



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 2, 2022

Third Sunday After the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

Fourth Sunday After the Holy Cross

1 Thes 5:1-11 (Vigilance)

Mt 24:45-51 (The Faithful or the Unfaithful Servant)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, October 2nd, 11:00am

Available

Monday, October 3rd

Available

Tuesday, October 4th

Pete Adams

Wednesday, October 5th

Available

Thursday, October 6th

Johnathan Zogbi

Friday, October 7th

Available

Saturday, October 8th

Available

Sunday, October 9th

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.

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for September 18th - 24th

Online.....\$911.88

Collection.....\$345.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,256.88

YTD Total.....\$86,586.99

YTD Goal.....\$87,704.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,117.01**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, October 2nd

Available

Sunday, October 9th

Available

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!

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.

9am-3pm, lunch is provided. **Fee is \$25.**
All are welcome, so please do bring interested friends.

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



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

September 28, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I write to thank all those among you who participated in the Synodal Consultation Phase (November 2021 to May 2022) and offered feedback regarding how we can enhance our common journey of evangelization, as our Holy Father, Pope Francis, requested of all Catholics around the world at the onset of the Synod on Synodality in October 2021. The feedback from Catholics across the world will form the foundation of the preparatory documents for the upcoming Synod on Synodality, which will take place in the Vatican in October 2023.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the consultation experience in our eparchy generated among participants a significant amount of reflection and introspection regarding our common faith journey. Many participants provided feedback enthusiastically. People of all age groups participated in the consultations, with people over age 40 representing the largest proportion of participants. We synthesized feedback received from 24 parishes into one Eparchial report which we sent to the Synodal Committee of the Maronite Church in Lebanon in June 2022. The Maronite Church, in turn, synthesized the feedback from all of its eparchies in Lebanon and around the world into one report which was sent to the Vatican in August 2022.

Our eparchial report shared most of the primary conclusions presented in the final report from the Maronite Church, including:

- Listen to and communicate more effectively with all believers, especially the people on the periphery, the marginalized, and the poor and underprivileged.
- Educate and guide pastors on more effective ways to synodality.
- Provide additional support for and emphasis on adult faith formation to allow all to journey together more effectively.
- Call for active participation of young people in liturgical celebrations and the life of the parish.

I will work with all our parish priests to develop a diocesan framework to actively address these primary conclusions and keep you posted on our progress in the next few months. Rest assured of our willingness and readiness to listen to all of you at any time and to journey with you on our common quest for holiness.

Sincerely,

+A.E. Zaidan

+A. Elias Zaidan

Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

The 11th Annual



Steve Beuerlein
Keynote Speaker



**Champions of
FAITH
BENEFIT DINNER**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022 | 7:00 PM
OREGON CONVENTION CENTER

Join us for a faith-filled evening of fun, philanthropy and celebration in support of our youth. Our keynote speaker Steve Beuerlein is a former Notre Dame and NFL quarterback who is a college football game commentator on radio.

www.cyocamphoward.org for more information

TICKETS \$200
PURCHASE ONLINE AT
WWW.CYOCAMPHOWARD.ORG

Parish Programs



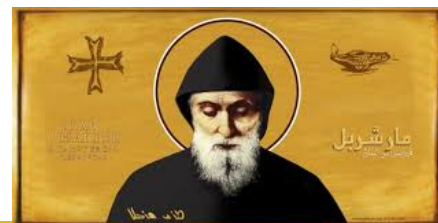
St. Sharbel's MYO or "The Cedars of Saint Sharbel" will start gathering again on October 23 in the upstairs meeting room immediately after mass. The group is for boys and girls ages 13-18.

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 Jennifer 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



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@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.

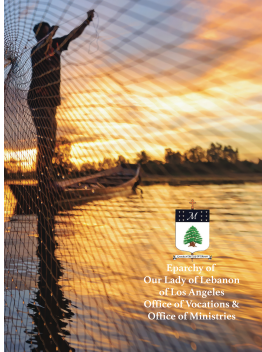
Equipped with faith, hope and love, and armed with the cross, we are prepared to face any challenge, whether our Lord will return tomorrow or in a thousand years. God is timeless, as is His love. If we truly wish to emulate Him, we must imitate His timeless love, not only in reciprocity to Him but to 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.

**“He said to them,
Come follow me,
and I will make you
Fishers of men”**

Matthew 4:19

**Is Jesus Christ
calling you to become
a Religious Man
or Woman?**



**Eparchy at
Our Lady of Lebanon
of Los Angeles
Office of Vocations &
Office of Ministries**

Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles Office of Vocations

The Maronite Seminary

The Maronite Seminary provides the educational and spiritual environment for seminarians to excel and serve the Maronite faithful throughout the world.

A seminary is a place where those who feel that they may have been called to this special role of service come to reflect further on God's intentions for them. It is also a place where a person seeks to increase in virtue and deepen the life of prayer. Priesthood further demands that the candidate prepare himself through the study of theology, scripture, liturgy, and through supervised pastoral ministry that the future priest may have the competence to lead and minister to his people. Being a seminary of the Maronite Church, Our Lady of Lebanon, seeks to perpetuate the Syriac and Maronite tradition. Its alumni are called to serve Maronite parishes in the United States. Its mission is to perpetuate the Maronite tradition in the United States and throughout the world.

The seminary is sponsored by the Maronite Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn, whose Bishop is His Excellency Bishop Gregory Mansour, and the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, whose Bishop is His Excellency A. Elias Zaidan.



Admission Requirements

- Pastor's recommendation
- Seminary application
- Current medical examination
- Psychological evaluation

The pastor, physician and psychologist should mail their information directly to the Office of Vocations, to the address below.

Our Lady's Maronite Catholic Parish
1200 E 31st Street, Austin, TX 78723

This information is then forwarded to the Bishop for evaluation and a decision on acceptance.

Graduate Students Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree
- 30 credits in Philosophy at a Catholic University.

Undergraduate Students Requirements

- Graduation from high school with above average in their studies.
- High school transcripts.
- College entrance examination scores

Undergraduate Transfer Students

- Cumulative point average higher than the average student.
- Transcripts

Foreign students

- Equivalent documents indicating fulfillment of the requirements listed above.
- TOEFL Examination Score



The order of St. Sharbel is a group of faithful Maronite people who are pledging their spiritual strength and financial support towards the formation of Maronite priests, deacons and subdeacons of Our Lady of Lebanon Eparchy of Los Angeles.

**Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon
of Los Angeles
Office of Vocations**



Maronite Priestly Formation Program for Unmarried Men

The office of vocations is to assist in promoting and encouraging vocations for men to study in preparation for Maronite priesthood.

Chorbishop Don Sawyer, D. Min

Director of Vocations

512-458-3693

dsawyer@grandecom.net

www.eparchy.org/office-of-vocations

*How
do I know
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CALLING?*

Letter from Chorbishop Don Sawyer, D. Min

I remember people asking me how did I know that I wanted to become a priest, or, how did I get a call? It is the thousand dollar question! And, it is a hard question to answer because a person is dealing with feelings and a spiritual question.

I tell people that the best way to describe what a person is feeling is by comparing it to the physical feel of hunger! How do you know that you are hungry? You feel it. However, how does one describe hunger? That is hard to describe. You are maybe having feelings but not knowing what you are feeling. God touches us all if we only open up to Him, only a person himself/herself can do that. God calls gently, as He did with the prophet Elias. Most people do not experience a big show of God, no lightning, no earthquake, or thunder. Usually, it is a gentle and constant thought; perhaps a feeling, and often times He speaks to us through others, like a suggestion, a question, ie.

"Have you thought about becoming a priest? Have you thought about becoming a nun?" I suggest that you put it in prayer and ask God what He wants of you and to show you what you should be doing in life. Speak with your pastor or a spiritual director if you have one. Give me a call and introduce yourself to me. I will pray with you! I am here to help you discern what God is wanting for you and what avenue you should be looking at. I can assist you with that discernment!



Life as a Seminarian

Our Seminarians' schedules are a balance of:

- Prayer
- Studies
- Chronologically, their days are as follows:
- Morning prayer of the Maronite Divine Office (Safro)
- Classes at The Catholic University of America
- Divine Liturgy with the Seminary community
- Dinner, cooked by the Seminary Chef, for the Seminarians, their Rector and Vice-Rector



- Evening prayer of the Maronite Divine Office (Ramsho) in the Chapel.
- Once a month, in addition to Ramsho the community will gather for a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration.
- Free time for Seminarians.
- That may include:
- Friendly video game
- Ping pong game
- Study
- Private prayer

There are many more activities that we do as seminarians.

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Curriculum for Seminarian Studies

Classes at the seminary are offered in:

- Spirituality
- Liturgy
- History
- Traditions of the Maronite Church
- Music (Hymns and chants used in the Liturgy and other services)

Also pertaining to the Maronite Church, are lessons in:

- The Liturgical language
- The Vernacular language
- Syriac
- Arabic

Special classes are given to candidates as they prepare for ordination to Minor and Major Orders of the Priesthood.



For Undergraduate Students

Undergraduate students may attend classes in colleges approved by the Bishop. It is recommended that a seminarian will receive his Bachelor's degree in the humanities, with a preference given to a major in philosophy. All undergraduates are expected to have a substantial background in philosophy. This should include courses in ancient, medieval, and modern philosophy.

For Graduate Students

Graduate students usually attend classes at the various schools of Theology in the Washington area. Maronite seminarians, pursuing a Master's degree, may attend classes at Catholic University, the Washington Theological Union, or the Dominican House of Studies.

The formation program for Subdeacons

The Eastern Churches maintain what the tradition calls "minor orders", which include all those who take care of the church and its contents, read the epistles, chant the psalms during liturgy, and serve the Altar. If (the Lord is calling you to serve your parish as a subdeacon, do not hesitate to discuss with your Pastor, or to contact the Office of Ministries.



Requirements:

- 1- A candidate applying to the subdeaconate program must be Maronite.
- 2- A candidate's Pastor must agree on his candidature.
- 3- A candidate's spouse, if married, must agree on his candidature.
- 4- A candidate must file an application, along with recommendations, medical examination, and psychological evaluation.
- 5- After thorough examination of the candidate's file, an interview must be held with the Director of Ministries, and an opinion is to be reported to the Bishop.
- 6- Once a candidate is accepted into the program by the Bishop, he begins his formation program with his Pastor, that usually takes 2 years, at the end of which, the Bishop calls him to ordination.



**Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon
of Los Angeles
Office of Ministries**



Maronite Priestly Formation Program for Married Men, Permanent Deacons and Subdeacons.

The Office of Ministries of the Maronite Eparchy of Los Angeles promotes, supports, and is responsible for the formation programs of eparchial priesthood for married men, permanent deacons, and permanent subdeacons.

Father Patrick Kassab, Director of Ministries

1420 S Sappington Rd

St Louis, MO 63126

314-437-2882

www.wineyardofthelord.org

*How
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Letter from Chorbishop Don Sawyer, D. Min

I remember people asking me how did I know that I wanted to become a priest, or, how did I get a call? It is the thousand dollar question! And, it is a hard question to answer because a person is dealing with feelings and a spiritual question.

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"Have you thought about becoming a priest? Have you thought about becoming a nun?" I suggest that you put it in prayer and ask God what He wants of you and to show you what you should be doing in life. Speak with your pastor or a spiritual director if you have one. Give me a call and introduce yourself to me. I will pray with you! I am here to help you discern what God is wanting for you and what avenue you should be looking at. I can assist you with that discernment!



The Priesthood formation program for Married men

The universal Maronite Church has always observed the tradition of ordaining virtuous married men to the Priesthood. However, for many decades, eparchies outside the patriarchal territory only accepted single men to the order of Presbyters, until the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon revived the old tradition by ordaining a married man as a priest in 2013. Currently, our Eparchy has 3 married priests who are serving our people in the USA, and 8 other men are in the formation program to become priests. If you are already married and you have heard the calling of the Lord to serve his Church as a priest, please do not hesitate to discuss with your Pastor, or to directly contact the Office of Ministries.



Requirements

- 1- A candidate must be Maronite.
- 2- A candidate must be leading an exemplary married life.
- 3- A candidate's spouse must agree on his candidature.
- 4- A candidate must agree on the possibility of being transferred from his state of origin to another state, according to the needs of the Eparchy.
- 5- A candidate must file an application, along with recommendations, medical examination, and psychological evaluation.
- 6- After thorough examination of the candidate's file, an interview must be held with an eparchial committee that reports an opinion to the Bishop.
- 7- Once a candidate is accepted into the program by the Bishop, he begins his formation program that lasts roughly 7 years, at the end of which the Bishop calls him to ordination.

The formation program for Permanent Deacons

The Acts of the Apostles tells us how the first Church, elected men of good reputation on whom the Apostles laid their hands ordaining them deacons to serve the increasing needs of their community. Since then, deacons were ordained in the Church to become a helping hand for their Bishops. Today, in our Maronite Church, deacons are ordained by the Bishop and assigned to help their parish priests, proclaiming the word of God, preaching, and serving sacraments. If you hear the call of the Lord to become a deacon in his Church, do not hesitate to discuss with your Pastor, or to contact the Office of Ministries.

Requirements

- 1- A candidate must be Maronite.
- 2- A candidate's Pastor must agree on his candidature.
- 3- A candidate's spouse, if married, must agree on his candidature.
- 4- A candidate must file an application, along with recommendations, medical examination, and psychological evaluation.
- 5- After thorough examination of the candidate's file, an interview must be held with the Director of Ministries, and an opinion is to be reported to the Bishop.
- 6- Once a candidate is accepted into the program by the Bishop, he begins his formation program that lasts between 2 and 6 years, at the end of which, the Bishop calls him to ordination.



Bulletin Sponsors



Gibran N Zogbi

Agent

2925 SE 73rd Avenue
Hillsboro, OR, 97213
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JESSICA BOWMAN

REAL ESTATE BROKER
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OREGON OFFICE:
6336 NE SANDY BLVD.
PORTLAND, OR 97213



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FAX (503) 255-1626

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your advertisement today!

nisreen.mouammar@gmail.com