



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

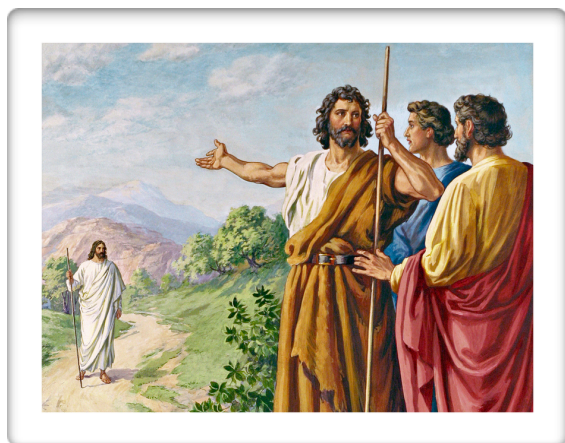
503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

January 9, 2022

First Sunday of Epiphany



Next Sunday

Second Sunday of Epiphany

2 Cor 4:5-15 (The Paradox of the Ministry)

Jn 1:35-42 (The First Disciples)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for December 26th - 31st

Online.....\$220.00

Collection.....\$3,999.00

Weekly Total.....\$4,219.00

YTD Total.....\$104,396.47

YTD Goal.....\$97,838.00

YTD Difference.....\$6,558.47.47

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 9th, 11:00am

+Maria Gascon and

+Simon Ghossein

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

+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 9th

Available

Sunday, January 16th

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

Brothers and Sisters,

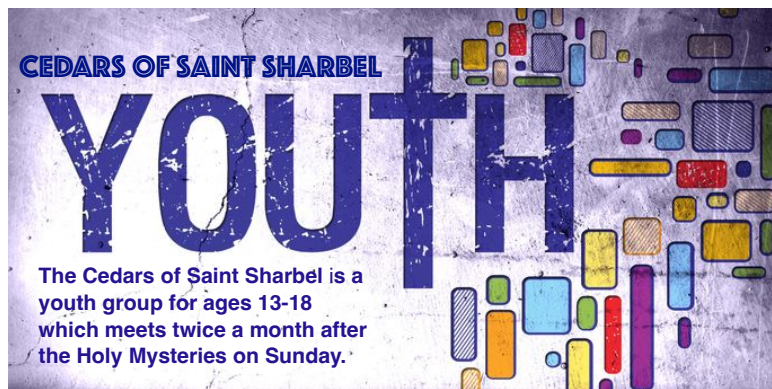
As the year closed this last week, I'm so grateful for your support of the parish. Kristina, Kiah (Bookkeeper who took over when Bruce stepped down) and I will work to close out the books for 2021, it will take about 4-6 weeks.

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 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

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 9 & 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

We have all had experiences of stumbling around in the dark, stumbling feeling around for something familiar, only to trip over something unseen or become frightened by something we think we might hear. Pitch darkness can even be disorienting when we are unfamiliar with where we are. Unsurprisingly, people before the invention of electric lights associated this darkness of night with death, and the eagerly awaited light of the morning with life.

Having celebrated the great feast itself a few days ago, today we celebrate the first of several Sundays dedicated to the Epiphany, the memorial of our Lord Jesus Christ's baptism. In Syriac, our tradition calls the feast *denho* or dawn referring to the passage in Zechariah 6:12 in the ancient Syriac version of the bible, known as the *Peshitta*, "His name is Dawn (*denho*), and He shall dawn from below." Why is our Lord and His baptism called dawn by the Prophet Zechariah?

As we reflected upon for the Consecration and Renewal of the Church, Christ established, in His love and mercy, the Church as His Bride as a means of bringing all of humanity in union with Him. Throughout the Season of Announcements we reflected upon how the Old Testament expressed the Bride's anticipation of her Groom's coming throughout the ages. Finally, we saw how John the Baptist is the forerunner of Christ who was sent to prepare things, much like a best man for a groom. In this role, John the Baptist prepared the rite of his baptism that was a placeholder and anticipation of the baptism of Christ, Who baptizes with "the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). Jesus knew humanity was "walking in [the] darkness" (Is. 9:2) of sin, wandering far away from Him. But in His mercy, just as He descended from heaven in His humility, He descended to the Jordan River where He had sent John the Baptist. John the Baptist hesitated to baptize Him at first because he knew he could not give anything to Jesus, Who created all things. John was correct, for Jesus had no need of baptism, just like He had no need to become a weak human since He is our all-powerful God. But it was in Christ's love of humanity that He descended to the Jordan so that the waters of baptism themselves may be sanctified for He is the Pure One Who chose water as a means of spiritually purifying us, giving us eternal life, and sharing with us His divinity, which is why St. Paul says, "All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Gal 3:27).

The Light that has dawned from below is the eternal Light from above, Who came dawn to illumine those who were blinded by the dark gloom of sin. As St. Jacob of Sarug said in his homily on the Epiphany, Christ was in want of nothing except to bring Adam back up from the pit of death, which he entered through sin. And by Christ shining His light upon the world and granting the opportunity for us to put Him on by baptism, He allowed us to enter into the Trinity, Who appeared fully for the first time in history of humanity at His baptism – the voice of the Father, the Son in the Jordan, and the Holy Spirit taking the visible sign of a dove (Luke 3:22). The Light which has dawned from below not only opened our eyes to the reality of our God, but has invited us to share in His divinity if we partake of the baptism He sanctified for us and follow what He has asked us through His Bride.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

Agent

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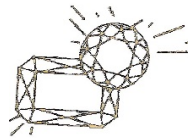
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