



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

503.231.3853

[stsharbelpdx@gmail.com](mailto:stsharbelpdx@gmail.com)

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

## September 26, 2021

2nd Sunday After the Holy Cross



### Next Sunday

3rd Sunday After the Holy Cross

**Phil 3:17-4:1** (Wrong Conduct and Our Goal/Live in Concord)

**Mt 24:23-31** (The Great Tribulation/The Coming of the Son of Man)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for September 12th - 18th*

Online.....\$560.00

Collection.....\$380.00

Weekly Total.....\$940.00

YTD Total.....\$67,243.47

YTD Goal.....\$70,148.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,904.53**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, September 26th, 11:00am

+Grandpa Pat Redmond

Monday, September 27th

+Jose Puig Casimiro

Tuesday, September 28th

Available

Wednesday, September 29th

In Honor of Archangel Michael

Thursday, September 30th

Available

Friday, October 1st

Available

Saturday, October 2nd

Available

Sunday, October 3rd

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, September 26th

Redmond Family

Sunday, October 3rd

Available

# 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 [claudetrazzafoods.com](mailto:claudetrazzafoods.com)

## Parish Council

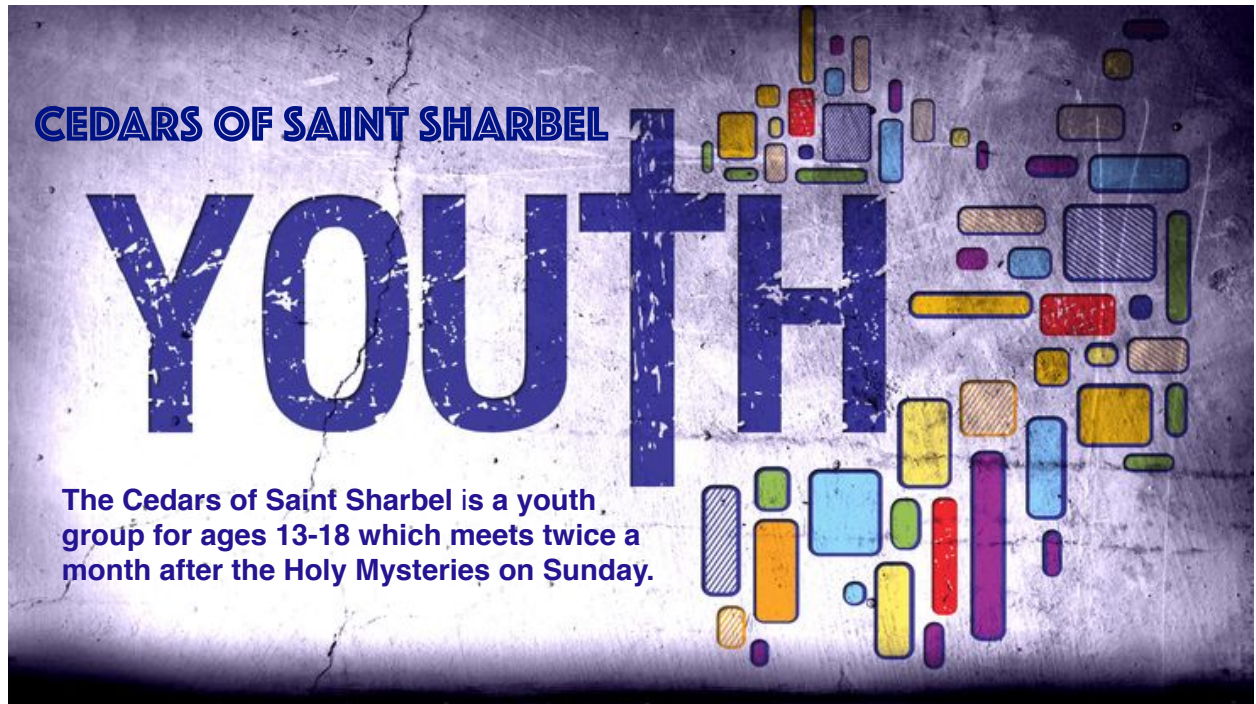
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Charlie Ashou  
Gus Bekahi  
Nick El Hajj  
Agopos Ghossein  
Adib Karam  
+Claude Karam  
Anne Marentette  
(Secretary)  
+Doug Raab  
+Thaddeus Rask  
Nadia Redmond  
Mitch Siekmann

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](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net) to register for the program and for more information.



We will be meeting in person, God willing. Our first Cedars meeting will be on **Sunday, September 26**, immediately following mass, in the downstairs basement. All participants will be required to mask and social distance.

Meeting Dates (Subject to Change)

**September 26**

**October 17**

**October 31**

**November 14**

**December 5** — Family Adoration for Teens and Families, No meeting

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



# JOIN THE ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL

TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF MARONITE SEMINARIANS  
AND HELP BUILD THE FUTURE OF THE MARONITE CHURCH



## JOIN THE ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL TODAY

Enroll online at [www.orderstsharbel.org](http://www.orderstsharbel.org) or in your Parish.

For more information about the Order, please contact your Parish Priest or Order of Saint Sharbel President Jim Abdo at [info@orderstsharbel.org](mailto:info@orderstsharbel.org) or call the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles at (314) 231-1021.

If you are interested in becoming a Priest or Religious Sister, contact Vocations Director, Msgr. Donald J. Sawyer, D. Min, at 512-458-3693 or [dsawyer@grandecom.net](mailto:dsawyer@grandecom.net)



MOUNT ANGEL  
ABBAY



## Seek Things Above

### MONASTIC DISCERNMENT RETREAT OCTOBER 15 - 17

at Mount Angel Abbey

For information or to register, contact  
Fr. Odo Recker, OSB, Vocation Director  
503.881.8919 | [vocation@mtangel.edu](mailto:vocation@mtangel.edu)

[MOUNTANGELABBAY.ORG](http://MOUNTANGELABBAY.ORG)

### Wedding Planning Checklist

#### 4 MONTHS TO GO

- ☐ PLAN THE CEREMONY
- ☐ WRITE VOWS
- ☒ ATTEND COUPLES WORKSHOP  
TO BUILD A STRONG  
FOUNDATION FOR MY  
MARRIAGE

Prepare for your marriage at our next  
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Trained therapists will guide you  
through exercises and activities that will  
help you build communication and  
conflict resolution skills to use  
throughout your marriage.

**\*\*This workshop fulfills the 4<sup>th</sup> step in the  
Archdiocese of Portland's Marriage  
Preparation Journey.\*\***

### NEXT WORKSHOP IS:

Friday, November 12, 6 pm–8 pm &  
Saturday, November 13  
9 am–11am & 1 pm–3 pm  
(Couples must attend each session)

### WHERE

Online with Zoom  
(Couples will be emailed with log-in information)

### COST

\$225 per couple

### REGISTRATION

Register and pay online at  
[nwcounseling.org/product/couples-  
workshop/](http://nwcounseling.org/product/couples-workshop/)

**Follow us on social media!**

@2Have2HoldPDX



Join us for The Northwest Catholic Counseling Center's Workshop Series

## Building a Grief Practice

### October Workshop

*Loss is something we all experience, and we  
each grieve in different ways. In this  
workshop, we will explore a model for  
stages of grief, how some people observe  
grief, and how grief can be processed  
through creativity and activity. Each  
participant will create an outline for their  
own personal grief practice.*

*\*This workshop is best suited for those now  
experiencing an immediate and recent loss.*

### REGISTER

Online:

[nwcounseling.org/product-  
category/workshops/](http://nwcounseling.org/product-category/workshops/)

Or Call:

503.253.0964



**Presented by  
Thomás Grubb, LPC**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22  
1PM-3PM PT**

**ZOOM | LINKS TO ACCESS THE  
WORKSHOP WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL  
ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT**

**COST: \$30 PER HOUSEHOLD**  
**Hardship Scholarships Available  
Upon Request**

*Preregistration required. Workshop fee must be  
paid at time of registration.*

[NWCOUNSELING.ORG](http://NWCOUNSELING.ORG)



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## Reflection

*So great is the faith of the Thief whose Lord was crucified upon the Tree and Whose forgiveness he requested. With nails in His hands and feet, he said to Him, "Forgive me my transgression!" Behold, Simon who had seen denied [Him], John stood afar, and the Thief cried out, "Remember me when You come!"*  
(From the prayers of the Feast of the Holy Cross)

In mostly every other situation, it would be odd to hold up a thief as an example of how we should behave. But throughout the Syriac tradition, the Fathers constantly call our attention to how exemplary the Thief crucified next to Christ is (Luke 23:39-43). Simon Peter, who only shortly before the Passion professed that he would never abandon Christ, denied him and ran away. John, known as the Beloved Disciple and who laid his head on Jesus' chest at the Last Supper, now stands afar. But it was a thief, who admitted his execution was deserved, is raised up as our saintly example even above the first Bishop of Rome and an apostle. From the Thief, we learn three salient lessons.

The Thief sees with what the Syriac Fathers call the "Eye of the Spirit." Christ was beaten and about to die, yet to the Thief He was clearly the Lord of All. While others taunted Him to save Himself, the Thief understood that He was the One without Whom His persecutors would cease to exist. Peter, though he had seen Christ manifest His godly glory at the Transfiguration, still did not understand. But the Thief in his heart understood well when Christ said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25). That day, the Thief gained eternal life in heaven by dying in faith, but Peter died by denouncing God until he would repent.

The Thief's plea for mercy from God reminds us that we should and must call out to God to save us from our sin. Even in the day of his death, the Thief still had hope because Jesus is the Hope of the Hopeless. Whereas an external observer would say the Thief died and Peter lived by fleeing, we know that the Thief gained eternal life and Peter had rejected the Lord of Life at that moment. The Thief knew that no sin, even one that brought him to death, was larger than the mercy of God – his name is a reminder, in that we remember him by his crime but laud him for his faith. God is the judge of heart and mind, and not restricted to human concepts of justice. He is always eager to have mercy – and when Peter repented from his denunciation of Jesus, he too was forgiven and became the highest bishop of the Church.

The last lesson from the Thief is that we are reminded God is the Judge of Judges – not us. It can be difficult not to judge people by their pasts and appearances, but we must remember we not determine who is worthy of the forgiveness or blessing of the Most High God! After all, it was Sts. Peter and John, apostles and bishops, who ran or stood afar. It was the Thief who was pleasing to God in that moment. But the temporary lapse of Peter also did not define the rest of his life – with sincere repentance came perfect reconciliation!

Like the Thief, let us seek God with spiritual eyes instead of the judgment of man. Like the Thief, let us call out to God at all hours, in spite of how hopeless our situations may look. Like the Thief, let us not try to replace the judgment of God with our own but be confident in His steadfastness! May prayers of the Thief be a rampart to us!

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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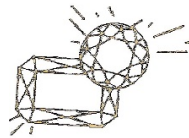
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