



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

November 13, 2022

The Announcement to Zechariah



Next Sunday

Announcement to Mary

Gal 3:15-22 (The Law Did Not Nullify the Promise)

Lk 1:26-38 (Announcement of the Birth of Jesus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for October 31st-November 5th

Online.....\$417.75

Collection.....\$675.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,092.75

YTD Total.....\$96,528.62

YTD Goal.....\$101,552.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$5,023.38**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 13th, 11:00am

+Anthony & Georgette Zogbi

Monday, November 14th

Available

Tuesday, November 15th

Available

Wednesday, November 16th

Available

Thursday, November 17th

Available

Friday, November 18th

Available

Saturday, November 19th

Available

Sunday, November 20th

+Marie and Wadih Germanos

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, November 13th

Ghossein Agopos

Sunday, November 20th

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.

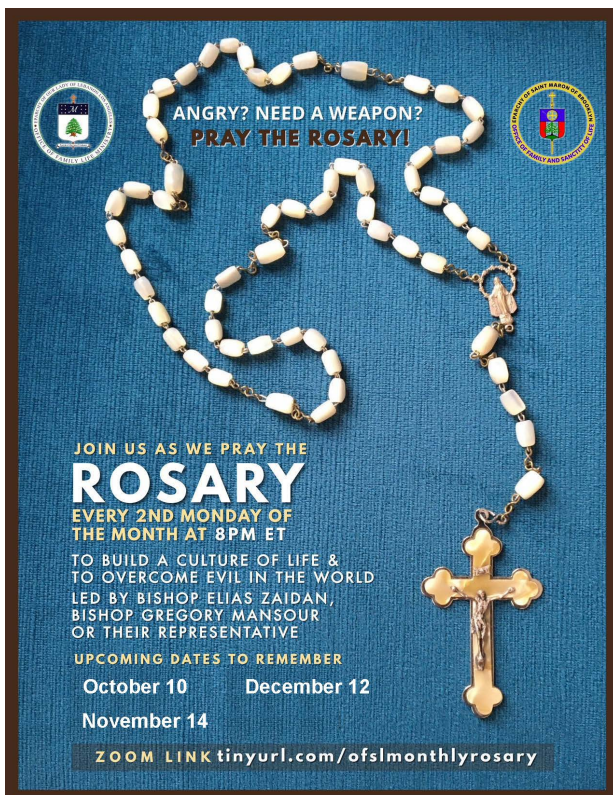
RELICS OF ST. SHARBEL

The Relics of St. Sharbel will be at the parish **THIS Sunday, November 13**
There will be Veneration and prayer after mass, please join us!

CYO HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL IS BACK!

The league is open to all high school students who don't play on their high school team. Put a team together with your friends and play some great basketball this winter.

Registration is open now!
www.cyocamphoward.org
Questions? Contact Erin at erinc@cyocamphoward.org



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

Catholic Friendship Group *Singles, ages 40-60.*

Prayer followed by a talk and discussion.

- Our current series: *The Seven Deadly Sins*
- Come join us for our next gathering on
Friday, November 18th from 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

Parish Programs



Maronite Young Adults (MYA)



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

•**Next Event:** *Sunday, November 20th* — after Mass at St. Sharbel
We will look and discuss the 6th rule from St. Ignatius of Loyola on discernment of Spirits.

For more info on the MYA, contact Claude@trazzafoods.com



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: 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 contact Jennifer Karam at jmjkaram3@gmail.com to register

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

Please continue to pray for our parish and ministries



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

Announcement, annunciation, greeting, and good news (that is the Gospel) all share a common root in Syriac Aramaic, our liturgical language. Starting today for the next few weeks, the Maronite Church, along with all the other Syriac Churches, will celebrate a period often called the Season of Announcements. On each Sunday, an announcement, a greeting, the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is announced to mankind, first by Gabriel Whom the Father sends from heaven. The reason for the Father sending Gabriel to deliver this good news is to make Himself better known to us, just as previously mentioned with the establishment of the Church, so that we can come to be near Him, and rejoice with Him.

Particular to this Sunday, God sends the archangel Gabriel to Zechariah, the father-to-be of John the Baptist and high priest at the time in the Temple in Jerusalem. The Gospel tells us that Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, were obedient and followed all of God's commands, but were both barren and old (Luke 1:6-7). Nonetheless, they prayed devoutly that God would grant them a child – apart from Zechariah's office, Zechariah and Elizabeth were devout Jews and so would have heard the Old Testament read out entirely at very least once a year, listening to how God began His covenant of an intimate relationship with Abraham by granting him a son, even though he and his wife were old and barren. This demonstrates God's entire dealings with Israel are the pure gift of His initiative, mercy, and love that overcome the expectations of the world. Knowing this, Zechariah and Elizabeth had the confidence to ask that God do it again.

God in His mercy heard their prayer and answered by sending Gabriel to announce the birth of John. After all, nothing is impossible for God, which is why He chooses to work what seems to be the impossible at times. In fact, the birth of John foreshadows Christ's own birth, Whom Isaiah says will be a "shoot from the stump of Jesse" (Is. 11:1). Israel at this point has been destroyed, conquered by Rome, and any rebellion thoroughly crushed – the monarchy's lineage, that of Jesse, has been lost. Humanity would expect nothing to come from this now "dead" stump – but God works unexpected wonders, and comes Himself from this supposedly dead stump by His birth. We call John the Forerunner and Proclaimer of Christ, as he was sent ahead to "make ready for the Lord a people prepared" (Luke 1:17) like Gabriel tells Zechariah. His first message is his extraordinary birth from barren parents, demonstrating God shall make even the dead alive in Him, and He shall come from this stump. Gabriel tells Zechariah not only has God answered his prayer, but his son will be the preparing the world for the coming of God.

But Zechariah doubts what the archangel Gabriel is telling him – instead of rejoicing at the good news, which John is being sent to specifically proclaim, he cheapens it with dispute. Though he knew the Scriptures so well he doubted the generosity of God and that He would work such a miracle in his life because it simply does not seem likely by his expectations. Of course, God has given us reason to use, but He also gives us faith and knowledge of Him in His revelation. All things are a gift from God; even the tongue that enables us to speak was given to us by God, for which we should be thankful, and the tongue that does not thank God is essentially useless – Zechariah learned this by being made mute until his son was born. But we must also remember we ask for the intercession of *Saint* Zechariah because, though he at one moment, he loved God and continued being faithful as he was before. So today with St. Zechariah, let us praise Jesus Christ our God by remembering when we pray and professing with our tongues that He is the "Hope Who has given hope to the hopeless, and makes a way for the impossible, the Maker of great miracles, and Giver of beautiful gifts, the Creator Who, by the beckon of His Creatorship, His will exists in those Who He willed to make – everything is easy for His love..." (Evening Prayer for the Announcement to Zechariah).

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