



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

December 11, 2022

The Revelation to Joseph



Next Sunday

The Genealogy of Jesus

Rom 1:1-12 (Greetings/Thanksgiving)

Mt 1:1-17 (The Genealogy of Jesus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for November 27th - December 3rd

Online.....\$327.75

Collection.....\$261.00

Weekly Total.....\$588.75

YTD Total.....\$102,365.62

YTD Goal.....\$110,784.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$8,418.38**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 11th, 11:00am

+Judith Kelly +Ursula Kelly

Monday, December 12th

Ricardo Murillo

Tuesday, December 13th

Joann Alexander

Wednesday, December 14th

+Mr. and Mrs. Golombosqski

Thursday, December 15th

+Caterina Tobacco

Friday, December 16th

+Nehme and Katina Khalaf

Saturday, December 17th

+Sleiman Sabir

Sunday, December 18th

+Kameel Mouammar

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, December 11th

Available

Sunday, December 18th

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

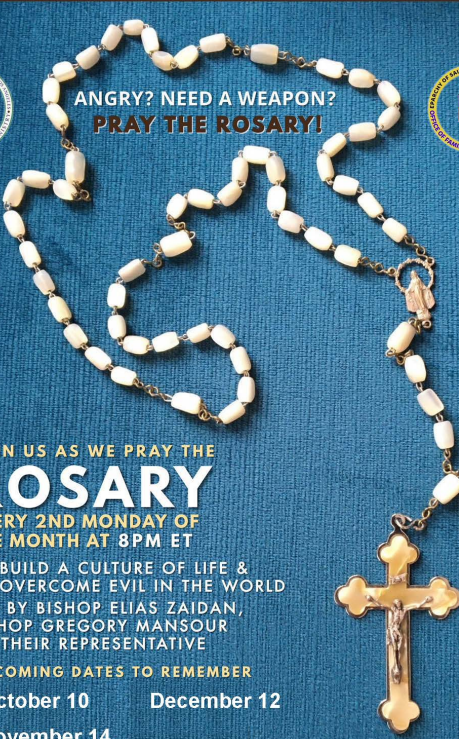
Please change his number in your contacts to this new number as the old phone number will not be in operation much longer.



Calling all ages, 4 to 16 Years!

We need you to perform in the Children's Christmas Eve Pageant. We will have another meeting this Sunday, December 11th after the Divine Liturgy to assign roles. Meeting location will be in the classroom, upstairs. We need a minimum of 5 children to have a pageant this year.

Contact Nadia Redmond at n.redmond@comcast.net for more information.



**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

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Vigil

December 24, 2022

Kids concert 5pm, Mass
will start immediately after.

Christmas Day

December 25, 2022

11:00am

Feast of Circumcision

January 1, 2023

11:00am

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:** *January 8, 2023, AFTER MASS* — @ 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: 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

As an unfortunate part of life we can sometimes suffer from false rumors that have no basis in reality. Often these rumors can damage others' impressions of us. This week we celebrate the Revelation to Joseph, when the angel Gabriel dispelled Joseph's doubt of the Virgin Mary's fidelity caused by the rumors of gossip. We celebrate knowing what the world has slandered with gossip actually the miracle of our redemption – the birth of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Syriac Fathers tell us that Mary went to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, during the visitation (which we celebrated just a couple weeks ago) because she received vicious suspicion and calumny in Nazareth. Her neighbors, and perhaps even family, said that her virginal conception of Jesus was actually out of infidelity to Joseph, to whom she was engaged. What a great shame that there are those who would even slander something as wonderful as the birth of our God, which He undertook voluntarily just to be among us! Upon hearing these rumors, Joseph was understandably greatly upset. But Joseph, being a righteous man, did not want to “expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly” (Matt. 1:19) because otherwise the Jewish Law would prescribe that she be stoned.

At the height of his despair, the angel Gabriel appeared to Joseph and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:20-21). What was a source of sadness and shame for Joseph became a cause of great rejoicing – the son of Mary was not a son of wedlock but the Son of God! This is the moment Isaiah foretold from centuries before that a virgin would bear a son Immanuel, which means God is with us (Is. 7:14).

What the world presented as a great sorrow and doubt to Joseph was actually the greatest blessing God could bestow upon mankind – His own Incarnation and visitation. As we know, Christ's birth was fundamental for His plan of salvation for mankind, that He should unite His divinity to our humanity and our humanity to His divinity. Though the world told Joseph that sorrow was with him, Gabriel assured Him that it was God Who is with us! This is a most appropriate message for the last of the angelic apparitions in the Season of Announcements, where we celebrate God sending Gabriel to reveal the good news of His plan of coming and salvation.

This encounter reminds us that the world may seem dark and a place without hope, but God has spoken through the prophet Isaiah that “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned” (Is. 9:2). The Light is our Lord Jesus Christ Who has come to save us from the death of sin. Though we might feel despair at times, we cannot help but rejoice in the news of our Lord's coming. And while we might suffer on Earth, we look forward to His second coming. While we may endure unpleasant or even extremely difficult things here, they are only fleeting and even the greatest evil is less than God. “What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31).

Let us pray for the same consolation and truth which St. Joseph received this day:

O Lord, sow Your serenity in our souls and Your peace in our minds, affix Your truth in our hearts on this day in which serenity was sewn by Your glorious revelation through the head of armies, Gabriel, in the soul of just Joseph who had doubted Your salvific conception. He removed from his mind the stumbling blocks and doubt of thoughts. Now, O Lord, make us worthy that, with him, we may be confirmed in Your love, praise and honor Your glorious Mother, and give thanks to Your name, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (Trans. from Syriac Maronite Vespers for Revelation to St. Joseph)

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