



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 27, 2022

Miracle at Cana



Next Sunday

Healing of the Leper

Rom 6:12-23 (Freedom from Sin/Life in God)

Mk 1:35-43 (Jesus Leaves Capernaum/The Cleansing of a Leper)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for February 13th - 19th

Online.....\$277.00

Collection.....\$3,593.00

Weekly Total.....\$3,870.00

YTD Total.....\$14,830.00

YTD Goal.....\$16,156.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,326.00**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 27th, 11:00am

Charmaine Van Cleve

Monday, February 28th

Available

Tuesday, March 1st

+Theodore Havlicek

Wednesday, March 2nd

+Mary Jo Welp

Thursday, March 3rd

Available

Friday, March 4th

Brandon Graham

Saturday, March 5th

Available

Sunday, March 6th

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 27th

Available

Sunday, March 6th

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

+Finance
Committee

Lent



ASH MONDAY MASS

February 28, 2022 7:00pm

(There will be a simple Lenten meal directly following Mass)

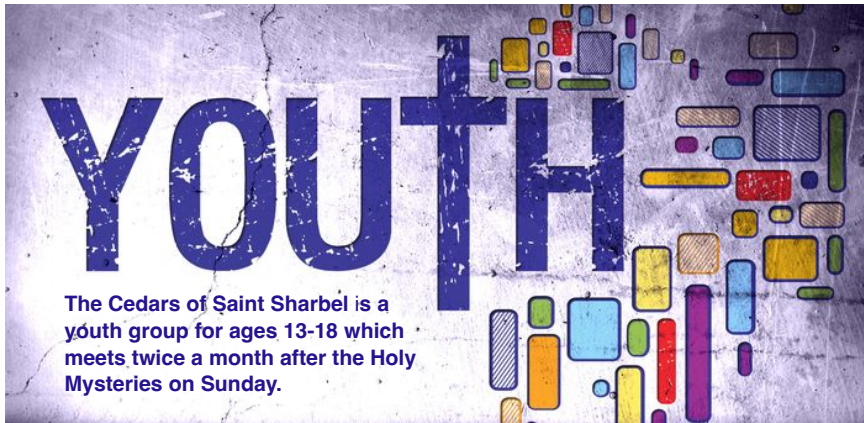
Stations of the Cross will be held Friday nights
during Lent starting at 7:00pm

SYNOD MEETING

NO MEETING THIS WEEK 2/27/22

PLEASE SEE SEPARATE EMAIL WITH MORE DETAILS

CEDARS OF SAINT SHARBEL



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)*

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:

jmjkaram3@gmail.com



*The National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM)
Presents*

*The 30th Annual Spring Raffle - 2022
Only 450 Tickets are printed
Donation: \$100 per ticket*

This just may be the year your lucky number is chosen!!!!

Cash Prizes!!!

1st	\$10,000.00
2nd	\$3,000.00
3rd	\$2,000.00
4th	\$1,500.00
5th	\$1,000.00

This year's drawing will be held on **May 1st, 2022** at St. Ephrem, El Cajon (San Diego, California);

Thank you for your support in previous years for this raffle fund-raiser, as it is an important part of the NAM annual budget. We are counting on your generosity once again, to support our community projects.

To purchase a personal ticket(s), your parish NAM Delegates have 4 tickets to sell, please contact Nadia Redmond at 503-671-0440 or email: n.redmond@comcast.net

All requests and payments must be received by **April 3rd, 2022**.

www.namnews.org



PRESENTS

*Together
we advocate*

THE LARGEST PRO-LIFE CONFERENCE IN THE PNW

March 5 | Rolling Hills Community Church | Tualatin



THIS YEAR'S SPEAKERS

CHRISTINA BENNETT - LIVE ACTION

BILLY VALENTINE - SUSAN B ANTHONY LIST

KEVIN THERIOT - ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM

DAVID BEREIT - FOUNDER OF 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

ALSO FEATURING 12 WORKSHOPS

**REGISTER TODAY AT
ORTL.ORG/CONFERENCE**

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).

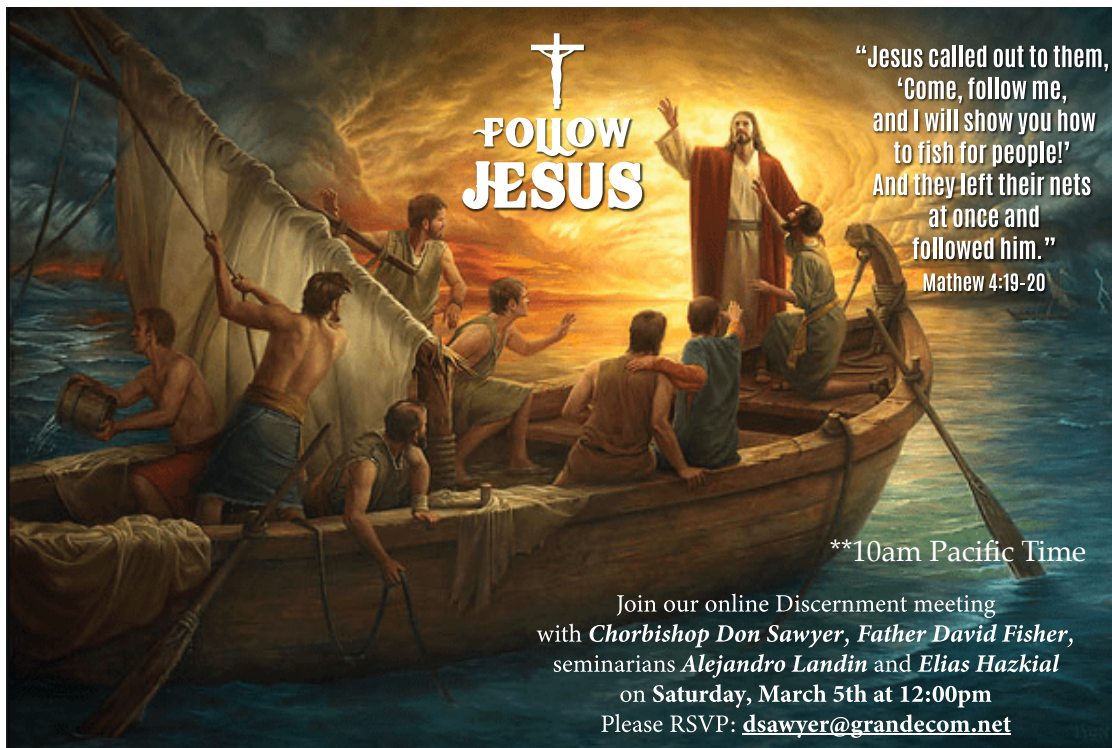
Mark your calendar's: Sunday, May, 1, 2022 — Three catechumens will be receiving their First Holy Mystery of the Eucharist

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 claud@trazzafoods.com

Next Meeting Date TBA



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

February 24, 2021

Dear Msgrs. and Fathers,

Greetings and Peace!

As you know, our beloved homeland of Lebanon continues to go through great difficulties and the people are in dire need of assistance.

Last year, many of our parishioners across the United States were kind enough to sponsor individual families in Lebanon who were in need of support. With your help we were able to help and support 443 Lebanese families with monthly donations.

Caritas Lebanon has requested our help once again this year to keep sponsoring families in need. We ask that you please raise awareness in your parishes of the needs of families in Lebanon and encourage them to sponsor a family this year. In addition, Caritas Lebanon is requesting extra funds for hospitalization needs of the less fortunate. Attached you will find a letter from Father John Nahal, President of Caritas Lebanon, USA and Rector of St. Raymond Cathedral.

Attached is a list of families that need our help this year. For more information our community may visit www.CaritasLebanon.org. I hope that every parish will sponsor at least a few families.

Donations may be wire transferred to Bank of America Routing # 121000358 Bank acc# 000057467405, checks made be payable to Caritas Lebanon and mailed to St Raymond Cathedral, 931 Lebanon Dr, St Louis, MO 63104, or by calling the Chancery Office for direct withdrawal.

Please know that we are sincerely grateful for your ministry of love and care.

With my sincere best wishes and prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ,

A. E. Zaidan

+A. Elias Zaidan

Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

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**His Holiness
Pope Francis
calls for a day of
prayer and fasting in
solidarity with
Ukraine**

**Wednesday,
March 2, 2022**

**for peace and
protection from war**



Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

Remember, O Lord our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. May those who have passed away find eternal rest, those who are injured find comfort in You, our merciful and loving God, and all those who are impacted find relief and peace.

We pray to you, O Lord.

Prayer for Lent

O merciful and loving God, during this time of Lent, let us take the time to reflect on our shortcomings, forgive those who have hurt us, help those in need, and especially build a closer relationship with You. May those who are lost find their way and those who are struggling find solace in your guiding light.

We pray to you, O Lord.

Prayer for Lebanon & the Middle East

Remember, O Lord, our brothers and sisters in Lebanon and the Middle East who continue to suffer hardships, instability, and need extra care and attention. May You move hearts of all people to support them in their difficulties.

We pray to you, O Lord.

Prayer for the Synod

O Lord, as we continue our Synod journey, let us take to heart the themes of Communion, Participation, and Mission. We ask for your guidance in reaching out to our brothers and sisters for their input, especially those in the outskirts of our communities. May we continue to work together to unite our people to bring them closer to You and to each other.

We pray to you, O Lord.

Reflection

A great banquet requires great planning. Anyone who hosts guests knows the anxiety of arranging a perfect party. In today's reading from Gospel, Jesus saves the hosting couple from utter embarrassment at their own wedding when they run out of wine – the main drink of the day. In His mercy, Christ performs His first miracle by turning six huge jars of water into wine – and not just any wine, but the best vintage. While it might seem strange that we commemorate a party before the start of the fasting of Lent it is no accident. The following Sundays of the Lent all commemorate the merciful acts of our Lord, the Lover of Mankind, on those whom He takes pity (such as the Leper next week, Mark 1:35-43). Each merciful act of Christ in healing the sick and suffering reveals to humanity that He is the Divine Physician Who has come to heal our souls and bodies. But all this climaxes with a banquet. Before His passion He gave us His body and blood, which truly given when crucified and shed the following day, at the Last Supper – a banquet. The banquet at Cana points us to what to await at the end of Lent – the commemoration of Christ, Life Himself, giving us the flesh of life at His banquet. And these two banquets point to the ultimate banquet in the resurrected glory of Easter at the end of time in heaven, which we celebrated at the Consecration of the Church, for the Church is the wedding party preparing for the banquet. For this reason, before we begin fasting we recall the banquet of Cana, which Christ gave us as a foreshadowing.

When we receive an invitation to a party we make sure not to fill up on junk food that day. In fact, sometimes we do not eat so that we can eat more delicious food at the banquet. Similarly, in the spiritual life we must prepare for the banquet of Holy Thursday, Easter, and the end of time to enjoy it properly with Christ. If we fill our souls with junk food pleasures of this world to fulfill our immediate desires, like Adam in the Garden eating the apple, we have less room for God. This is why Christ has given us a powerful means of preparing spiritually, which we traditionally associate with Lent – fasting. If Adam had fasted, he would not have transgressed the commandment of God when tempted by Satan. Christ shows us, when He fasts and is tempted by Satan, that He triumphs over him (Matt. 4:1-11). Fasting controls our passions, and is an imperative of Christ, which He reminds will be rewarded by the Father (Matt. 6:18).

In the pastoral care of the Church, the canonical obligation of fasting is not regularly required (i.e. it is not a mortal sin if you do not fast), but it is also not required to bring armor to battle, and as the Syriac Father Aphrahat tells us fasting is "Accounted like treasure in heaven. It is armor against the Evil One, and a shield against the Enemy's arrows" (On Fasting). Fasting is an integral part of our tradition for thousands of years because of the spiritual assistance it grants. One should try to do as much as they healthily can. According to the Maronite tradition, fasting is not eating until noon Monday through Friday, followed by two meals of just what one needs to eat, and it excludes animal products (meats/fish with a spine, dairy, egg) and alcohol. It is daunting at first but one must remember it is for one's preparation to receive the Risen Christ and the Kingdom. Of course, our tradition is also very sensible – we are not legalists, but adherents to the Spirit. If this fast is too much, one should ask their priest how they can make it more manageable – perhaps try just Wednesday and Friday this Lent or abstaining from meat. But the important thing to remember is that it is not an athletic competition to see how much we can not eat, but preparation for Christ's coming, both back from the dead at Easter and on the last day.

But fasting does not just include not eating. St. Isaac of Nineveh reminds us there are spirits besides angels that do not eat but they also do not pray – demons. Fasting is an opportunity to remove the junk food from our lives during a fasting period to focus better on the spiritual life. If one, for instance, does do the fast above they could replace breakfast with praying a couple psalms from the Book of Psalms. Ultimately, we must prepare our whole selves for Christ, not just our stomachs. Aphrahat, once again, says that your body, which is a temple of God, has one doorway through which the King Jesus Christ enters for communion. A man would not drag manure and trash out the door a king will enter – likewise, as we fast, we must strive to fast from all sorts of hateful language, gossip, and trouble-making for our Lord said, "That which enters man does not defile him but what comes out of him from the mouth defiles him" (Matt. 15:11).

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