



# 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)

## October 16, 2022

Fifth Sunday After the Holy Cross



### Next Sunday

*Sixth Sunday After the Holy Cross*

**Gal 6:1-10** (Life in the Community of Christ)

**Mt 25:14-30** (The Parable of the Talents)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for October 2nd - 8th*

Online.....\$912.50

Collection.....\$0.00

Weekly Total.....\$912.50

YTD Total.....\$88,620.49

YTD Goal.....\$92,320.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$3,699.51**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, October 16th, 11:00am

*Available*

Monday, October 17th

*Available*

Tuesday, October 18th

*Available*

Wednesday, October 19th

*Available*

Thursday, October 20th

*Available*

Friday, October 21st

*Available*

Saturday, October 22nd

*Available*

Sunday, October 23rd

**+Joseph Atie**

***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, October 16th

*Ghossein Agopos*

Sunday, October 23rd

*Redmond Family*



## 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

+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!**



**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

October 10

December 12

November 14

**ZOOM LINK** [tinyurl.com/ofslmonthlyrosary](https://tinyurl.com/ofslmonthlyrosary)



# 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

## 10 Reasons to Sign up Your Son or Daughter for the Cedars of Saint Sharbel Youth Group this year:

1. Engaging discussions on topics which are important to young people today
2. Opportunities for fun and creativity among friends
3. Opportunities to make new friends in a safe environment
4. Fosters in our young people self-esteem, communication skills, listening skills and good mental health
5. Gives young people a chance to not only receive, but to give of their time, attention, and talent
6. Helps young people find answers to their questions by using the teachings of our faith
7. Teaches young people how to explain what we believe as Catholics to someone who asks them.
8. Strengthens a sense of community in our youth, the future of the Church!
9. It's convenient: Meetings are held at our church, once or twice a month, after mass on Sunday. No additional driving required!
10. Parents get to take turns volunteering and being present at meetings, therefore, taking part in some of the fun we'll be having.

Please see Gennifer to register.

**First meeting is October 23.**



## 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.

## Religious Education

**To ALL Families with children between Ages 6-11**



For Information about family catechesis and sacrament preparation  
Contact Nadia Redmond, 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)

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

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

## 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

The Parable of the Ten Virgins awaiting the Bridegroom from today's Gospel (Matt. 25:1-13) is a commonly used theme in our Syriac tradition. Christ taught us this image because of its usefulness in mentally preparing for the last day, and so our wise Syriac Fathers have been certain to use it in their writings, hymns and homilies. There is a wealth of symbolism in it: the virgins and the Bridegroom, the oil of the lamps, and the wedding banquet.

The first element of the reading is the virgins and the Bridegroom. As Christ says, "Many are invited, but few are chosen" (Matt. 22:14). God wishes all to be saved, and so by His life-giving sacrifice on Earth He has called all peoples to His Church, but He does not force us to receive His loving salvation, as love cannot be compelled. Therefore, just like the virgins, while all are invited to His banquet, there are those who do refuse through their actions, even if they say with their mouths, "Lord, Lord, open the door for us!" (Matt. 25:11). The Bridegroom, then, is Christ Who has married His Church to bring His divinity to all of her children – that is us. If we enter into the banquet, then we shall obtain the life and love of God.

The second element is the lamps' oil. If God requires us to accept His loving salvation, what does that entail? Here we see it in the difference of the lamps of the virgins. All the virgins are invited to the banquet and none of them know when the Bridegroom will arrive. The five wise virgins brought enough oil that even if they should wait, their lamps would not burn out – while the foolish virgins did not bring enough oil. The Syriac Fathers say the oil of our lamps are our righteous and virtuous deeds that we commit for love of God and neighbor. We do not know when Christ the Bridegroom will return, but we can keep His commands on Earth while we wait, filling our lamps with the oil of righteousness. This righteousness is giving the Lord His due glory in prayer, as well as helping those in need on Earth, for all are made in the image of God. Regardless of the dark of midnight, the wise virgins can see the Bridegroom because they brought enough oil.

Likewise, no matter how dark the night of this world becomes with all its troubles, the wise will know the coming of Christ the Bridegroom by the light of their righteousness. But it is not something to prepare for tomorrow, but this very moment.

The last element is the wedding banquet. The Syriac Fathers refer to two things, which are intimately related, as the wedding banquet: the Eucharist and heaven. In this parable, it is clear that there are those who will not choose God, and therefore they reject heaven, rejecting life, love and fulfillment. But it is the same on Earth – Christ has prepared us the banquet of His flesh and blood in the Eucharist on Earth that we may have a foretaste of heaven. Just as heaven will be in union of God, so too are we when we rightly receive His flesh and blood from the priest for eternal life and the forgiveness of sins. Unlike the virgins, however, we have access to the Bridegroom at this very moment in the Eucharist.

Let us be prepared with an oil of righteousness with the five virgins that we may have our lamps brightly burning in the world. Then, when the Bridegroom comes, we can go out to meet Him and enter into His banquet rejoicing and celebrating.

## Bulletin Sponsors



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