

### 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

# July 31, 2022

9th Sunday of Pentecost - 350 Maronite Martyrs



### Next Sunday

10th Sunday of Pentecost

1 Cor 12:1-11 (Unity and Variety)

Mt 12:22-32 (Jesus and Beelzebul)

### **Your Gifts To God**

Offering Report for July 17th - 23rd

Online	\$655.00
Collection	\$1,410.00
Weekly Total	. ,
,	, ,

YTD Total......\$67,201.32 YTD Goal.....\$66,932.00

YTD Difference.....\$269.32

### **Liturgy Intentions**

Sunday, July 31st, 11:00am

Unavailable

Monday, August 1st

Unavailable

Tuesday, August 2nd

Unavailable

Wednesday, August 3rd

Unavailable

Thursday, August 4th

Unavailable

Friday, August 5th

Unavailable

Saturday, August 6th

Unavailable

Sunday, August 7th

Unavailable

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, July 31st

Available

Sunday, August

Available

### Parish 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

#### PRAYER FOR DEACON TONY KARAM'S ORDINATION

In preparation for the priestly ordination of Deacon Tony Karam let us get united in prayer with a novena starting on August 18th, nine days prior to the ordination. Links to the suggested novena prayer in both English and Arabic will be in the next bulletin. Please check it out. Hard copies of prayers will also be available at church.



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



### Invitation to all sisters in Christ,

A year ago, we formed a group of 7 sisters in Christ to join the Seven Sisters Apostolate, https://sevensistersapostolate.org/.

Catholic parishes across the United States have joined this beautiful apostolate to pray for our priests.

The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop—a "holy wasting" (cf. Mt. 26:10) or lavishing of prayer for his deeper conformity to Christ.

St. Sharbel's 7 sisters are committed to pray for one Holy Hour per week for Abouna Christopher.

If the Holy Spirit is calling you to make this commitment, please contact Nadia Redmond at 503-671-0440 or email: n.redmond@comcast.net

# Community Events

#### **CEDARS OF SAINT SHARBEL**

Youth Group for Ages 3-18 — Meetings for this year have concluded!

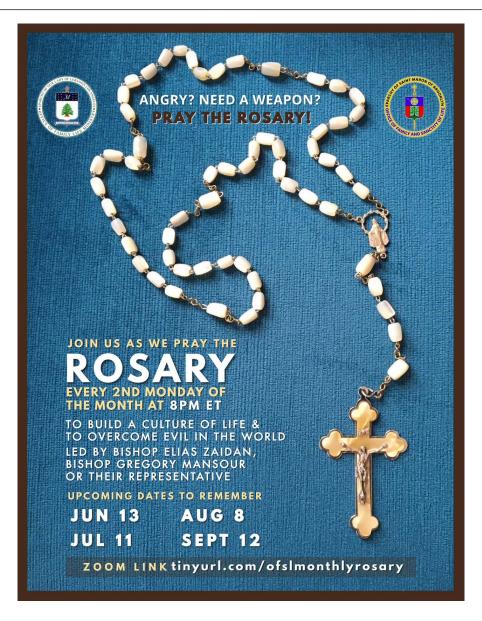


Maronite Young Adults (MYA) — The MYA is a group of men and women ages 18-40 (ish) which meets once a month for fellowship, prayer, and social activities

SEE YOU IN THE FALL!

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

— Meetings for this year have concluded!



# Reflection

Listen! For the wisdom of God says, I will send prophets and apostles, some of whom they will persecute and kill...from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, I tell you it will be required of this generation.

Zechariah, priest, prophet, and father of St. John the Baptist was stoned to death before the altar of holocausts in the Temple because he accused the people and leaders of Israel of being unfaithful to God's Law.

Jesus severely rebukes the students and interpreters of the Law who should have been the very ones to recognize Jesus as the Messiah, however, the Gospels teach us the opposite. These scribes and Pharisees would not allow the people to follow Jesus. They did everything to block His way. Is this the role of those precisely influenced by Satan? Recall when Peter attempted to block the way of Jesus. How did Jesus rebuke him? *Get behind me, Satan*.

One of the effects of our Redemption by Christ is His victory over Satan. It was prophesied that the Messiah would crush the head of the serpent. Being one with Christ we share in His victory and in His power.

It is true, despite the disbelief of many today, that the devil is real and powerful and never ceases to search for an opportunity to devour one of Christ's disciples; but equally important to remember that he can only operate within the limits which God has imposed upon him.

God is stronger than the devil. And we have no cause to be afraid of him. Until this conviction is clearly and firmly rooted within us we may feel threatened; but once we possess this conviction we are quite safe—in the hands of God.

This does not assure us, however, of a life free of suffering, persecution or even martyrdom which would be impossible to bear without this conviction.

Let us look briefly at the example of the 350 Martyrs, Disciples of St. Maron. These disciples were 6<sup>th</sup> Century monks living in several monasteries throughout Northern Syria adjacent to Northern Lebanon. They held strong ties to the Catholic faith, particularly to the teaching of the Fourth Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon. This Council in 451 decreed that Our Lord Jesus Christ was one person, but having two distinct natures, one divine, the other human. Despite the Dogma of the Council there persisted the group called Monophysites—meaning one nature, namely the divine nature. Without a human nature, the Son of God was not truly man, not born of a human mother, could not die; so the sacrifice of Calvary was a sham.

Patriarch Severus embraced this monophysite heresy and persecuted the monks, ordering 350 of them to be executed in the year 517AD.

When things settled down, several of the survivors presented to Pope Hermisdas an affidavit testifying how the monks had been martyred under the authority of Patriarch Severus. The Pope expressed his sympathy and urged them to remain steadfast against persecution.

In 1734, Pope Clement XII bestowed an indulgence upon all the Churches honoring the 350 Maronite monks. Pope Benedict XIV in 1740 declared the indulgence applicable to all Maronite Churches throughout the world.

Unity is the work of the Holy Spirit. Division is the labor of the evil one. Some people follow Jesus, enthusiastic about His message and miracles; while others simply will not accept Him and do everything in their power to dissuade others from following Him. They try in every way to discredit Him in the eyes of the people.

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