



# 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)

## December 5, 2021

The Birth of John the Baptist



### Next Sunday

*The Revelation to Joseph*

**Eph 3:1-13** (Commission to Preach God's Plan)

**Mt 1:18-25** (The Birth of Jesus)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for November 21st - 27th*

Online.....\$1,155.00

Collection.....\$445.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,600.00

YTD Total.....\$94,990.47

YTD Goal.....\$88,608.00

YTD Difference.....\$6,382.47

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 5th, 11:00am

*Available*

Monday, December 6th

*Available*

Tuesday, December 7th

*Available*

Wednesday, December 8th

***Berna Sheehan on her birthday***

Thursday, December 9th

***Friends of the Suffering Souls***

Friday, December 10th

*Available*

Saturday, December 11th

*Available*

Sunday, December 12th

***+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, December 5th

*Available*

Sunday, December 12th

*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

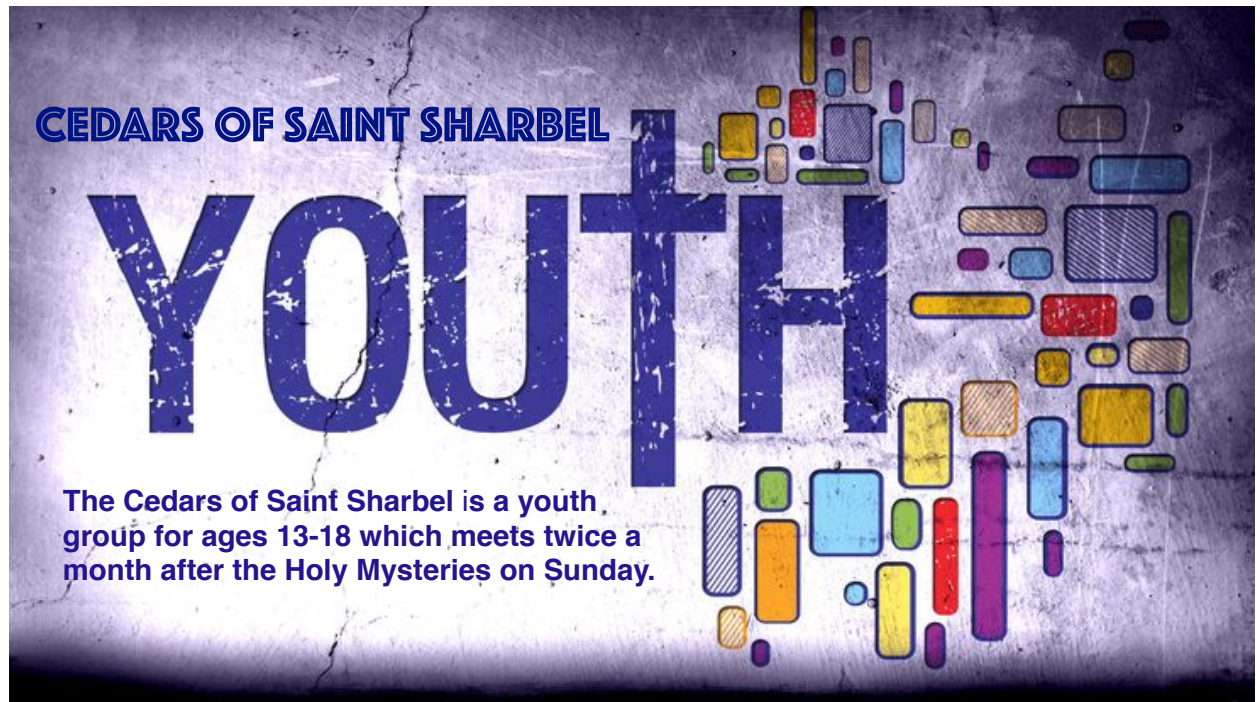
## St. Sharbel Sunday School Program (Ages 6-12):

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](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net).

### UPCOMING CLASSES AND EVENTS:

**December 12 - First Christmas Ornament Fundraiser — SEE BELOW FOR MORE INFO**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:claudio@trazzafoods.com)

Next Meeting Date TBA



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**St. Sharbel's Sunday School Program**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Christmas Ornament Fundraiser**

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To benefit the Maronite Monks of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for the completion of Sacred Heart Maronite Monastery

Handmade ornaments made by our beloved children will be on sale immediately after the Divine Liturgy on December 12<sup>th</sup>

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**Tickets are Going Fast!**



**[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

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Portland's Singing Christmas Tree | 503-557-8733  
[www.singingchristmastree.org](http://www.singingchristmastree.org)

*Sacred Heart Church Choir presents*

# QUIET JOY

*An Evening of Scripture, Stories, and Song*

*Marie Phillippi, choir director*

*Please join us for our 20<sup>th</sup> year sharing  
the gift of Quiet Joy with family, friends, and neighbors.  
No admission charge; freewill offerings accepted.*



Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 \* 7 pm

*Masks required. The service will last about an hour.  
After the service, please join us for refreshments in our new Fellowship Hall.*

Sacred Heart Church \* 3926 SE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland OR 97202  
[www.sacredheartportland.org](http://www.sacredheartportland.org)

## ADOPTED FAMILIES UPDATE

Thanks to donations from our special collection for Lebanese Families, the parish was able to sponsor 10 families for the Holidays. We sponsor these families through Caritas Lebanon.

CARITAS provides economic development, livelihoods, health and social care, education, service to foreign refugees, emergency and crisis intervention, environmental supervision and protection of the needy, in coordination with the Council of Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops, dioceses, and priests.



## Reflection

It is telling that we celebrate the birth of a man – St. John the Baptist – in the season leading up to the great celebration of the birth of our Lord and God, Jesus Christ. It reveals much about the divine plan of salvation, but I would like to identify in particular what it says of the relationship between God and man. It seems obvious to say that Christ's salvation of mankind was for the sake of mankind. But what is often taken for granted in speaking about the divine action in the world is that it is out of His benevolence and love of mankind that God acts. God does not act in the abstract, far from humanity, but salvation is wrought amongst men and using the free will of men. John the Baptist is an example of mankind's intimate involvement in our own salvation. Even Christ becoming man was His involvement of our very nature in His plan to sanctify us and elevate us to participate in His divinity.

We celebrate John the Baptist this Sunday because he is the saint sent ahead of Christ by Christ to prepare His way, "the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord'" (John 1:23). As we recall from the Announcement to Zechariah, not only is John's mother, Elizabeth, very old, she was also barren for her entire marriage to Zechariah. Yet, God has deemed it fitting in His love for mankind to make the barren fruitful, and so Elizabeth begets a child in her old age – but not just any child, but the prophet of the Most High. John goes before Christ to prepare the way to announce the Gospel. It is John who first baptizes, and, in fact, it is John who baptizes Jesus, which He humbles Himself to just as He humbled Himself to be born of the Virgin Mary. In God's greatness, He has come down to us that He might bring us up to Himself and He involves us only by our own free will. The miraculous birth of John is the answer to Elizabeth and Zechariah's prayers, and John's ministry is his response to the call of the Lord.

Knowing God is infinitely good and seeking to involve us in our own sanctification, how do we respond? The prayers of the Syriac Maronite tradition give us profound insight:

O God most high and incomprehensible, Who in His goodness established the worlds and brought them into being, in Whose wisdom created heaven and adorned it with stars, by Whose will a voice, which announced before Himself, was begotten from a barren and fruitless womb, now beget in us sweet voices of Your praises, noble exaltations of Your thanks and choice acclaim of Your wonders. Make us worthy all the days of our lives that with purity and holiness we may give thanks to You, worship You and glorify You, and Your Father, and Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen.

(From the Syriac Maronite Vespers for the Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist)

This prayer begins by acknowledging the God we address is He Who created all things, not out of obligation, but in His goodness. In the same goodness, He called John to go before Him from a barren womb. Just as God did before, we ask Him to now again beget in our, at times, barren selves His own praises. It is a deception of the devil to believe there is an insurmountable gap between God and man – for in God's goodness, He has bridged it by becoming man Himself. Therefore, even in all our limitedness and failings, by the power and grace of God, Who has created us in His image, we are lifted up to His glory if we only ask. We are each called by God to give glory to Him in our own way – just as Elizabeth was called to birth John, John was called to be the prophet of Christ, and the priest is called to offer sacrifice, each of us are to play our own role in purity and holiness.



**Gibran N Zogbi**

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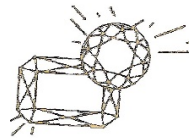
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