



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

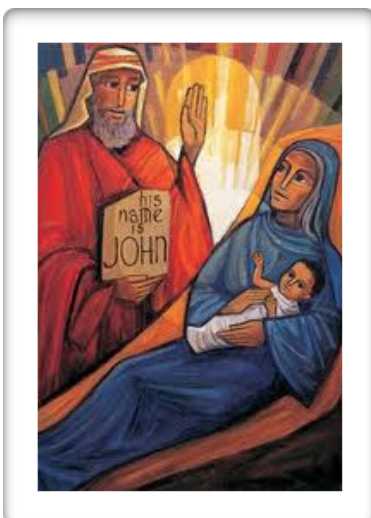
503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

December 4, 2022

The Birth of John the Baptist



Next Sunday

Revelation to Joseph

Eph 3:1-13 (Commission to Preach God's Plan)

Mt 1:18-25 (The Birth of Jesus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for November 20th-26th

Online.....\$917.75

Collection.....\$522.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,439.75

YTD Total.....\$101,776.87

YTD Goal.....\$108,476.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$6,699.13**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 4th, 11:00am

+David Gama (Son of Michael and Carol)

Monday, December 5th

Anushka Shenoy

Tuesday, December 6th

+David Wilkinson

Wednesday, December 7th

Cristiano Gabriel Murillo

Thursday, December 8th

Berna Sheehan

Friday, December 9th

Cristina Ofelia Murillo

Saturday, December 10th

John Abed

Sunday, December 11th

+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, December 4th

Available

Sunday, December 11th

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**

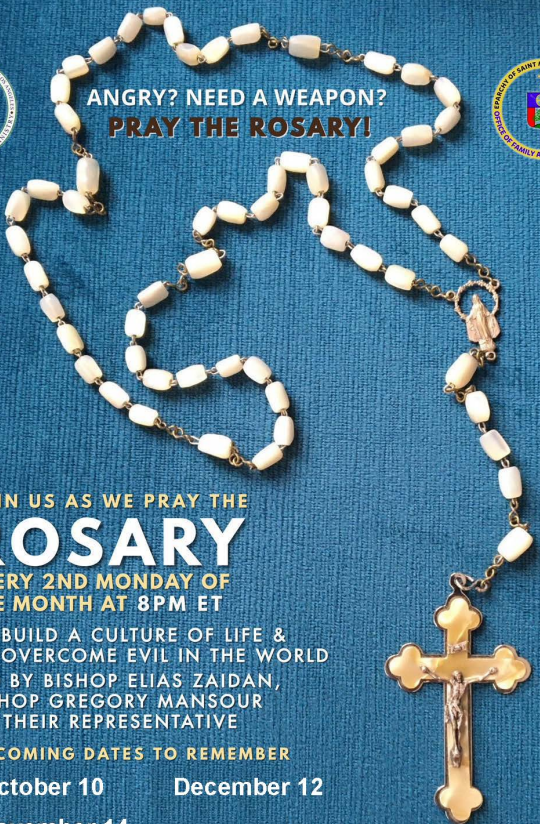
Please change his number in your contacts to this new number as the old phone number will not be in operation much longer.



CALLING ALL AGES, 4 to 16 years!

We need you to perform in the Children's Christmas Eve Pageant. Please see Nadia Redmond after the Divine Liturgy this Sunday, December 4th, if your child would like to participate.

Or, email Nadia at n.redmond@comcast.net by Wednesday, December 7.



**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

It is telling that we celebrate the birth of a man – St. John the Baptist – in the season leading up to the great celebration of the birth of our Lord and God, Jesus Christ. It reveals much about the divine plan of salvation, but I would like to identify in particular what it says of the relationship between God and man. It seems obvious to say that Christ's salvation of mankind was for the sake of mankind. But what is often taken for granted in speaking about the divine action in the world is that it is out of His benevolence and love of mankind that God acts. God does not act in the abstract, far from humanity, but salvation is wrought amongst men and using the free will of men. John the Baptist is an example of mankind's intimate involvement in our own salvation. Even Christ becoming man was His involvement of our very nature in His plan to sanctify us and elevate us to participate in His divinity.

We celebrate John the Baptist this Sunday because he is the saint sent ahead of Christ by Christ to prepare His way, "the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord'" (John 1:23). As we recall from the Announcement to Zechariah, not only is John's mother, Elizabeth, very old, she was also barren for her entire marriage to Zechariah. Yet, God has deemed it fitting in His love for mankind to make the barren fruitful, and so Elizabeth begets a child in her old age – but not just any child, but the prophet of the Most High. John goes before Christ to prepare the way to announce the Gospel. It is John who first baptizes, and, in fact, it is John who baptizes Jesus, which He humbles Himself to just as He humbled Himself to be born of the Virgin Mary. In God's greatness, He has come down to us that He might bring us up to Himself and He involves us only by our own free will. The miraculous birth of John is the answer to Elizabeth and Zechariah's prayers, and John's ministry is his response to the call of the Lord.

Knowing God is infinitely good and seeking to involve us in our own sanctification, how do we respond? The prayers of the Syriac Maronite tradition give us profound insight:

O God most high and incomprehensible, Who in His goodness established the worlds and brought them into being, in Whose wisdom created heaven and adorned it with stars, by Whose will a voice, which announced before Himself, was begotten from a barren and fruitless womb, now beget in us sweet voices of Your praises, noble exaltations of Your thanks and choice acclaim of Your wonders. Make us worthy all the days of our lives that with purity and holiness we may give thanks to You, worship You and glorify You, and Your Father, and Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (From the Syriac Maronite Vespers for the Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist)

This prayer begins by acknowledging the God we address is He Who created all things, not out of obligation, but in His goodness. In the same goodness, He called John to go before Him from a barren womb. Just as God did before, we ask Him to now again beget in our, at times, barren selves His own praises. It is a deception of the devil to believe there is an insurmountable gap between God and man – for in God's goodness, He has bridged it by becoming man Himself. Therefore, even in all our limitedness and failings, by the power and grace of God, Who has created us in His image, we are lifted up to His glory if we only ask. We are each called by God to give glory to Him in our own way – just as Elizabeth was called to birth John, John was called to be the prophet of Christ, and the priest is called to offer sacrifice, each of us are to play our own role in purity and holiness.

Bulletin Sponsors



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Broker (OR)



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