



# 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)

## January 2, 2022

Finding in the Temple



**Next Sunday**

*First Sunday of Epiphany*

2 Cor 10:1-11 (Accusation of Weakness)

Jn 1:29-34 (John the Baptist's Testimony to Jesus)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for December 19th - 25th*

Online.....\$1,355.00

Collection.....\$760.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,115.00

YTD Total.....\$100,177.47

YTD Goal.....\$95,992.00

YTD Difference.....\$4,185.47

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 2nd, 11:00am

+ **Msgr Bill Bonczeski**

Monday, January 3rd

+ **Raymond Melvin Johns**

Tuesday, January 4th

*Available*

Wednesday, January 5th

*Available*

Thursday, January 6th

*Available*

Friday, January 7th

*Available*

Saturday, January 8th

*Available*

Sunday, January 9th

+ **Maria Gascon and +Steve  
Eggiman**

*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, January 2nd

*Available*

Sunday, January 9th

*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

### FEAST OF CIRCUMCISION January 1, 2022, 11:00am

REJOICE

CEDARS OF

# YOUTH

The Cedars of Saint Sharbel is a youth group  
for ages 13-18 which meets twice a month  
after the Holy Mysteries on Sunday.

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.

#### **2022 Meetings (Subject to Change)**

**January 9**

**January 23**

**February 6**

**February 20**

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

### **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).

*With Gratitude to Almighty God  
and to our Blessed Mother, Mary,  
The Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles announces  
and the Kaldawi family invites you to the  
Ordination to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ  
of Deacon Wadih Z. Kaldawi  
Through the invocation of the Holy Spirit  
and the Imposition of hands by  
His Excellency Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, D.D., M.L.M.  
On Saturday, January 29, 2022 at eleven o'clock in the morning  
At St. John Maron Maronite Catholic Church  
300 Flower St. Orange, California  
A lunch reception will immediately follow  
in the Church banquet hall.*

*Father Wadih will celebrate his first Divine Liturgy at  
St. John Maron on Sunday January 30, 2022 at  
twelve fifteen o'clock in the afternoon.  
A lunch will be served after the Divine Liturgy in the church hall.*

*Please respond by January 10, 2022 to Mona Kaldawi  
(503) 313-6403 or email [Monzak21@Hotmail.com](mailto:Monzak21@Hotmail.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

## Reflection

*“Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49)*

A common image for Christmas, whether in our minds, on a card, or in the form of statues, is a crèche (otherwise known as a nativity set). We might picture Baby Jesus lies in the food trough of animals, surrounded by Mary, Joseph, a cow, a donkey, and maybe a few other animals, but diligently hide the Three Wise Men before they arrive. This is how we imagine Christ on Christmas, and rightfully so since we are celebrating His coming down from heaven and becoming man. But Christ neither began at His birth nor was He only human. Today’s feast of the Finding in the Temple reminds us of Christ’s ever-present divinity, in perfect harmony with His having become fully human.

In today’s reading from the Gospel, Jesus is found in the Temple teaching the Teachers of the Law, surprising them with His great knowledge of the Law – and He had great knowledge for a reason, since He wrote the Law. This paradox perfectly expresses the paradox of the Incarnation – the Ancient of Days has truly become a child without abandoning His divinity. But the Teachers of the Law, as they will be when they later question Jesus as an adult trying to find reasons to have Him arrested, because they seek to put prove themselves more clever than Christ, our God. Christ will later chastise them as an adult, saying, “You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions” (Mark 7:8). They are surprised that a child is so wise, wiser than old men who have studied the Law all their lives, but Christ does this to show that “The wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight” (1 Cor. 3:19). They have the answer is front of them in the Law they studied so thoroughly, and yet they cannot see that Christ is God. They search for Him, but they do not find Him because they wish to find Him as they please. Mary and Joseph, pure of heart and sincere, search for Christ and eventually find, though confused with the answer.

We know and profess every Sunday that God is the “Giver of Life” – in fact, we say that Christ *is* life (John 14:6) because He is the eternal God. How often, though, do we turn to human and temporary things to find fulfillment and fall short of finding it? It is very easy to set many items before us as gods like the Teachers of the Law who proposed their own answers, only to lose sight of where God is. Let us continue to strive to search for Christ where He has told us He would be – in His Body, the host, when we receive it (Luke 22:19), when we assemble together for prayer (Matt. 18:20), and in our service to those in need (Matt. 25:40). Though it might sound simplistic, we can truly find happiness if we stop and ask ourselves before doing something, “Will this bring me closer to God?” – otherwise we shall hear “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be here?”



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