



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

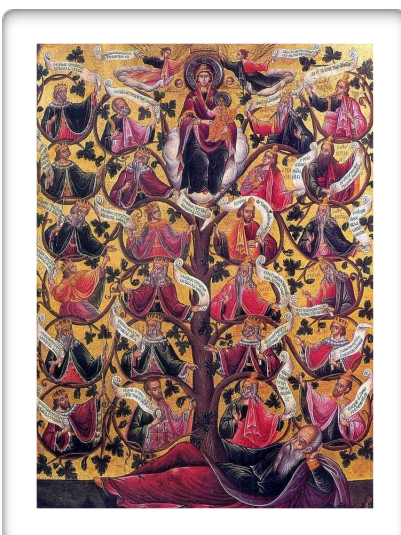
503.231.3853

[stsharbelpdx@gmail.com](mailto:stsharbelpdx@gmail.com)

[www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)

## December 18, 2022

The Genealogy of Jesus



**Next Sunday**

*Glorious Birth of Our Lord*

Heb 1:1-12 (Introduction/Messianic Enthronement)

Lk 2:1-20 (The Birth of Jesus/Visit of the Shepherds)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for December 4th - 10th*

Online.....\$1,492.75

Collection.....\$202.75

Weekly Total.....\$1,695.50

YTD Total.....\$104,061.12

YTD Goal.....\$113,092.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$9,030.88**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 18th, 11:00am

**+Kameel Mouammar**

Monday, December 19th

**+Maryam Shehadi Semaan**

Tuesday, December 20th

**+Linda Ghosson**

Wednesday, December 21st

**+Ghosson Ghosson**

Thursday, December 22nd

**+Melia Semaan**

Friday, December 23rd

**+Youssef Semaan**

Saturday, December 24th

**+David Gama and the Gama Family**

Sunday, December 25th

**+David Gama and Family**

***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 18th**

*Redmond Family*

**Sunday, December 25th**

*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.



*Calling all ages, 4 to 16 Years!*

Rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Eve Pageant (Nativity play) will be on Sunday, December 18th after the Liturgy. It is not too late for your child to join us. We need more shepherds, magi, and angels.

The Children's Christmas Eve Pageant will be on Saturday, December 24th at 5pm before the Divine Liturgy begins.

Contact Nadia Redmond at [n.redmond@comcast.net](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net) for more information.

## student pro-life contests

**DRAW | WRITE | SPEAK | DESIGN | FILM**

Opportunities for all grade levels!  
Win local level and move on to the state level for

**CASH PRIZES!**

Visit [ortl.org/contests](http://ortl.org/contests) for more details!

**THEME: LET LIFE SHINE!**



### OREGON RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL PRO-LIFE CONTESTS

THIS YEAR'S THEME:  
**LET LIFE SHINE!**

#### DRAW

All artwork must be original, incorporate the contest theme, and completed on the original form on cardstock.

**DIVISIONS**  
KINDERGARTEN  
1ST-2ND GRADE  
3RD-5TH GRADE  
6TH-8TH GRADE  
9TH-10TH GRADE  
11TH-12TH GRADE

**COMPUTER DRAWING**  
9TH-12TH GRADE  
**WIN UP TO \$500**

#### WRITE

Essays must incorporate the contest theme and will be judged on general organization, grammar, clarity of message, and originality.

**DIVISIONS**  
5TH-6TH GRADE  
7TH-8TH GRADE  
9TH-10TH GRADE  
11TH-12TH GRADE

**WIN UP TO \$500**

#### SPEAK

First place winner of local contest will compete in the state contest at the Together We Advocate Conference in Tualatin on March 4, 2023. Winner will give their speech at the conference and earn an expense paid trip to compete in the National Rights to Life oratory contest location to be determined.

**Division**  
11th-12th Grade as of 2/2/23  
**Speech must directly address one of the following topics:**  
Abortion  
Infanticide  
Euthanasia  
Stem Cell Research

**WIN UP TO \$600**

#### FILM

Film must be three minutes or less and sent digitally via link or mailed flash drive. Group entries are permitted. Does not need to follow theme, but must affirm life in a creative way.

**Divisions**  
Youth: Ages 10-13  
Junior: Ages 14-17  
Adult: Ages 18+

**WIN UP TO \$500**

#### STATE ONLY COMPETITION

For more information contact your contest coordinator or Jalaya Taylor, [jalya@ortl.org](mailto:jalya@ortl.org), 503-463-8563

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

*Christmas Eve Vigil*  
**DECEMBER 24, 2022**

**CHILDREN'S PAGEANT 5PM**

**MASS WILL START IMMEDIATELY AFTER**

*Christmas Day*  
**DECEMBER 25, 2022**

**11:00AM**

*Feast of the 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net)

## Reflection

Historically, the line of succession for a monarch is extremely important: a king's father should be a king, whose father was also a king or at least noble. It is no different in Middle Eastern culture – we often discuss people's family and their line of descent as saying something about who they are. For royal persons, the proof of their royalty was shown by their genealogy, the record of their family through generations. This week we read the genealogy of Jesus from the Gospel (Matt. 1:1-17).

But what exactly does the reading mean? One would guess that the Lord of All, our Almighty God, would have the most prestigious genealogy when He willed to become man. However, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, chose to make himself "nothing by taking the very nature of a servant" (Phil. 2:7). So that Christ might raise up our fallen nature, the Most High took the lowest and humblest place on Earth. He Who is robed in fire in the courts of heaven chose to be born in a cave and placed in a trough of animals wrapped in rags. And His genealogy attests to His own lowering of His Lordship to humility.

Rather than examining each and every person mentioned in the 42 generations, it serves to look at just one as an example: Rahab. Rahab is mentioned in the beginning of the Old Testament in the Book of Joshua when the Hebrews are trying to establish themselves as a nation. This descendent of Christ is explicitly mentioned to be a prostitute. Though He could have chosen to have only royal ancestors, God chose to enter into the entire lowliness of the human race that He might sanctify and purify it entirely. If one of us were to be told our ancestor was a prostitute we would likely be embarrassed – but our God has chosen to become a lowly man that He might allow us to participate in His divine nature (what Eastern Christianity calls divinization or *theosis*).

Our Syriac Fathers emphasize often that the King of Kings, Jesus Christ, was not born to a great house but to a poor, young virgin, Mary, and Joseph, a working man. This is demonstrative of God's love for mankind, in that the Rich One would become poor to enrich us. When Christ became man, He united to His divinity to our humanity and therefore we were given access to His divinity. Our prayers for the Sunday Before Christmas recount this:

*O Richest One, You became poor for our sake that You should make us rich. You dawned from the Holy Virgin and appeared in the world while legions of angels sang praises with their clamor on this day of Your birth, saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good hope to mankind." O Lord, enrich us by the gift of Your divine graces and, with the heavenly hosts, may we offer glory and thanks to You, and to Your Father, and to Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen.*

The Hidden One became manifest as man that we might not only see Him, but that we too might participate in the wealth of His holiness and immortality. Christ has come to save us, not because we did something to deserve His salvation but because of His gratuitous love.

By the descent of Christ, He has raised us up to be greater than the angels in that if we follow His will and receive what He has given us in His earthly dispensation we truly become the likeness of God as He made us (Gen. 1:27). Christ has suffered every abasement, condescension and abasement that He might lift us up from the shame of our sin to His own glory. Let us give thanks to Him in His humility and glorify Him for His love, which moved Him to elevate us by His birth.



## Bulletin Sponsors



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