

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

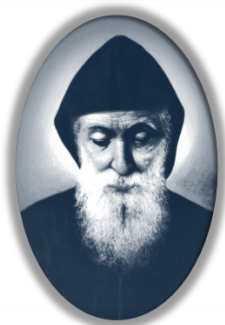
Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org



September 12, 2021

Feast of the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

1st Sunday After the Holy Cross

2 Tim 2:1-10 (Timothy's Conduct)

Mk 10:35-45 (Ambition of James and John)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, September 12th, 11:00am

+May Haddad

Monday, September 13th

Available

Tuesday, September 14th

Available

Wednesday, September 15th

Available

Thursday, September 16th

Available

Friday, September 17th

Available

Saturday, September 18th

Available

Sunday, September 19th

+Faris Shemali

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 Aug 29th - Sept 4th

Online.....\$955.00

Collection.....\$210.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,165.00

YTD Total.....\$64,423.47

YTD Goal.....\$66,456.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,032.53**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, September 12th

Available

Sunday, September 19th

Redmond Family

Parish | Community Events



Our first Maronite Young Adults (MYA) meeting will be on 9/26, in person, after the Holy Mysteries in the area outside the sacristy. The MYA is a group of men and women ages 18-40 (ish) which meets once a month for fellowship, prayer, and social activities. If interested, please contact Claude Karam at claudio@trazzafoods.com

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

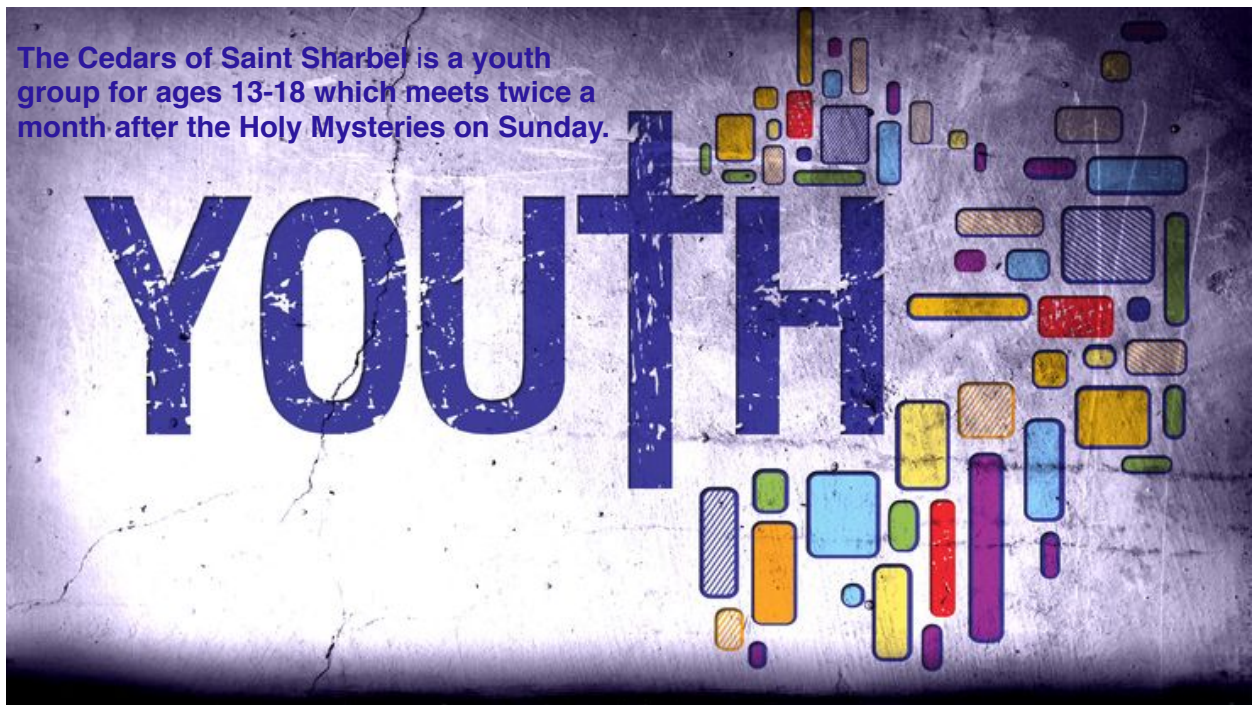
Ex Officio
+Deacon Tony
+Deacon Wadih

+Finance
Committee

All Families with children age 6 to 12 (grades: 1-7):

St. Sharbel Sunday School Program will begin on Sunday, October 3, 2021. The goal of this program is to prepare our kids for the Sacraments and to build a strong relationship with each other and their parish. Please email Nadia Redmond at n.redmond@comcast.net to register for the program and for more information.

P.S. Please attend Zoom meeting for parents on Wednesday, September 15 at 7:00 pm - (see Youth Cedars Program announcement)



The Cedars of Saint Sharbel is a youth group for ages 13-18 which meets twice a month after the Holy Mysteries on Sunday.

Meeting dates are posted here and sent out in email. For more information, contact Gennifer Karam: jmjkaram3@gmail.com

To answer any questions or address concerns of parents prior to our first meeting, Abouna Christopher will join us for a Zoom parent meeting on **Wednesday, September 15 at 7pm.** Nadia Redmond will also fill us in on the Eparchy's new Safe Environment requirements for the children of our parish, which all parents will need to be aware of. This meeting is for parents of all children in K-12.

Please contact Gennifer at the above stated email address to receive the Zoom invite.

Reflection

September 14th is one of the major feasts in the Syriac tradition – the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. St. Helena, the mother of St. Constantine, the Emperor of Rome, established the day as the Feast of the Cross, as she found the cross of Jesus Christ by Golgotha in Jerusalem on this day. It was found while St. Helena was overseeing the construction of a church over the place where Christ was crucified and was buried. Having found the true cross, Constantine proclaimed a holy day to venerate it throughout the Empire.

But why do we venerate the cross? It would seem a bit odd to venerate the instrument of torture used against our Lord and God if He had not risen from the dead. However, we know that Christ rose from the dead, and so He made a mockery out of death and its instruments. Jesus showed in His crucifixion that He has the power to make even an instrument of death a means of life. He transformed His cross, which was used to sentence Him to death, into an instrument that brings life to all those who believe in it, “an armor of righteousness, a companion of assistances, and a fount of immortality” (as our prayers call it). But why does the cross receive such lofty titles? When Jesus, our immortal God died, He descended to the place of the dead and defeated death, rising again and promising His believers the same. So what others see as a way to death, Christians see it as the key that brought eternal life. God is so great He can make a symbol of death one of life – hence why the Syriac tradition often contrasts the cross to the tree that Adam ate from and died: “The fruit from the tree killed Adam, and the Fruit from heaven redeemed him.” Christ is the Fruit of Life Who has given Himself to us for life, and the cross is the tree that has borne Him for us. It was the foolishness of Adam that caused his fall, but it was the mercy of Christ that returned him to Eden – this is what the cross represents.

But the cross does not simply represent the suffering of Christ. On Sunday morning we lift up the cross in glorious victory because it is empty along with the tomb. The cross is a sign of the Resurrection, for by it Christ descended to Sheol and raised the dead who served Him in their lives to heaven. We exalt the cross again on the Holy Cross and bless the four corners of the world for it continues to be the very pillar of the world. Creation itself and its continuance rely solely on the merciful salvation of God – the cross is the very pinnacle of this sustaining mercy. In mercy, Christ exorcised demons and healed the sick, worked miracles and showed His divinity. This mercy pervades every aspect of our life and remains with the baptized at all times, for we have put on Christ through the waters of baptism.

The cross is the sign of salvation, and it is the banner of our King. We have easy access to this mighty power. Our enemies, the demons and devils, flee at the very sight of the Lord’s sign. By the sign of the cross and invocation of the Persons of the Trinity we obtain the assistance of the mercy of God. The sign of the cross is so commonly made that it is overlooked, but each and every time we make the sign of the cross we recalled and call upon the help and hope of God’s entire plan of salvation. When we are in need, let us trace this powerful sign upon ourselves as we pray:

We trace the living sign of the cross between our eyes
and by its power we are protected from harm and
injury. Demons flee before whomever signs himself
with the cross –the [same] cross that restore the House
of Adam from error.

(Trans. from the Prayers for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross)



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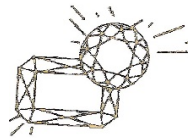
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