



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

November 14, 2021

The Announcement to Zechariah



Next Sunday

The Announcement to the Virgin Mary

Gal 3:15-22 (The Law Did Not Nullify the Promise)

Lk 1:26-38 (Announcement of the Birth of Jesus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for Oct 31st - Nov 6th

Online.....\$1,285.00

Collection.....\$215.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,500.00

YTD Total.....\$79,765.47

YTD Goal.....\$83,070.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$3,304.53**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 14th, 11:00am

+ **Theodora (Barbara) Curran**
(Grandmother of Fr. Nick Sertich)

Monday, November 15th

Available

Tuesday, November 16th

Available

Wednesday, November 17th

Available

Thursday, November 18th

Available

Friday, November 19th

Available

Saturday, November 20th

Available

Sunday, November 21st

+ **Isabelle Jabbour**

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, November 14th

Available

Sunday, November 21st

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

St. Sharbel Sunday School Program (Ages 6-12):

All meetings are held after the Divine Liturgy in the Parish Hall downstairs, unless otherwise noted. All participants will be required to wear a mask and practice physical distance. For more information contact Nadia Redmond at n.redmond@comcast.net.

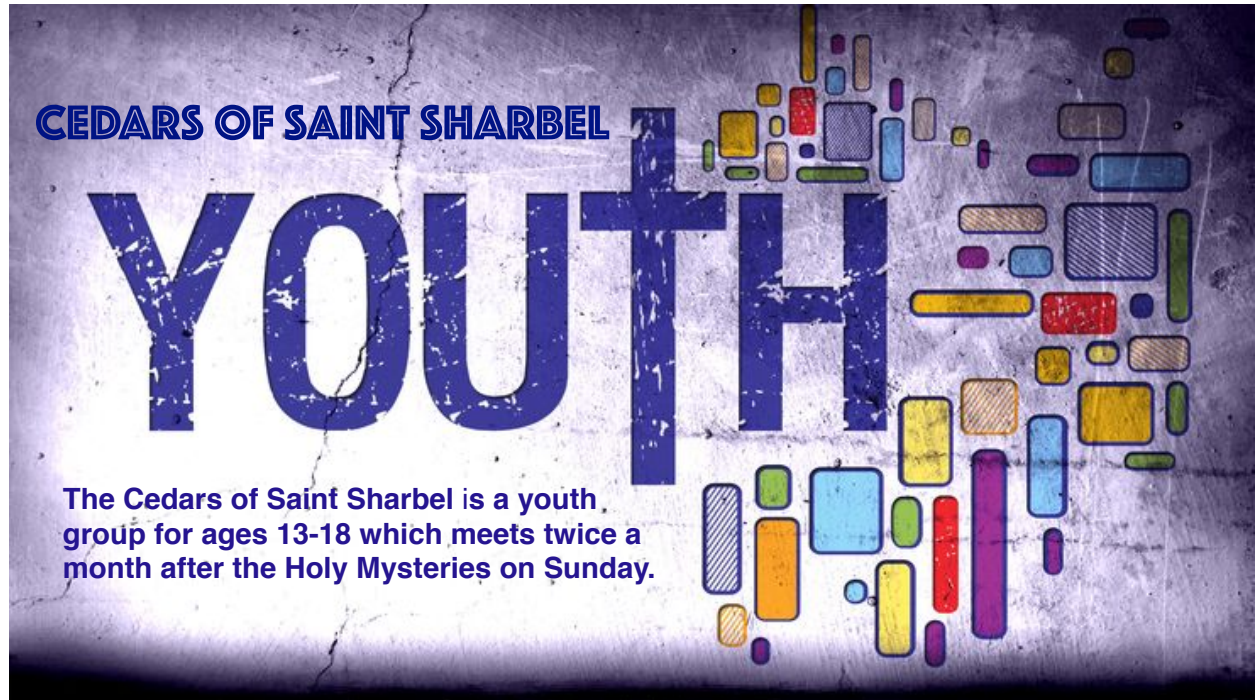
UPCOMING CLASSES AND EVENTS:

November 14

November 21 - Location: Upstairs Classroom

December 12 - First Christmas Ornament Fundraiser to benefit Maronite Monks Sunday School Children are busy hand making Christmas ornaments of the fundraiser event.

December 19 - Preparation/rehearsal for **Children's Christmas Eve Pageant**



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)

****November 21** DATE CHANGE**

December 5 — Family Adoration at 10:15am. No additional meeting this month

2022 Meetings

January 9

January 23

February 6

February 20

Meeting dates are posted here and sent out in email. For more information, contact Gennifer Karam: jmkaram3@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



Tickets are Going Fast!



NEW VENUE! NEW DATES!

**[Click here to order tickets](#)
or call 503-557-8733**

Portland's Holiday Spectacular, presented by Portland's Singing Christmas Tree, will be held at Sunset Presbyterian, 14986 NW Cornell Rd, Portland. Same great show and parking is FREE

The performance dates and times are:

Saturday, November 27 at 2:00pm
Saturday, November 27 at 6:00pm
Sunday, November 28 at 2:00pm
Saturday, December 4 at 2:00pm
Saturday, December 4 at 6:00pm
Sunday, December 5 at 2:00pm

**Bringing you the message of
Love, Hope, Peace and Joy this holiday season.**



Matthew Jensen
Photography

Portland's Singing Christmas Tree | 503-557-8733

www.singingchristmastree.org
patti@singingchristmastree.org

Reflection

Announcement, annunciation, greeting, and good news (that is the Gospel) all share a common root in Syriac Aramaic, our liturgical language. Starting today for the next few weeks, the Maronite Church, along with all the other Syriac Churches, will celebrate a period often called the Season of Announcements. On each Sunday, an announcement, a greeting, the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is announced to mankind, first by Gabriel Whom the Father sends from heaven. The reason for the Father sending Gabriel to deliver this good news is to make Himself better known to us, just as previously mentioned with the establishment of the Church, so that we can come to be near Him, and rejoice with Him.

Particular to this Sunday, God sends the archangel Gabriel to Zechariah, the father-to-be of John the Baptist and high priest at the time in the Temple in Jerusalem. The Gospel tells us that Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, were obedient and followed all of God's commands, but were both barren and old (Luke 1:6-7). Nonetheless, they prayed devoutly that God would grant them a child – apart from Zechariah's office, Zechariah and Elizabeth were devout Jews and so would have heard the Old Testament read out entirely at very least once a year, listening to how God began His covenant of an intimate relationship with Abraham by granting him a son, even though he and his wife were old and barren. This demonstrates God's entire dealings with Israel are the pure gift of His initiative, mercy, and love that overcome the expectations of the world. Knowing this, Zechariah and Elizabeth had the confidence to ask that God do it again.

God in His mercy heard their prayer and answered by sending Gabriel to announce the birth of John. After all, nothing is impossible for God, which is why He chooses to work what seems to be the impossible at times. In fact, the birth of John foreshadows Christ's own birth, Whom Isaiah says will be a "shoot from the stump of Jesse" (Is. 11:1). Israel at this point has been destroyed, conquered by Rome, and any rebellion thoroughly crushed – the monarchy's lineage, that of Jesse, has been lost. Humanity would expect nothing to come from this now "dead" stump – but God works unexpected wonders, and comes Himself from this supposedly dead stump by His birth. We call John the Forerunner and Proclaimer of Christ, as he was sent ahead to "make ready for the Lord a people prepared" (Luke 1:17) like Gabriel tells Zechariah. His first message is his extraordinary birth from barren parents, demonstrating God shall make even the dead alive in Him, and He shall come from this stump. Gabriel tells Zechariah not only has God answered his prayer, but his son will be the preparing the world for the coming of God.

But Zechariah doubts what the archangel Gabriel is telling him – instead of rejoicing at the good news, which John is being sent to specifically proclaim, he cheapens it with dispute. Though he knew the Scriptures so well he doubted the generosity of God and that He would work such a miracle in his life because it simply does not seem likely by his expectations. Of course, God has given us reason to use, but He also gives us faith and knowledge of Him in His revelation. All things are a gift from God; even the tongue that enables us to speak was given to us by God, for which we should be thankful, and the tongue that does not thank God is essentially useless – Zechariah learned this by being made mute until his son was born. But we must also remember we ask for the intercession of Saint Zechariah because, though he failed at one moment, he loved God and continued being faithful as he was before. So today with St. Zechariah, let us praise Jesus Christ our God by remembering when we pray and professing with our tongues that He is the "Hope Who has given hope to the hopeless, and makes a way for the impossible, the Maker of great miracles, and Giver of beautiful gifts, the Creator Who, by the beckon of His Creatorship, His will exists in those Who He willed to make – everything is easy for His love..." (Evening Prayer for the Announcement to Zechariah).

**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

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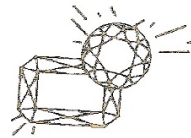
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