



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

January 16, 2022

Second Sunday of Epiphany



Next Sunday

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Gal 3:23-39 (What Faith Has Brought Us)

Jn 3:1-16 (Nicodemus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for January 1st - 7th

Online.....\$3,260.00

Collection.....\$556.00

Weekly Total.....\$3,816.00

YTD Total.....\$3,816.00

YTD Goal.....\$2,308.00

YTD Difference.....\$1,508.00

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 9th, 11:00am

+Steve Eggiman

Monday, January 10th

Available

Tuesday, January 11th

Available

Wednesday, January 12th

Available

Thursday, January 13th

Available

Friday, January 14th

Available

Saturday, January 15th

Available

Sunday, January 16th

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, January 16th

Available

Sunday, January 23rd

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

Brothers and Sisters,

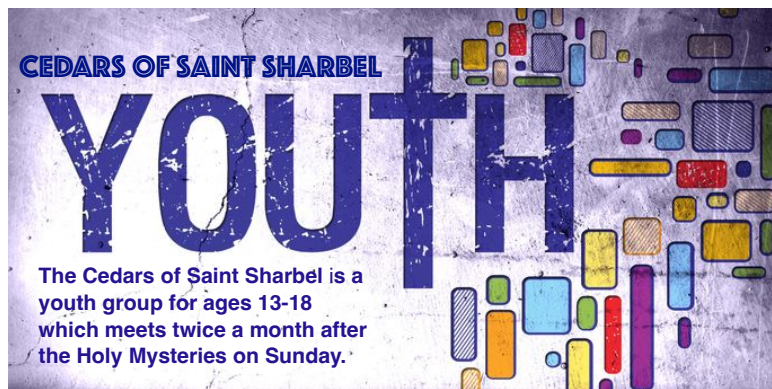
As the year closed this last week, I'm so grateful for your support of the parish. Kristina, Kiah (Bookkeeper who took over when Bruce stepped down) and I will work to close out the books for 2021, it will take about 4-6 weeks.

My preliminary assessment is we are in the red about 10-15%. We kept the collection basket goal the same for 2020 and 2021. Given that we might not be able to have fundraisers this year, I'm going to ask you to consider allowing me to slightly increase our collection plate goal for 2022. All of this will be up for discussion and parish council and finance committee will weigh in, but until that happens, I wanted you to know the amount you see in bulletin for collection goal will be slightly increased starting now. If you are financially able to slightly increase your giving, the parish would be most grateful.

Thank you for all ways you share your time, treasure and talents. May you and your families have a prosperous and full 2022.

Your Brother in Christ,
Abouna Chris

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 23
February 6
February 20

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

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

Our catechism program will continue to meet in person following the Divine Liturgy in the upstairs classroom. Our air filter will remain on and masks will be required. Our meeting dates so far will be **January 23 and February 6 & 20** (subject to change).

For more information, contact Nadia Redmond at n.redmond@comcast.net.



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

*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*



Reflection

This Sunday continues the Season of the Epiphany. An important question to ask is why do we have an entire season dedicated to the feast? It is not because someone was trying to fill the calendar between now and Lent! Epiphany is an extremely important feast because, just as Christ entered the world at His birth on Christmas to save us from sin, our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, appeared to the whole world to complete the plan of salvation on Epiphany, the Baptism of Christ. God willed that the death that Adam brought into the world through his sin (Rom. 5:12) be washed away that anyone who loves Him might live forever with Him (John 11:25).

Because our Triune God is three Persons, but one single God, salvation was granted to mankind by the Trinity as one. Though the Son, having become man, was visible, the Father and the Spirit were always with Him. Christ's own baptism testifies to this when the Father called out and the Spirit appeared like a dove, a visible sign (Matt. 3:16-17). Christ, Who is our all-powerful God and King, became an infant, not because He needed to, but because He wanted to be amongst us and save us from sin. Likewise, the entire Trinity condescended from their hidden glory so that we might know them, even though they did not need to do so. The Father, Whose wisdom is beyond words, lowers Himself to speak words understandable to mankind. The Holy Spirit, Whose beyond physical experience, assumes the form of a dove so that mankind may see His presence. And the Son, Who is pure and sinless, receives the washing of baptism that He might purify the waters for our own baptisms.

What we must understand about salvation is that it is totally freely given to us by God, even though it is mankind that picked and picks sin. But in utter generosity of the hidden and incomprehensible Trinity, He goes even further and has condescended so that we might "come and see" (John 1:39) Him, as Christ says in today's Gospel reading. Christ, our hidden God, wants us to be *bnai rozo*, a Syriac phrase from the Fathers of the Church meaning partakers of His mystery (the same word we use for someone who receives the sacraments – the mysteries, not coincidentally). He has offered us entrance into His mystery by way of baptism. As St. Paul tells us, our old selves are buried in the waters of baptism so that we may be raised with new life with Christ (Rom. 6:4). In partaking in the mystery of the baptism of the Son, we become children of the Father, and His brothers and sisters ourselves (Heb. 2:11) – if we accept to be partakers of His mystery. Of course, simply partaking does not merit us the life Christ offers us. Judas was a partaker of Christ's mysteries but betrayed Him because he did not "come and see," but instead decided for what he wanted to use Christ.

With childlike guilelessness let us "come and see" as sincere partakers of His mystery. The God of all time and creation has made His secrets available to us in His very flesh and blood in the Eucharist. Let us seek to see Him, and not betray Him. And when we cannot receive Him in flesh and blood, let us call upon Him in Spirit in prayer, even if it is 10 minutes a day driving to the store, for He has admitted us to be sons and daughters of the Father. Knowing the generosity of salvation He has shown us time and time again, let us ask Him:

O Unformed Former, You joined with the form of Your beloveds, and were baptized by a formed servant to form anew the form of His hands and renew the corrupted image by His baptism. Now, my Lord, renew our oldness by Your renewal, and form our form anew by the beckon of Your will. Create in us a new heart through the working of Your Holy Spirit that we may newly and purely offer glory and thanks to You, and to Your Father, and to Your Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (*From Syriac Maronite Prayers for Epiphany*)



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