



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

October 17, 2021

5th Sunday After the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

6th Sunday After the Holy Cross

Gal 6:1-10 (Life in the Community of Christ)

Mt 25:14-30 (The Parable of the Talents)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for October 3rd - 9th

Online.....\$915.00

Collection.....\$400.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,315.00

YTD Total.....\$70,968.47

YTD Goal.....\$75,686.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$4,717.53**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, October 17th, 11:00am

+Dr. Thomas Rask

Monday, October 18th

Available

Tuesday, October 19th

Available

Wednesday, October 20th

Available

Thursday, October 21st

Friends of the Suffering Souls

Friday, October 22nd

Happy Birthday Judith

Saturday, October 23rd

Available

Sunday, October 24th

+Joseph Tannous Atie

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, October 17th

Available

Sunday, October 24th

Redmond Family

Parish / Community Events

Parish Council

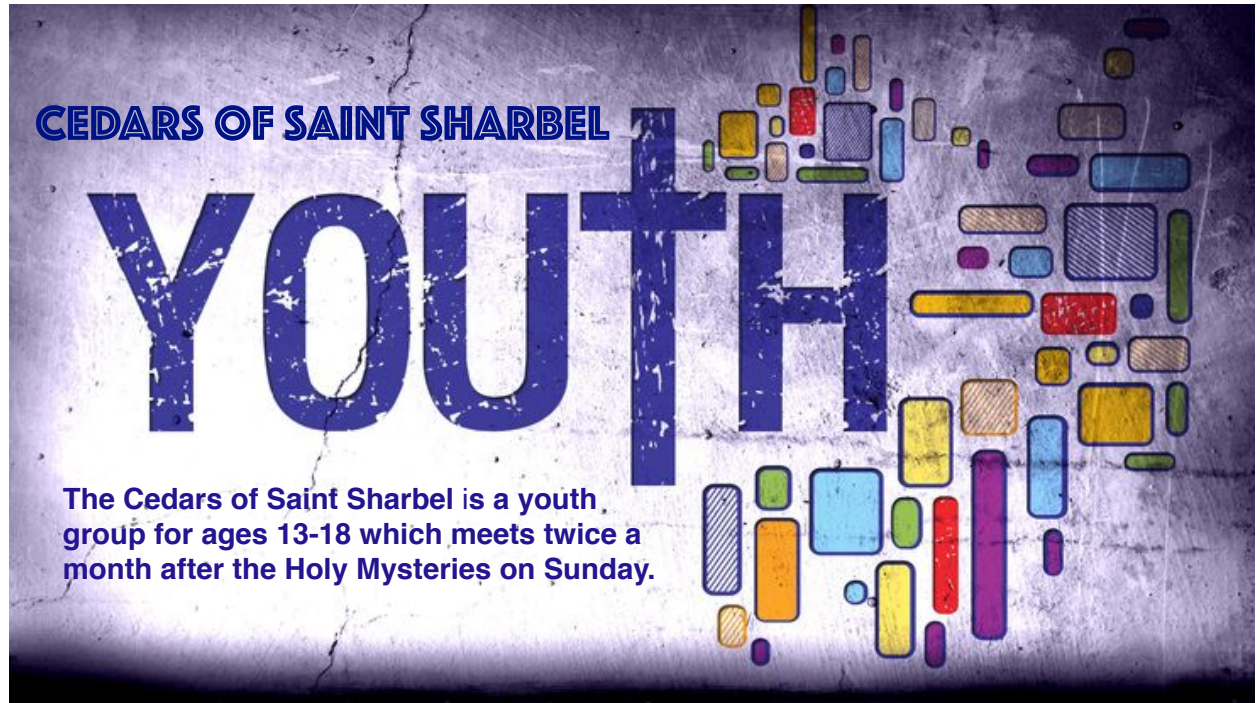
Bruce Ashford
Charlie Ashou
Gus Bekahi
Nick El Hajj
Agopos Ghossein
Adib Karam
+Claude Karam
Anne Marentette
(Secretary)
+Doug Raab
+Thaddeus Rask
Nadia Redmond
Mitch Siekmann

Ex Officio
+Deacon Tony
+Deacon Wadih

+Finance
Committee

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

St. Sharbel Sunday School Program started 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.



We will be meeting in person, God willing. Meetings will immediately follow mass, in the downstairs basement. All participants will be required to mask and social distance.

Meeting Dates (Subject to Change)

October 17

October 31

November 14

December 5 — Family Adoration at 10:15am. No additional meeting this month
Stay Tuned for a list of 2022 Meetings

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



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

Next Meeting Date TBA

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 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 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

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/

Or Call:

503.253.0964

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

NWCOUNSELING.ORG



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

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
Couples Workshop!

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 4th 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/

Follow us on social media!

@2Have2HoldPDX



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Reflection

The Parable of the Ten Virgins awaiting the Bridegroom from today's Gospel (Matt. 25:1-13) is a commonly used theme in our Syriac tradition. Christ taught us this image because of its usefulness in mentally preparing for the last day, and so our wise Syriac Fathers have been certain to use it in their writings, hymns and homilies. There is a wealth of symbolism in it: the virgins and the Bridegroom, the oil of the lamps, and the wedding banquet.

The first element of the reading is the virgins and the Bridegroom. As Christ says, "Many are invited, but few are chosen" (Matt. 22:14). God wishes all to be saved, and so by His life-giving sacrifice on Earth He has called all peoples to His Church, but He does not force us to receive His loving salvation, as love cannot be compelled. Therefore, just like the virgins, while all are invited to His banquet, there are those who do refuse through their actions, even if they say with their mouths, "Lord, Lord, open the door for us!" (Matt. 25:11). The Bridegroom, then, is Christ Who has married His Church to bring His divinity to all of her children – that is us. If we enter into the banquet, then we shall obtain the life and love of God.

The second element is the lamps' oil. If God requires us to accept His loving salvation, what does that entail? Here we see it in the difference of the lamps of the virgins. All the virgins are invited to the banquet and none of them know when the Bridegroom will arrive. The five wise virgins brought enough oil that even if they should wait, their lamps would not burn out – while the foolish virgins did not bring enough oil. The Syriac Fathers say the oil of our lamps are our righteous and virtuous deeds that we commit for love of God and neighbor. We do not know when Christ the Bridegroom will return, but we can keep His commands on Earth while we wait, filling our lamps with the oil of righteousness. This righteousness is giving the Lord His due glory in prayer, as well as helping those in need on Earth, for all are made in the image of God. Regardless of the dark of midnight, the wise virgins can see the Bridegroom because they brought enough oil. Likewise, no matter how dark the night of this world becomes with all its troubles, the wise will know the coming of Christ the Bridegroom by the light of their righteousness. But it is not something to prepare for tomorrow, but this very moment.

The last element is the wedding banquet. The Syriac Fathers refer to two things, which are intimately related, as the wedding banquet: the Eucharist and heaven. In this parable, it is clear that there are those who will not choose God, and therefore they reject heaven, rejecting life, love and fulfillment. But it is the same on Earth – Christ has prepared us the banquet of His flesh and blood in the Eucharist on Earth that we may have a foretaste of heaven. Just as heaven will be in union of God, so too are we when we rightly receive His flesh and blood from the priest for eternal life and the forgiveness of sins. Unlike the virgins, however, we have access to the Bridegroom at this very moment in the Eucharist.

Let us be prepared with an oil of righteousness with the five virgins that we may have our lamps brightly burning in the world. Then, when the Bridegroom comes, we can go out to meet Him and enter into His banquet rejoicing and celebrating.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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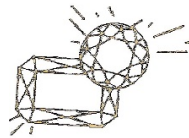
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