



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

November 28, 2021

The Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth



Next Sunday

The Birth of John the Baptist

Gal 4:21-5:1 (An Allegory on Christian Freedom)

Lk 1:57-66 (The Birth of John)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for November 14th - 20th

Online.....\$690.00

Collection.....\$760.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,450.00

YTD Total.....\$93,390.47

YTD Goal.....\$86,762.00

YTD Difference.....\$6,628.47

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 28th, 11:00am

+Marie Germanos

Monday, November 29th

Available

Tuesday, November 30th

Available

Wednesday, December 1st

Available

Thursday, December 2nd

Thanksgiving

Friday, December 3rd

Available

Saturday, December 4th

Available

Sunday, December 5th

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, November 28th

Available

Sunday, December 4th

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

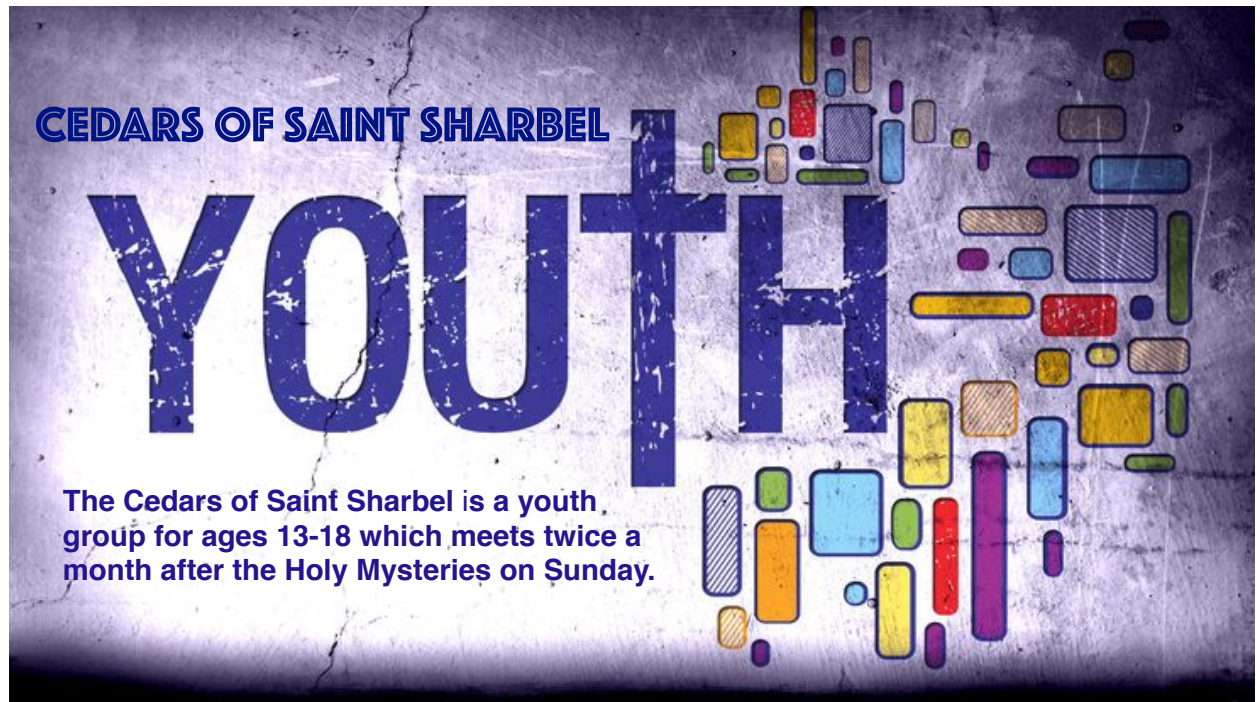
St. Sharbel Sunday School Program (Ages 6-12):

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:

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)

December 5 — Family Adoration at **10:00am**. 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, 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.**



Reflection

Today's Sunday follows the seasonal theme of announcements, but instead of a message from an angel this Sunday commemorates Mary, already pregnant with our Lord Jesus, visiting her cousin, Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist. Though the Gospel passage is fairly short the imagination of Syriac Fathers drove them to write much on the encounter because it conceals many truths about our faith in Christ. Many of the Syriac Fathers write about Mary "going in haste" (Luke 1:39) to Elizabeth because, for the sake of her virginal birth by the Holy Spirit, other women already gossiped against her and accused her of adultery. The holiest, purest, and most ideal servant of God being slandered should not be surprising – as Christ will later say, "blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me" (Matt. 5:11) because even He Himself knew that He would later suffer death at the hands of jealous slanderers for the truth. So why does Elizabeth bless Mary upon greeting her, and why does John leap for joy in Elizabeth's womb if others slander them?

The Syriac Aramaic verb *s'ar* means both to visit and to cure/make whole, and this is exactly the way the predecessors of our tradition would have seen the Visitation. All things have been created by God, and God wishes that we be united to Him. However, since Adam's transgression in the Garden and the various failures of Israel against the commands of God down through the ages there was damage done to the relationship between God and man. Humanity had become sick, progressively poisoned by continually choosing to drink the very sin that was poisoning it! Humanity chose sin again and again, which brought death as St. Paul tells us (Rom. 5:12). But in spite of our choice of sin, God made it clear that He does not rejoice in the death of a sinner (Ez. 18:23), and would not give up on humanity. As He tells us, He is life (John 14:6) because all existence comes from Him, and He wishes to raise all to life eternal. So Elizabeth and John rejoice for Life Himself, Christ our God, has visited them. By His very visitation, while carried in the womb of His mother, He brought them happiness for anyone who receives the Lord's presence is made whole and healed from sin for God Himself is Being and the Giver of All Good Things.

John, Christ's Herald, could see as a fetus in his mother's womb what the grown men of Jesus's time were blind to – that Christ is the Lord of All. It does not change once Christ is born, nor a grown man. Christ multiplied food for 5000 people, made the blind see, made the paralyzed walk, and still certain people at His time accused Him of being a servant of Satan (Matt. 12:24). It was false reasoning that led those to denounce Christ, whereas even a child in the womb could plainly see that He is God. So we too must decide whether we will reject Christ and His servants, or acknowledge Him and welcome Life Himself into our lives Who wishes to visit us and bring us to Himself in life eternal. If we choose the latter in sincerity, we can pray with confidence in Christ:

Transcendent, hidden and incomprehensible God, in Your dispensation You dwelt in the Virgin Mary for our salvation and visited in Your caring Your Herald in the barren and sterile womb of old Elizabeth; now visit/heal our souls and bodies, which have fallen into sin, by Your divine assistances, and sanctify our spirits by Your holiness that we may excellently and holily give thanks to You for Your graces towards us, and we may worship and glorify You, and Your Father, and Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (Trans. from the Maronite Evening Prayer for the Visitation)

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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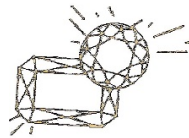
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