



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

March 20, 2022

Parable of the Prodigal Son



Next Sunday

Healing of the Paralytic

1 Tm 5:24-6:5 (False Teaching and True Wealth)

Mk 2:1-12 (The Healing of a Paralytic)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for March 6th - 12th

Online.....\$1,245.00

Collection.....\$583.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,828.00

YTD Total.....\$19,693.25

YTD Goal.....\$23,080.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$3,386.75**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, March 20th, 11:00am

+Ronald Graham

Monday, March 21st

+Jeff Kochen

Tuesday, March 22nd

+Duane Graham

Wednesday, March 23rd

Available

Thursday, March 24th

Available

Friday, March 25th

Emma Nickerson

Saturday, March 26th

Available

Sunday, March 27th

+Emily and George Faddoul

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, March 20th

Redmond Family

Sunday, March 27th

Available

Parish / Community Events

Parish Council

Bruce Ashford
Charlie Ashou
Gus Bekahi
Ben El Hajj
Agopos Ghossein
Adib Karam
+Claude Karam
Lydia Massaad
+Doug Raab
+Thaddeus Rask
Nadia Redmond
Peter Rizk
Mitch Siekmann

Ex Officio
+Deacon Tony

+Finance
Committee

Lent



+Feast of the Annunciation Mass
Friday, March 25, 12:00pm

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

+See Holy Week/Easter Schedule Below

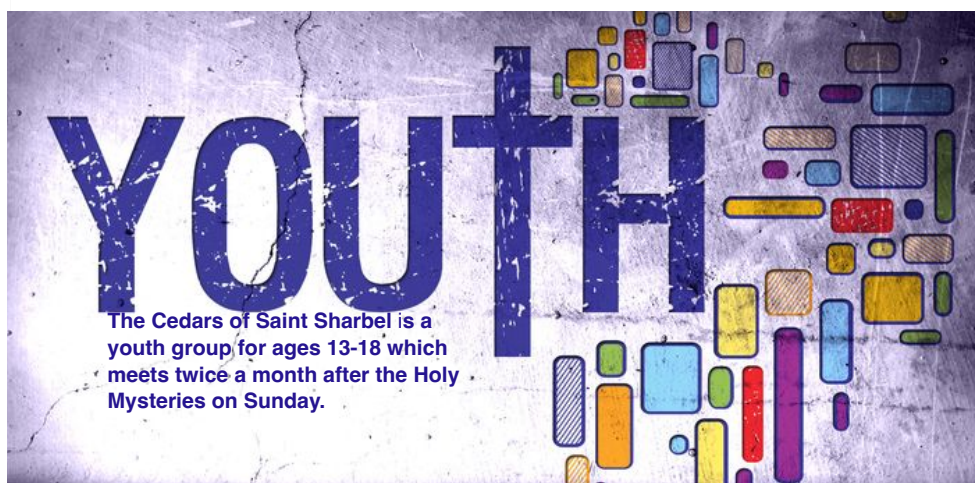
St. Sharbel Sunday School Program (Ages 6-12):

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 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.

CEDARS OF SAINT SHARBEL



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 20 — *See Below*

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

Save The Date!

Cedars is going out to lunch and ice skating on March 20. Events like this are important for our youth in continuing to form friendships which could last a lifetime. Particularly coming out of a pandemic, gatherings such as this are healthy and fun.

Even if you haven't been to a meeting before, consider attending this social event. This event is for boys and girls ages 13-18. Note: Other family members are also welcome to attend, but parents of children are responsible for anyone not in the Cedars Youth group.

We will all meet at **Red Robin Lloyd Center at 12:45 pm on Sunday, March 20** to have lunch together. After lunch, we will all head to the **Lloyd Center Skating Rink.**

I do ask for 1-2 parents to please attend the event as Cedars chaperones/parent volunteers. Skating is not required, but it would be better if you can skate with us. Parent volunteers are needed to chaperone youth as the skating rink is a large area. Let me know as soon as possible if you can do this.

The cost of skating is \$21 per person which includes ice skate rental- unless we can get a group of 15 or more, then the price drops to \$17 per person. In addition, any child under age five pays \$14 and anyone over the age of 50 pays \$14.

Please respond to jmjkaram3@gmail.com by March 15 to let me know if you are going, if you can chaperone, how many people are in your group, and their ages.

If we qualify for the group event (15 or more) I will need to contact the ice rink ahead of time. I will also need to make a reservation at Red Robin, so I do appreciate and need your early RSVP.

Hope everyone can come to this event - and I hope we can have more like it in the future!!

God bless you all.

Gennifer Karam



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: March 27, 2022

***10am Pacific Time*

REGISTER NOW! Introducing Me- The 2022 National MYO Conference

We are excited to share with you that...



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Yes, you heard right! We are so excited to announce that registration for our **2022 National MYO Conference** is now open!

Head on over to www.maroniteyouth.org and register now for our early bird pricing! **Pricing increases after March 26, so please encourage your youth to register as soon as possible!**

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at office@maroniteyouth.org. **Please mark your calendars, save the date, and spread the word!** We can't wait to see you June 23-27, 2022 at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, PA!

In Christ,
The National Maronite Youth Organization



*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!!!

<u>1st</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
<u>2nd</u>	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
<u>3rd</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
<u>4th</u>	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
<u>5th</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>

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

Reflection

When we view a conflict in hindsight we often think about the gravity of the offense – what was done, how much damage was caused, who was hurt. And we should be mindful of the effects of our offenses, especially when they are sins directed at God. In today's Gospel, we see the Prodigal Son makes clear that he wished his father was dead, asking for his inheritance in advance and then going away to waste it all – truly a serious offense. In the Parable of the Prodigal Son it would seem that the Prodigal Son deserves nothing but punishment in our estimation of justice and rightfully so – previously he could not have cared about his father or family and left to enjoy himself, only to return when things went wrong. But the offense of this misbehaving son only receives a couple verses out of the entire story, and Christ does this one purpose. The story of salvation is not focused on the offenses of humanity against God, though great they may be, but on the infinite generosity of God's mercy to the contrite person.

Why does Christ present us with this parable, and why does the Maronite Church read it during the Fast of Lent? Sin is our death, and every time we stray towards sin we choose our own interests in spite of the abundant generosity of God – essentially saying we care that God neither lives nor dies, but we shall go our own way from the generous Father to see to our own lives. But it is not simply enough to react to sin, and to disavow sin; if we are reacting to sin, sin remains the center of our lives. The way to return back from death to life is through Life Himself, our Lord, who said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). The means to return to Christ is through constant repentance from our sin. When the older son is outraged that the father so warmly greeted the Prodigal, he responds, "We had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again" (Luke 15:32) reminiscent of when God spoke through the prophet Ezekiel, "For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God. Repent and live!" (Ez. 18:32).

Repentance is not to despair in our depraved we are because of our sins, but the acknowledgment of how much greater God is than our sin and His ability to wipe them away. Sin and death killed Adam in the Garden, but, by His cross, our Lord killed sin and death. If He did not intend to make available for us the forgiveness of sins, He would not have taught us in the Our Father to say, "Forgive us our trespasses" (Matt. 6:12). But Christ in His infinite mercy has made forgiveness available to those who simply and sincerely ask for it, in spite of their offense like the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

But how can we repay God for all He has given us in His generosity? Just like the Prodigal Son, we cannot now nor ever repay Him, but the first step begins with trying not to repeat the repayable offense – not because our relationship with God is some kind of transaction, but because we love God and do not wish to repeatedly harm those we love. By Christ's live, death and resurrection, He destroyed the sin we could never overcome ourselves. But out of our love, though our praise or fasting adds nothing to His greatness, we must offer Him our best, just like the widow who deposits the two coins in the Temple and her offering is more pleasing to God than the large donations of the wealthy (Luke 21:1-4).

God has no need for our fasting nor is He magnified by our praise, but we offer both of these during Lent because, like a child making gifts for his parents from construction paper of little monetary value, we love the Lord and He loves us. Let all we do be for the reunification with the generous father who welcomes us prodigal sons back in spite of our offenses.

Bulletin Sponsors



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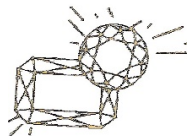
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Holy Week/Easter Schedule

<p>April 10 <i>Palm Sunday</i></p>	<p>Hosanna Sunday (Shaneenee) – 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Procession to follow with the distribution of Palms.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Confessions will be heard before Mass only</i></p> <p><i>**Breakfast and Egg Hunt after Mass.**</i></p>
<p>April 14 <i>Holy Thursday</i></p>	<p>Institution of the Eucharist- Mass/ Qurbano – 7 p.m.</p> <p>Washing of the Apostles Feet</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Confessions will be heard before/after the Holy Mysteries.</i></p>
<p>April 15 <i>Great Friday</i></p>	<p>Signing of the Chalice – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 10:30 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Confessions available before or after <u>by request</u></i></p> <p>Burial Procession (Zeeyeh) – No Eucharist– 7 p.m.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Burial of our Lord.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>No Confessions available in the evening</i></p>
<p>April 16 <i>Saturday of Holy Week</i></p>	<p>Morning Service: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rite of Forgiveness (General Absolution)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>No individual Confessions available</i></p> <p>Night Vigil of Easter:</p> <p>Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord (Mass/ Quorbono)– 9:00 p.m.</p> <p>Followed by Rite of Peace and Procession.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>No individual Confessions available</i></p>
<p>April 17 <i>Easter Sunday</i></p>	<p>Sunday of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord – 11:00 am</p> <p>No Procession, Mass only.</p>