



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

503.231.3853

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

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

## September 25, 2022

Second Sunday After the Holy Cross



### Next Sunday

Third Sunday After the Holy Cross

**Phil 3:17-4:1** (Wrong Conduct and Our Goal/Live in Concord)

**Mt 24:23-31** (The Great Tribulation/The Coming of the Son of Man)

## Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for September 11th - 17th

Online.....\$4,689.00

Collection.....\$990.00

Weekly Total.....\$5,679.00

YTD Total.....\$85,330.11

YTD Goal.....\$85,396.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$65.89**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, September 25th, 11:00am

**+Rabih Ghostine**

Monday, September 26th

*Available*

Tuesday, September 27th

**+Evette Ghosson**

Wednesday, September 28th

*Available*

Thursday, September 29th

*Available*

Friday, September 30th

*Available*

Saturday, October 1st

*Available*

Sunday, October 2nd

*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 25th**

*Ghossein Agopos*

**Sunday, October 2nd**

*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

*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!

## Parish Programs



St. Sharbel's MYO or "The Cedars of Saint Sharbel" will start gathering again on October 23 in the upstairs meeting room immediately after mass. The group is for boys and girls ages 13-18.

Upcoming Meeting Dates Are: 10/23, 11/6, 12/4, 1/15

## Religious Education

**2022-23 Maronite Faith Formation Information Day for our Youth and Families**

October 9, 2022 after the Divine Liturgy, 12:00 PM – meet upstairs in the classroom (above sacristy). Information about Family Catechesis, Sacrament Preparation, and Volunteer opportunities will be available.

Please contact Nadia for more information Coordinator of Religious Education,  
[n.redmond@comcast.net](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net)

Please continue to pray for our parish and ministries



**Maronite Young Adults (MYA)** kick-off the year with a barbecue this **Sunday, September 25, 1:30 PM** at Claude Karam's home.

MYA is a local chapter of a national Maronite organization for single and married men and women ages 19+

For more info on the BBQ and the MYA,  
contact [Claude@trazzafoods.com](mailto:Claude@trazzafoods.com)





October 9th is designated "Order of Saint Sharbel Sunday" in the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles. We will have a brief, special presentation on the Order that day. The Order of Saint Sharbel is vitally important in providing financial and spiritual support for educating our seminarians, who are crucial for the future of our Maronite Church. Please prayerfully consider joining the Order. You may enroll online at <http://www.orderstsharbel.org> or ask Father for more information.

With gratitude for all your love for the Church, I remain,  
Yours in Christ,

+ A. Elias

## JOIN THE ORDER

TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF MARONITE SEMINARIANS  
AND HELP BUILD THE FUTURE OF THE MARONITE CHURCH

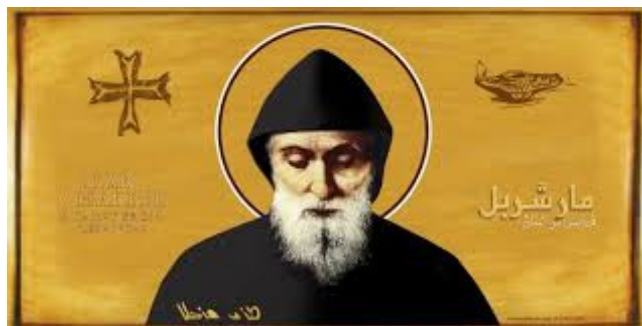


### JOINTHEORDEROFSAINTSHARBELTODAY

Enroll online at [www.orderstsharbel.org](http://www.orderstsharbel.org) or in your Parish.

For more information about the Order, please contact your Parish Priest or Order of Saint Sharbel President Jim Abdo at [info@orderstsharbel.org](mailto:info@orderstsharbel.org) or call the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles at (314) 231-1021.

If you are interested in becoming a Priest or Religious Sister, contact Vocations Director, Chorbishop Donald J. Sawyer, D. Min, at 512-458-3693 or [dsawyer@grandecom.net](mailto:dsawyer@grandecom.net)



## Saint Sharbel Altar Server Ministry

Serving the priest at the altar is indeed an honor. There are many blessings that come about by allowing your son to offer his time and talents as an altar server. Parents and children please join us for a meeting on **Sunday October 16**, immediately after the Holy Mysteries to learn more.

Feel free to contact **Gladys Allam** at **503-747-8689** if you have any questions.

The **ACCW Annual Day of Recollection** will be *October 12, 2022 at Our Lady of Peace Retreat, in Beaverton.*

Our presider is Fr. Chuck Wood, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church. The theme is Jesus as "The Way, the Truth, and the Life". The day will include the celebration of Mass and Conferences.

The hours will be 9am to 3pm lunch is provided. The fee is \$25.  
All are welcome, so please do bring interested friends.

To register, call Sue Anker, 503- 252-2574

## 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](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net)

## Reflection

*So great is the faith of the Thief whose Lord was crucified upon the Tree and Whose forgiveness he requested. With nails in His hands and feet, he said to Him, "Forgive me my transgression!" Behold, Simon who had seen denied [Him], John stood afar, and the Thief cried out, "Remember me when You come!" (From the prayers of the Feast of the Holy Cross)*

In mostly every other situation, it would be odd to hold up a thief as an example of how we should behave. But throughout the Syriac tradition, the Fathers constantly call our attention to how exemplary the Thief crucified next to Christ is (Luke 23:39-43). Simon Peter, who only shortly before the Passion professed that he would never abandon Christ, denied him and ran away. John, known as the Beloved Disciple and who laid his head on Jesus' chest at the Last Supper, now stands afar. But it was a thief, who admitted his execution was deserved, is raised up as our saintly example even above the first Bishop of Rome and an apostle. From the Thief, we learn three salient lessons.

The Thief sees with what the Syriac Fathers call the "Eye of the Spirit." Christ was beaten and about to die, yet to the Thief He was clearly the Lord of All. While others taunted Him to save Himself, the Thief understood that He was the One without Whom His persecutors would cease to exist. Peter, though he had seen Christ manifest His godly glory at the Transfiguration, still did not understand. But the Thief in his heart understood well when Christ said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25). That day, the Thief gained eternal life in heaven by dying in faith, but Peter died by denouncing God until he would repent.

The Thief's plea for mercy from God reminds us that we should and must call out to God to save us from our sin. Even in the day of his death, the Thief still had hope because Jesus is the Hope of the Hopeless. Whereas an external observer would say the Thief died and Peter lived by fleeing, we know that the Thief gained eternal life and Peter had rejected the Lord of Life at that moment. The Thief knew that no sin, even one that brought him to death, was larger than the mercy of God – his name is a reminder, in that we remember him by his crime but laud him for his faith. God is the judge of heart and mind, and not restricted to human concepts of justice. He is always eager to have mercy – and when Peter repented from his denunciation of Jesus, he too was forgiven and became the highest bishop of the Church.

The last lesson from the Thief is that we are reminded God is the Judge of Judges – not us. It can be difficult not to judge people by their pasts and appearances, but we must remember we not determine who is worthy of the forgiveness or blessing of the Most High God! After all, it was Sts. Peter and John, apostles and bishops, who ran or stood afar. It was the Thief who was pleasing to God in that moment. But the temporary lapse of Peter also did not define the rest of his life – with sincere repentance came perfect reconciliation!

Like the Thief, let us seek God with spiritual eyes instead of the judgment of man. Like the Thief, let us call out to God at all hours, in spite of how hopeless our situations may look. Like the Thief, let us not try to replace the judgment of God with our own but be confident in His steadfastness! May prayers of the Thief be a rampart to us!

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