



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 27, 2022

Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth



Next Sunday

The Birth of John the Baptist

Gal 4:21-5:1 (An Allegory on Christian Freedom)

Lk 1:57-66 (The Birth of John)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for November 13th-19th

Online.....\$292.75

Collection.....\$1,068.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,360.75

YTD Total.....\$100,337.12

YTD Goal.....\$106,168.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$5,830.88**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 27th, 11:00am

+Evette Ghosson

Monday, November 28th

+Elmaz Shaar

Tuesday, November 29th

+Bob Wilkens

Wednesday, November 30th

+Aboud Hades

Thursday, December 1st

+Mrs. Lam

Friday, December 2nd

+Barbara Sackett

Saturday, December 3rd

+Vivian, Ferris and Sabine Semaan

Sunday, December 4th

+Judith Kelly +Ursula Kelly

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 27th

Available

Sunday, December 4th

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.



**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

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:** *TBA* — @ St. Sharbel

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 Gennifer 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

The receiving of guests is a great honor, held in particular importance in Middle Eastern culture. Imagine one day you are going about your business when the President or a Supreme Court Justice decides to ring your doorbell and visit with you. The visit of such a person generally brings great joy. Today in the Syriac tradition, we celebrate the Visitation of our God, the Lord of All still in the womb of His Mother, to His cousins. Mary, the Mother of God, after receiving the revelation from the angel Gabriel that she will bear a child conceived by the Holy Spirit goes to her cousin Elizabeth's house. If one recalls, the second week of the Season of Announcements celebrates the Announcement to Zechariah – the husband of Elizabeth, and father of John the Baptist. To the surprise of many, Elizabeth was pregnant with John, though she was barren all her life and was in her eighties, and Mary, though being a virgin, was pregnant with our Lord. The Syriac Fathers emphasize the juxtaposition of the oldness of Elizabeth bearing the new life of John, and the youthfulness of Mary bearing the Ancient of Days, Jesus Christ Who is God Who preexists all things. In this we see God's greatness in making the old ever new yet never changing Himself.

The visit of Jesus gives such joy that Elizabeth says, "Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy" (Luke 1:43-44). It is a joyous occasion, motivated by the love of God. If one thinks about the plan of salvation, God had no necessity in visiting Elizabeth and John – just like He had no obligation to restore mankind after Adam's fall. But in God's infinite love, He wishes to restore us to union with Him. Out of no motivation other than His own love for humanity, God became incarnate of the Virgin Mary so that He might be among us and unite His divinity to our humanity. Likewise, He had no obligation to visit His cousin John but did so because He loves His servants. We might even ask ourselves in our daily experience "Why am I so favored, that the Lord should come to me?" The answer is that God is so merciful and good that He wishes to extend His infinite and incomprehensible love to us.

In God's visitation to His servants, He draws us up from our lowly state to His divinity, making the barren fruitful and the dead living. In visiting Elizabeth and Zechariah, God makes Elizabeth a foreshadowing of the entire plan of salvation – what was fruitless and never bore anything now produces the Prophet of the Most High. Likewise, Christ takes the cross – a dead piece of wood and an instrument of torture – and makes it the tree of life, from which He grants life eternal and the forgiveness of all sin. God had no need to come among us, but in His love of us He is constantly endowing new life and making fruitful that which seems fruitless to human estimation if it is dedicated to His purpose. That is why both Isaiah and St. Matthew in his Gospel refers to Jesus as Emmanuel, meaning God is with us, because that very fact alone means life itself has visited us and elevates our lowliness.

In all things reserved for His purpose, God raises up fruit where it would seem there is none, and He makes useful that which seems useless. Even from our failures and lacking, God can use it for the sanctification of the world and His glorification, just as He allowed profound depth of God's goodness, let us implore Him in the words of our fathers of faith:

O God, Supreme, Hidden and Incomprehensible, You dwelt in the Virgin Mary for our salvation according to Your plan and in Your care visited Your herald in a barren and unfruitful womb. Likewise, now visit our souls and bodies fallen in sin with Your divine assistances and sanctify our spirits by Your holiness that we may excellently and holily give thanks to You for Your graces towards us, and worship and glorify You, Your Father, and Your Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (Trans. from the Syriac Maronite Vespers for the Visitation)

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish

Bulletin Sponsors



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