

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214 503.231.3853 <u>stsharbelpdx@gmail.com</u> <u>www.stsharbel.org</u>

May 15, 2022

Jesus Delivers the Office of Shepherd to Peter



Next Sunday

Jesus Appears to the Apostles in the Upper Room Rom 10:1-13 (Righteousness Based on Faith) Lk 24:36-48 (The Appearance to the Disciples in Jerusalem)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for May 1st - 7th

Online	\$1,095.00
Collection	\$6,445.00
Weekly Total	\$7,540.00

YTD Total	\$48,544.03
YTD Goal	\$41,544.00

YTD Difference......\$7,000.03

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, May 15th, 11:00am Grace Zogbi

Monday, May 16th Available Tuesday, May 17th Available Wednesday, May 18th Available Thursday, May 19th Available Friday, May 20th Available Saturday, May 21st Available Sunday, May 22nd Stephanie and Antoine Zogbi

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, May 15th Available Sunday, May 22nd Redmond Family

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



Proudly announces Scholarship Program for 2022-2023

High School Graduate Scholarships

MYO — John A. Solomon Two for High School Seniors \$2000

Naomi & Paul Kassouf Two for High School Seniors \$2000 Bouna sharbel One for High School Seniors \$2000

One for High School Seniors \$2000

Massabki Brothers

Undergraduate Scholarships

Gilbert Chagoury Undergraduate One for College Student \$2000 Thomas & Jennie Ayoub One for College Students \$2000

Grad & Professional Scholarship

Gilbert Chagoury Graduate One for Graduate Student \$2000

Study Abroad in Lebanon Opportunities

Notre Dame University-Louaize Up to 10 scholarships total for Fall 2022 or Spring 2023

> The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik Up to 12 students for Summer 2023 Semester

For more information and applications visit www.namnews.org, namscholarships@gmail.com, or call NAM at 330-212-9207 <u>Application Deadline: May 31, 2022</u>



I delight to do Your will, O God; Your law is within my heart.

PSALMS 40:8

With Praise and Thanksgiving to Almighty God the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles and the Karam family are honored to invite you to

the Ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Jesus Christ of Deacon Antoine Karam

through the invocation of the Holy Spirit and by the Imposition of Hands of His Excellency The Most Reverend Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, D.D., M.L.M

> Saturday, August 27, 2022, 11:00 a.m. at St. Pius X Catholic Church 1280 NW Saltzman Rd. Portland, Oregon

A lunch reception will follow immediately at Saint Pius X Community Center hall.

Abouna Tony Sharbel will celebrate his First Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Sharbel Maronite Church on August, 28, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. 1804 SE 16th Ave, Portland Oregon, 97214

IHS

Please respond by July 1st, 2022 by call or text: Deacon Antoine Karam (503) 705-5874 Emelin Karam (503) 989-6911 **CEDARS OF SAINT SHARBEL** — Meetings for this year have concluded!



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

Meetings for this year have concluded!

For more information, contact Nadia Redmond at n.redmond@comcast.net.





Would you consider yourself holy? It is an interesting question if we are ever asked. It might prompt you to recall saying a recent hurtful remark in impatience, skipping prayer or one of the many other abundant flaws of messy human life. If we sit down and thoroughly think of all our faults it could seem that there is an insurmountable distance between us and the holiness of God. And perhaps at certain moments of our lives there is such a divide – but as St. Athanasius said, "God became man so that we might become God" (CCC460). Adam damaged the image of God in which we were all made, but Christ came to recast it!

Nowhere does God make His compassion towards our broken nature clearer than when He picks St. Peter, an uneducated and unimpressive fisherman who often did not understand Christ's miracles or sayings, to be the head of the Apostles. When Christ gives Peter the power to walk on water as he requests, Peter doubts Him and sinks (Matt. 14:22-33). When Jesus tells His disciples that He will be crucified and resurrected for the salvation of mankind, Peter rejects the divine plan for his little plans (Matt. 16:21-23). When Peter tells Christ he will never abandon Him, in the same night he denies Christ three times (Luke 22:54-62). Peter shows his weakness of faith and understanding, but Jesus does not abandon him – instead He pulls him up out of the waves, He corrects Peter in his error, and, in today's Gospel reading, we hear Jesus give him a chance to undo his triple denial by a triple question, "Do you love me?"

How patient and longsuffering God is! When He created everything for Adam and Adam sinned against Him, God began to immediately plan for his salvation. He sent no less than 70 prophets to Israel to bring them back to Him over the course of thousands of years, and when Israel killed His prophets He came Himself. Even St. Peter, the man He appointed as the head of His Church, failed again and again. But Christ did not abandon him because of Peter's repentance and love – which he proclaimed three times to Christ today. It is by both repentance and love Christ wipes away his sins. But it is not enough that Peter simply repents by telling the Lord he loves Him – Jesus sends Peter to work, "Feed my lambs. Take care of my sheep. Feed my lambs" The true work of penance for Peter is the distribution of Christ's abundant upon Earth, which Christ has made available to us through the Church.

Peter has been given the keys to the heavenly treasury from which the priests distribute the riches of God to those who need them. These men who distribute them are nowhere near perfect – look at Peter! However, their imperfections do not lessen the greatness of God – if anything, their weakness shows how mighty God is that He could work His mercy through such weak and sinful servants. The treasures they distribute are the holy mysteries of our Lord Who made them available that we might partake of His holiness. From this treasury, the priests dressed us in the rich robe of Christ at our baptism, removing the filthy robe of sinful decay from us. The Body and Blood of our Lord are the fiery coal that Isaiah said not even the angels could touch without a tong (Is. 6:6) but that the human priests hold in their hand and give to us that our sins be burned away. Like the Sinful Woman, our tears of penance wash away the sin that covers up these adornments and the priests give us the gold assurance of God "I absolve you." Of course, these are only three of the innumerable riches Christ gives us through the Church!

Would you consider yourself holy? Perhaps there is still a great distance to go in life and many improvements to be made, but let us look to the example of St. Peter. Instead of falling deeper into sin because we know it is in us, let us turn to Christ in our love for Him and have Him take it away. He has given us all these countless blessings for love of us, who are His image. Let us make use of them, crying out and praying:

Simon Peter called to You in the sea and You answered him between the waves, and You helped him in at a fearful time. O, I am drowning in the sea of sins! Pull me out because of Your goodness and have mercy upon me! (From the Syriac Maronite Midnight Office of Saturday)

- Article Credit: St Rafka Parish

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