



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

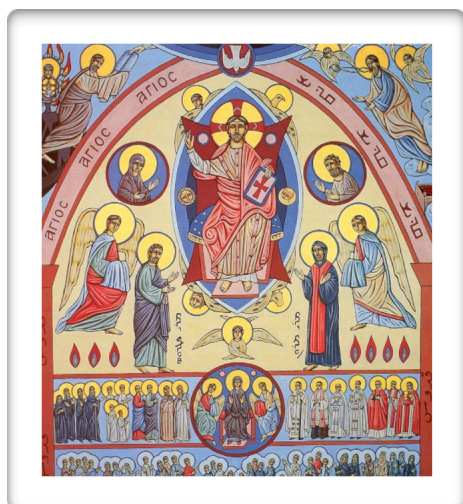
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[stsharbelpdx@gmail.com](mailto:stsharbelpdx@gmail.com)

[www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)

## February 6, 2022

Commemoration of the Priests



### Next Sunday

Commemoration of the Righteous & Just

Heb 12:18-24 (Penalties of Disobedience)

Mt 25:31-46 (The Judgement of the Nations)

## Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for January 23rd - 29th

Online.....\$1,145.00

Collection.....\$341.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,486.00

YTD Total.....\$7,887.00

YTD Goal.....\$9,232.00

YTD Difference.....-\$1,345.00

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 6th, 11:00am

**+Karam Karam**

Monday, February 7th

**Abouna Wadih Youseff**

Tuesday, February 8th

**Abouna Wadih Youseff**

Wednesday, February 9th

**+Karam Karam**

Thursday, February 10th

*Available*

Friday, February 11th

*Available*

Saturday, February 12th

*Available*

Sunday, February 13th

**+Lee Rask**

**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 6th**

*Available*

**Sunday, February 13th**

*Available*

## 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

## CONGRATULATIONS ABOUNA WADIIH On your Recent Ordination!



### SYNOD MEETING Sunday 2/6, 7pm

*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**



Parish Council/Finance Committee Meeting  
FEBRUARY 6th, 2022 — Directly After Mass

All are welcome to attend as observers

CEDARS OF SAINT SHARBEL

# 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)*

**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):

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

**February 6 & 20** (subject to change).

For more information, contact Nadia Redmond at [n.redmond@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:claudes@trazzafoods.com)

Next Meeting Date TBA



## Reflection

In the words of St. Paul, “Where is your sting, oh death? Where is your victory, oh Sheol?” (1 Cor. 15:55, Syriac Peshitta). Because of Christ’s saving Incarnation, which we have celebrated in many different aspects already this liturgical year, we Christians can say death has lost its power, and Sheol, where the righteous dead were stuck before Christ descended to them, has had its bars ripped open. It is a strange thing to hear in a world that seems to be encompassed by death. But as Christians we know the bodily death is temporary for the world to come is greater than the world here that will pass away. The Syriac tradition understands this well, as we have historically dedicated Saturday to praying for the dead, as well as the last verse of most hymns. But praying for the dead was revealed long before Christ came – both praying for the forgiveness of the dead (2 Mac. 12:43-46) and asking the dead we know to be holy for their intercession with God (Ex. 13:19) were already done among the prophets, patriarchs, and Israel. This Sunday of the Commemoration of the Priests is the first of three Sundays before the beginning of Great Lent where we both venerate the holy departed priests and pray for those not yet in heaven. These weeks of commemoration are placed before Great Lent, which is a preparation for Easter, for both those in this world and the next have the opportunity for eternal life granted by Christ after He destroyed death and Sheol by His resurrection.

When Christians depart from this world they do not cease to be part of the Church, the Body of Christ, and so we continue to be in union with them. Priests are important to Christ’s Church in particular, for “[He] chose for Himself earthly priests, gave them authority over the treasury of His kingdom, and placed in their hands the keys to His treasury to distribute His wealth to the needy” (Trans. from Syriac Maronite Breviary). The treasury of God is the abundant and infinite mercy He has for us, and has made available to us through the priests, to whom He has given the keys – the sacraments. Each of the sacraments relates to the reality of the salvific acts of Christ Himself, such as baptism with the

Baptism of our Lord at the Jordan or the Body and Blood, the Eucharist, with our Lord’s sacrifice on the cross. In fact, we even sing in one hymn to the priests, “Come in peace, our father who carries the mysteries of his Lord, and distributes life to the sons of men by his right hand.” God has permitted in His mercy that mere men should be consecrated as priests to distribute His mercy of eternal life and forgiveness of sin. Today, we recall the priests who have passed away laboring in the Lord’s vineyard, and ask those who are already in heaven to intercede for our needs before God.

As the Syriac Father Narsai points out, what is more amazing about God’s mercy is that the ability of the priest to bring the sacraments is not dependent on his own holiness but the Holy Spirit sanctifying the sacraments. As such, priests are still men, and as any man they have sinned. Today, we pray for those who distributed the riches of the treasury of God on earth – His mercy, forgiveness of sin, His Body and Blood – who have died, and are now in need of our assistance to arrive at the banquet of the kingdom in heaven, which we hope to join one day. In the words of the *Ginaaz*, the rite of the dead, for priests let us pray to our God, Lover of Mankind:

Cast down and humble, Lord, the dark armies who lie in wait in the air, these evil spirits who fly in the noontime before the soul of these, Your passed and grieved servants. Bring them near to You. May Your power come to their assistance, Your right hand to their salvation, and Your victorious cross to their rescue. May Your Body and Blood be for their forgiveness, Your rising and resurrection to their renewal, and Your banquet and kingdom be for their delight: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to You be glory forever. Amen.

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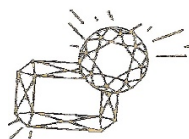
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