



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

September 11, 2022

Feast of the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

First Sunday After the Holy Cross

2 Tm 2:1-10 (Timothy's Conduct)

Mk 10:35-45 (Ambition of James and John)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for August 28th - September 3

Online.....\$145.00

Collection.....\$2,199.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,344.00

YTD Total.....\$76,364.61

YTD Goal.....\$80,780.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$4,415.39**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, September 11th, 11:00am

+Laurent El Hajj 40 day memorial

Monday, September 12th

Available

Tuesday, September 13th

Available

Wednesday, September 14th

Emma Wold

Thursday, September 15th

Available

Friday, September 16th

Christopher Havlicek

Saturday, September 17th

Available

Sunday, September 18th

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, September 11th

Available

Sunday, September 18th

Redmond Family

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

Message From Abouna:

Abouna has a new Oregon phone number!
503-961-4881

Please change his number in your contacts to this new number as
the old phone number will not be in operation much longer.

Thanks!

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

Parish Programs

CEDARS OF SAINT SHARBEL

Youth Group for Ages 3-18



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.

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

Community Events



**Star of Bethlehem Raffle Quilt
Tickets
\$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00**

St. Mary's 50th Quilt & Crafts Fair

*September 15, 16, & 17
Thursday through Saturday
10 AM – 4 PM*

Lunch Served Daily at 11:00 AM

St. Mary's Catholic Church
960 Missouri Avenue
Vernonia, OR 97064
503-429-8841

maryscatholicchurch@frontier.com

Catholic Friendship Group - Singles, ages 40-60. Eucharistic Adoration followed by a talk and discussion led by Fr. Joshua Clifton.

Next topic: The Apostolic Fathers.
Our group continues to grow! Come join us for our next gathering.

Friday, September 23rd.
NEW START TIME: 6:30pm-8:00pm.

Visit www.catholicfriendshipgroup.com for more details.
Location: St. Birgitta Catholic Church, 11820 NW St. Helens Rd, Portland. RSVP to: CatholicFriendshipGroup@outlook.com



ANGRY? NEED A WEAPON?
PRAY THE ROSARY!



JOIN US AS WE PRAY THE
ROSARY
EVERY 2ND MONDAY OF
THE MONTH AT 8PM ET

TO BUILD A CULTURE OF LIFE &
TO OVERCOME EVIL IN THE WORLD
LED BY BISHOP ELIAS ZAIDAN,
BISHOP GREGORY MANSOUR
OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVE

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

JUN 13 AUG 8
JUL 11 SEPT 12

ZOOM LINK tinyurl.com/ofslmonthlyrosary

Portland's Singing Christmas Tree Youth Cast for 2022 Come sing with us!



5th - 8th grade

Email us for more information
info@singingchristmastree.org or call 503-557-8733



Reflection

September 14th is one of the major feasts in the Syriac tradition – the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. St. Helena, the mother of St. Constantine, the Emperor of Rome, established the day as the Feast of the Cross, as she found the cross of Jesus Christ by Golgotha in Jerusalem on this day. It was found while St. Helena was overseeing the construction of a church over the place where Christ was crucified and was buried. Having found the true cross, Constantine proclaimed a holy day to venerate it throughout the Empire.

But why do we venerate the cross? It would seem a bit odd to venerate the instrument of torture used against our Lord and God if He had not risen from the dead. However, we know that Christ rose from the dead, and so He made a mockery out of death and its instruments. Jesus showed in His crucifixion that He has the power to make even an instrument of death a means of life. He transformed His cross, which was used to sentence Him to death, into an instrument that brings life to all those who believe in it, “an armor of righteousness, a companion of assistances, and a fount of immortality” (as our prayers call it). But why does the cross receive such lofty titles? When Jesus, our immortal God died, He descended to the place of the dead and defeated death, rising again and promising His believers the same. So what others see as a way to death, Christians see it as the key that brought eternal life. God is so great He can make a symbol of death one of life – hence why the Syriac tradition often contrasts the cross to the tree that Adam ate from and died: “The fruit from the tree killed Adam, and the Fruit from heaven redeemed him.” Christ is the Fruit of Life Who has given Himself to us for life, and the cross is the tree that has borne Him for us. It was the foolishness of Adam that caused his fall, but it was the mercy of Christ that returned him to Eden – this is what the cross represents.

But the cross does not simply represent the suffering of Christ. On Sunday morning we lift up the cross in glorious victory because it is empty along with the tomb. The cross is a sign of the Resurrection, for by it Christ descended to Sheol

and raised the dead who served Him in their lives to heaven. We exalt the cross again on the Holy Cross and bless the four corners of the world for it continues to be the very pillar of the world. Creation itself and its continuance rely solely on the merciful salvation of God – the cross is the very pinnacle of this sustaining mercy. In mercy, Christ exorcised demons and healed the sick, worked miracles and showed His divinity. This mercy pervades every aspect of our life and remains with the baptized at all times, for we have put on Christ through the waters of baptism.

The cross is the sign of salvation, and it is the banner of our King. We have easy access to this mighty power. Our enemies, the demons and devils, flee at the very sight of the Lord’s sign. By the sign of the cross and invocation of the Persons of the Trinity we obtain the assistance of the mercy of God. The sign of the cross is so commonly made that it is overlooked, but each and every time we make the sign of the cross we recalled and call upon the help and hope of God’s entire plan of salvation. When we are in need, let us trace this powerful sign upon ourselves as we pray:

We trace the living sign of the cross between our eyes and by its power we are protected from harm and injury. Demons flee before whomever signs himself with the cross – the [same] cross that restore the House of Adam from error.

(Trans. from the Prayers for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross)

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