



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

February 13, 2022

Commemoration of the Righteous and Just



Next Sunday

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

1 Thes 5:1-11 (Vigilance)

Lk 16:19-31 (The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for Jan 30th - Feb 5th

Online.....\$890.00

Collection.....\$395.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,285.00

YTD Total.....\$9,172.00

YTD Goal.....\$11,540.00

YTD Difference.....-\$2,368.00

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 13th, 11:00am

+Lee Rask

Monday, February 14th

Available

Tuesday, February 15th

Available

Wednesday, February 16th

Father Milad

Thursday, February 17th

Stephanie Nickerson

Friday, February 18th

Elaina Graham

Saturday, February 19th

Fr. Anthony Rosevear O.P.

Sunday, February 20th

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, February 13th

Available

Sunday, February 20th

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

+Finance
Committee

SYNOD MEETING Sunday 2/13, 8pm

What is a synod? A synod is a prayerful assembly of the clergy and sometimes also the laity in a diocese, eparchy or other division of a particular Church.

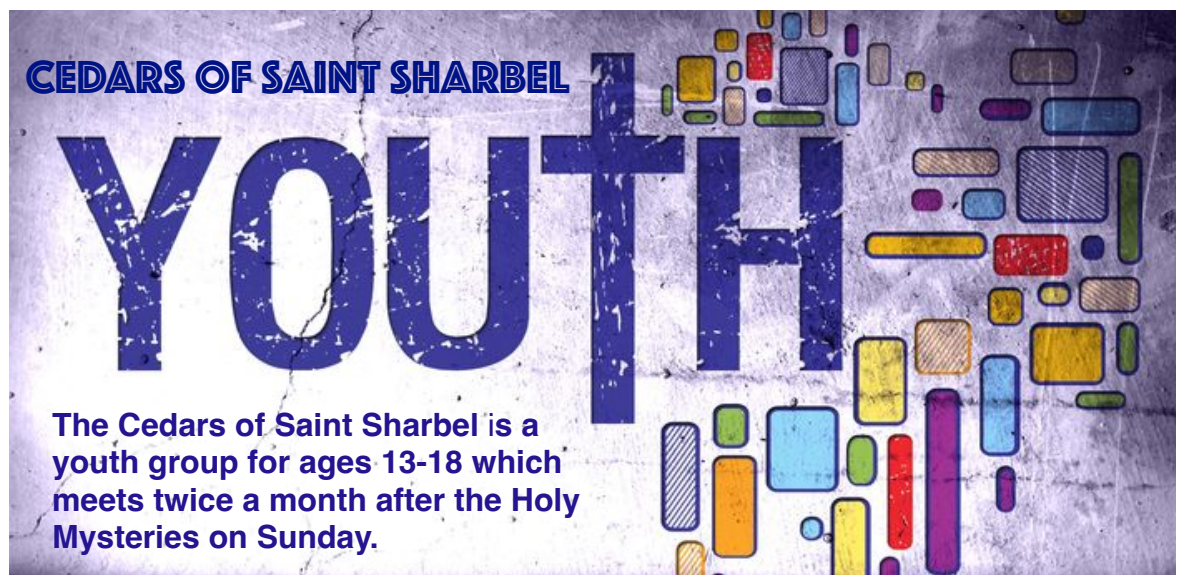
When? Your participation will be in 10 short meetings after church. If you cannot make those meetings you will be invited to respond in 10 separate google docs.

Where? In the Parish Hall after Church and via Google Docs

Who? You and the other 1.2 billion Catholics throughout the world and their friends. You do not have to be Maronite or Catholic to participate.

Why? To come together, pray and assess the Church.

PLEASE SEE SEPARATE EMAIL WITH MORE DETAILS



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)*

February 6

February 20

March 6

March 20

April 3

April 24 — Final meeting of the school year

Meeting dates are posted here and sent out in email.
For more information, contact Gennifer Karam: jmkaram3@gmail.com

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Global Lebanese Support Network (GLSN)

will connect Lebanese professionals
and college graduates with the
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in the hopes of limiting the need
for talented men and women to
leave their homeland.

CONTACT US

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  Global Lebanese Support Network

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. Upcoming Meeting Dates will be **March 6 & 20 and April 3 & 24** (*subject to change*).

Mark your calendar's: Sunday, May, 1, 2022 — Three catechumens will be receiving their First Holy Mystery of the Eucharist

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 claudes@trazzafoods.com

Next Meeting Date TBA

Reflection

Let us laugh at death again with St. Paul, saying, “Where is your sting, oh death?” for on this second week of commemorations we recall the righteous and the just. As St. Matthew recorded in today’s Gospel reading, they have escaped death in eternal life (Matt. 25:46) because they pleased the Lord through their faith and actions in this world. But why do we remember them? They certainly provide us an example how to lead our lives. Rarely is Abraham, a biblical patriarch whose life is recorded in Genesis, ever mentioned in the Syriac tradition without being called righteous or just because he dedicated his life to the service of God. He left a land he knew for a land he did not, and when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac he was ready to do so, even though Isaac was what God had promised him (Heb. 11). Trusting in God, Abraham followed what he was instructed, and he was led to the Promised Land, and his son, through whom all the promises of God until Jesus Christ would come, was unharmed.

It is important to look to their lives to know, even in spite of their failures, they were still righteous, and the truths about salvation this reminds us. Christ descended to the dead to bring up Adam, who had disobeyed God’s commandment, both because of Christ’s immeasurable merciful love towards mankind, and the righteousness that came to Adam through faith in God. But our commemoration of the righteous and the just is more than calling to mind mere examples and truths. We know that through participation in the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, which we entered in baptism “if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness” (Rom. 8:10). The righteous and just who have departed from this world now have a truer, eternal life with God – this is not a platitude, but it is an integral part of our faith. Having such proximity to God, the righteous and the just have the ability to intercede, or speak on our behalf, to God because of the merits of their righteousness and faith. St. Peter, a beloved friend of Jesus, and Mary, His mother, will implore Christ on our behalf if we only so much as ask them. Our Syriac tradition affirms the assistance of their prayers, as we often say on the feast of a saint “May your prayers be a fortress to us” – their prayers are not simply thoughts or feelings, but they obtain for us a protection and help that is spiritual and physical, manifest and unseen.

We know Mary and St. Peter are, of course, righteous and just, but who else? Anyone who has entered into the Kingdom of Heaven. The Church, with the authority Christ has given her, tells us who she knows is certainly there, and we call them canonized saints. Of course, the lists of these saints alone could fill vast books, so I will just mention a few traditional Maronite saints, apart from our currently well-known St. Sharbel and St. Rafka, whom we can rely upon for their help. Each are named righteous for very different reasons, but their lives illustrate the diverse manners we can please God with our lives. St. Shmoon, the name we give the Maccabean woman in 2 Mac. 7, refused to deny her faith with her seven sons and so all died in persecution at the hands of a pagan king. St. Simon the Stylite, a monk in the time and locale of St. Maron who dedicated four decades of his life to prayer and fasting upon a pillar (*stylitis* meaning pillar). Last but not least, St. Ephrem, the Harp of the Holy Spirit, who wrote many of our hymns and much of our theology. Just as each part of the body has their role, each part of the Body of Christ has its own role but it all works towards accomplishing His Kingdom.

Let us ask the Lord, through the prayers of all the righteous and just whom we commemorate this week and every day of our lives, that “we may be worthy of the banquet at the eleventh hour with the laborers who toiled in Your vineyard in justness and righteousness, now and at all times, forever. Amen.” (From the Syriac Maronite Evening Prayer for Monday).

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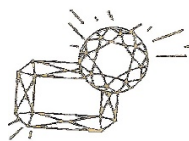
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