



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

October 9, 2022

Fourth Sunday After the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

Fifth Sunday After the Holy Cross

Phil 2:12-18 (Obedience and Service in the World)

Mt 25:1-13 (The Parable of the 10 Virgins)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for September 25th - October 1st

Online.....\$495.00

Collection.....\$626.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,121.00

YTD Total.....\$87,707.99

YTD Goal.....\$90,012.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,304.01**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, October 9th, 11:00am

Available

Monday, October 10th

Available

Tuesday, October 11th

Jason, Darrell and Michelle Cronk

Wednesday, October 12th

Available

Thursday, October 13th

Available

Friday, October 14th

Available

Saturday, October 15th

Available

Sunday, October 16th

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, October 9th

Available

Sunday, October 16th

Available

[illegible]

Parish Programs



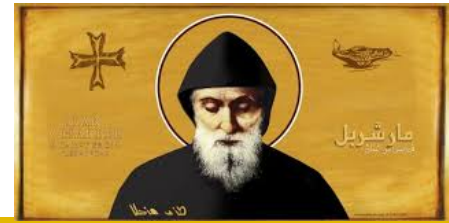
St. Sharbel's MYO or "The Cedars of Saint Sharbel" will start gathering again on October 23 in the upstairs meeting room immediately after mass. The group is for boys and girls ages 13-18.

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

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

Please continue to pray for our parish and ministries



Young Adults (MYA)

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

more info on the MYA, contact Claude@trazzafoods.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

Reflection

“You know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night” (1 Thess. 5:2) St. Paul wrote in today’s epistle. The Last Day is an unavoidable reality, but we do not know when it will come. Today’s Gospel presents two types of responses servants of the Lord can give to this inevitable day – one servant does as he is instructed, while the other parties and squanders what he has been entrusted because he assumes his Master will be away for a long time. Unfortunately for the second servant, his Master returns when he did not expect Him and he is punished.

But to those who love Christ, to the servant who he has been instructed by the Gospel, His return is a frightening event to dread, but an event we await with great eagerness. The servant who does not do as he has been instructed rightly fears the day his Master returns because he knows he will get in trouble for his purposeful disobedience. But the servants who try their best to follow their Master’s commands simply wish to see their Master again for their love of the Master is the same reason they follow His commands. And Christ, our Master, has not left us with commands to simply busy us, but because He knows best, as our omnipotent God and Creator, what should bring fulfillment and holiness.

Christ never said the instructions He has left would be always simple or easy, but He invites us to imitate Him, saying “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9:23). Knowing we would face great challenges in the world at times to complete His commands, Christ left us with every divine tool needed to overcome them. As St. Paul wrote, “Let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:8-9). Faith and hope is our armor in the world, and our greatest weapon is the cross of Christ that protects us from harm and evil for God does not wish us to suffer, but to rejoice with Him forever in His love.

Equipped with faith, hope and love, and armed with the cross, we are prepared to face any challenge, whether our Lord will return tomorrow or in a thousand years. God is timeless, as is His love. If we truly wish to emulate Him, we must imitate His timeless love, not only in reciprocity to Him but to one another. Perhaps one of the greatest apparent crosses to carry and challenges we face in opposition to our faith and hope is Christ’s command to love our enemies and pray for them (Matt. 5:44). But that is, in fact, not in opposition but essential to how Christ has equipped us. We will only defeat our enemies in an ultimate sense by loving them – not in a naïve way thinking that everyone shall become our friends, but with the same love that God loves even those who offend Him. If God in His love wishes that we should be saved, then we must also love our enemies with the hope that we can all enter heaven. We can begin today to prepare concretely for the last day with things as simple as praying for those who wish us ill, and being the one to reach out and make peace when possible.

The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night, sneaking up on us. It is left to us whether we shall receive it in great joy because we will see the Master we love so dearly, or be horrified when we realize we have neglected His commands.

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