New Covenant?  
Contrast with the Old Covenant)

**Lk 8:1-15** (The Parable of the Sower)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for July 25th - 31st*

Online.....\$1,205.00

Collection.....\$159.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,364.00

YTD Total.....\$58,165.47

YTD Goal.....\$57,226.00

YTD Difference.....\$939.47

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, August 8th, 11:00am

+Katina Khalaf

Monday, August 9th

Available

Tuesday, August 10th

Available

Wednesday, August 11th

Available

Thursday, August 12th

Available

Friday, August 13th

Available

Saturday, August 14th

Available

Sunday, August 15th

+Barbara Sackett

**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 8th

Available

Sunday, August 15th

Available

# Parish / Community Events

## 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

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

11:00am

Confessions: 10:35-10:50am



## **YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 3RD ANNUAL MONASTERY BARBECUE FUNDRAISER SATURDAY, AUGUST 14TH**

**THE DAY WILL BEGIN WITH  
SACRED MYSTERIES (MARONITE MASS)**

**10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON**

**BARBECUE**

**12:00 NOON TO 5:00 PM**



**Join the Monks of Jesus Mary and Joseph of the Sacred Heart Monastery for the Holy Mysteries (Mass) followed by a fundraiser barbecue. Spend the day partaking in the peace and tranquility of the monastery grounds in the shadow of the new monastery structure, which is getting closer to completion. Enjoy Mediterranean cuisine and American barbecue choices. We will also have activities for the children.**

**Plates are \$15 dollars per person.**

**We look forward to sharing this time together and thank you in advance for your generous support.**



**MONASTERY ADDRESS: 2314 DELAMETER RD. CASTLE ROCK, WASHINGTON 98611**

**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE MONKS, GO TO THEIR WEBSITE AT:**

**WWW.MARONITEMONASTERY.COM**



# Reflection

Mt 15:21-28

A common protest to going to church is that it is full of hypocrites – “why should I go to church if it is full of sinners?” “These people claim to be seeking God yet I know their many faults!” In today’s Gospel reading, the people of Jericho mutter similar things when Jesus accepts to be a guest in the house of Zacchaeus the tax collector. Zacchaeus was seen as a public enemy and a sinner because he collected taxes from fellow Jews on behalf of the Roman Empire, which was seen as an invasive foreign power. Worse, Zacchaeus not only worked for the enemy but he overcharged taxes to take the extra for himself. It was a shock, then, when Jesus, our God known in Israel as a just prophet and teacher, accepted to go to Zacchaeus’s house instead of those who keep all the Law and call themselves righteous. Why would Christ go to this sinner rather than those who are known amongst men as righteous?

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10) as Christ says Himself. Earlier in Luke’s Gospel, Christ says, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:31-32). As St. Jacob of Sarug wrote about Zacchaeus, “The Good Physician did not descend to heal the healthy...whoever is sick calls a physician to come to him.” As we so often emphasize in the Syriac tradition, Christ came down from heaven out of love for mankind alone – He had no obligation to save us. He did not come to condemn but to save in His mercy those who heed Him (John 3:17). It is not strange, then, that the Physician should be seen with the sick Zacchaeus – in fact, it only makes sense for Christ came to lift up our fallen state.

The true arrogance falls with the people who declare Zacchaeus a sinner in protest of Christ going to be his guest. Zacchaeus was certainly a sinner in need of Christ’s redemption. However, if they recalled the Psalms they sang in the synagogue they would remember the rhetorical verse, “If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?” (Ps. 130:3). The verse implies that everyone is guilty before God because no one is perfect, and if God were to call us to account for our sins fairly, we would all be condemned! It is truly arrogant, then, to think that we could be justified of our own doing.

Fortunately for us, Christ has not come to condemn but call to repentance that we might obtain the forgiveness of our sins and have eternal life in Him. As St. Jacob says, Christ would not have taught us to say, “Forgive us our trespasses” in the Our Father if He would not forgive us the same trespasses! As the Lord said through His prophet Ezekiel, “I receive no pleasure in the death of the wicked. Instead, my pleasure is that the wicked repent from their behavior and live” (Ez. 33:11). So Christ not only grants us the opportunity, but really wants us to be forgiven that we may live, and live with Him, His Father and His Holy Spirit. Zacchaeus is the prime example – if a man of such lowly reputation can be saved, anyone can, just as St. Jacob says:

*Through Zacchaeus the Tax Collector He [Christ] made a marketplace for repentance that everyone should come and deal in it without restraint. Through that swindler He gave encouragement to the sons of evil that if they should repent they will not be punished by justice.*

Let us cast aside our inhibitions with Zacchaeus of how we look in our shortcomings, whether known or secret, and climb to see Christ. There, for love of Him, let us call out by our very lives to Him that He visit us and heal us of our sin in His mercy. No sin is too great nor is it ever too late until the last moment of life for our God’s mercy is that abundant. Church is not the meeting place of hypocrites, but the hospital of the Good Physician Who rejoices when sinners enter His house for He heal them of sin and grant them eternal life if they only ask in sincerity.



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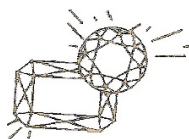
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