



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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

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

## January 15, 2023

Second Sunday of Epiphany



**Next Sunday**

*Third Sunday of Epiphany*

Gal 3:23-29 (What Faith Has Brought Us)

Jn 3:1-16 (Nicodemus)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for December January 1st - 7th*

Online.....\$518.30

Collection.....\$566.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,084.30

YTD Total.....\$1,084.30

YTD Goal.....\$2,308.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,223.70**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 15th, 11:00am

*Available*

Monday, January 16th

***The Parish Men's Group***

Tuesday, January 17th

*Available*

Wednesday, January 18th

***Joanne Klein***

Thursday, January 19th

*Available*

Friday, January 20th

*Available*

Saturday, January 21st

*Available*

Sunday, January 22nd

***+Barbara and +Lynn Harris***

***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, January 15th**

*Allam Family*

**Sunday, January 22nd**

*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

## Catholic Friendship Group - Catholic Singles, ages 40-60

Come join us for prayer, a presentation and lively discussion.

**Next topic: *The Beatitudes***

**Friday, January 27th 6:30pm-8:00pm**

Visit [www.catholicfriendshipgroup.com](http://www.catholicfriendshipgroup.com) for more details.

Location: St. Birgitta Catholic Church, 11820 NW St. Helens Rd, Portland

RSVP to: [CatholicFriendshipGroup@outlook.com](mailto:CatholicFriendshipGroup@outlook.com)

Come join us for prayer, a presentation and lively discussion.

## Are you single and over age 55?

**SOLO SENIORS** is a catholic-based social organization, for single men and women over age 55 in the greater Portland area. It primarily provides social and recreational programs in a safe and friendly environment for its members. For more information, a Solo brochure or a copy of our monthly newsletter, call **Donna Dubinski at 503 246-6536.**

## 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.



## 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**

**For more info on the MYA, contact [Claude@trazzafoods.com](mailto:Claude@trazzafoods.com)**

# Parish Programs



St. Sharbel's MYO or "The Cedars of Saint Sharbel" gathers in the upstairs meeting room immediately after mass. The group is for boys and girls ages 13-18.

#### Upcoming Meeting Dates Are:

1/15  
1/29  
2/12 - Social Event TBA  
2/26  
3/12  
3/26  
4/16  
4/30 - Last Meeting 'til Fall  
5/7 - Social Event TBA

#### 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

This Sunday continues the Season of the Epiphany. An important question to ask is why do we have an entire season dedicated to the feast? It is not because someone was trying to fill the calendar between now and Lent! Epiphany is an extremely important feast because, just as Christ entered the world at His birth on Christmas to save us from sin, our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, appeared to the whole world to complete the plan of salvation on Epiphany, the Baptism of Christ. God willed that the death that Adam brought into the world through his sin (Rom. 5:12) be washed away that anyone who loves Him might live forever with Him (John 11:25).

Because our Triune God is three Persons, but one single God, salvation was granted to mankind by the Trinity as one. Though the Son, having become man, was visible, the Father and the Spirit were always with Him. Christ's own baptism testifies to this when the Father called out and the Spirit appeared like a dove, a visible sign (Matt. 3:16-17). Christ, Who is our all-powerful God and King, became an infant, not because He needed to, but because He wanted to be amongst us and save us from sin. Likewise, the entire Trinity condescended from their hidden glory so that we might know them, even though they did not need to do so. The Father, Whose wisdom is beyond words, lowers Himself to speak words understandable to mankind. The Holy Spirit, Whose beyond physical experience, assumes the form of a dove so that mankind may see His presence. And the Son, Who is pure and sinless, receives the washing of baptism that He might purify the waters for our own baptisms.

What we must understand about salvation is that it is totally freely given to us by God, even though it is mankind that picked and picks sin. But in utter generosity of the hidden and incomprehensible Trinity, He goes even further and has condescended so that we might "come and see" (John 1:39) Him, as Christ says in today's Gospel reading. Christ, our hidden God, wants us

to be *bnai rozo*, a Syriac phrase from the Fathers of the Church meaning partakers of His mystery (the same word we use for someone who receives the sacraments – the mysteries, not coincidentally). He has offered us entrance into His mystery by way of baptism. As St. Paul tells us, our old selves are buried in the waters of baptism so that we may be raised with new life with Christ (Rom. 6:4). In partaking in the mystery of the baptism of the Son, we become children of the Father, and His brothers and sisters ourselves (Heb. 2:11) – if we accept to be partakers of His mystery. Of course, simply partaking does not merit us the life Christ offers us. Judas was a partaker of Christ's mysteries but betrayed Him because he did not "come and see," but instead decided for what he wanted to use Christ.

With childlike guilelessness let us "come and see" as sincere partakers of His mystery. The God of all time and creation has made His secrets available to us in His very flesh and blood in the Eucharist. Let us seek to see Him, and not betray Him. And when we cannot receive Him in flesh and blood, let us call upon Him in Spirit in prayer, even if it is 10 minutes a day driving to the store, for He has admitted us to be sons and daughters of the Father. Knowing the generosity of salvation He has shown us time and time again, let us ask Him:

O Unformed Former, You joined with the form of Your beloveds, and were baptized by a formed servant to form anew the form of His hands and renew the corrupted image by His baptism. Now, my Lord, renew our oldness by Your renewal, and form our form anew by the beckon of Your will. Create in us a new heart through the working of Your Holy Spirit that we may newly and purely offer glory and thanks to You, and to Your Father, and to Your Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (From Syriac Maronite Prayers for Epiphany)

## Bulletin Sponsors



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