



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

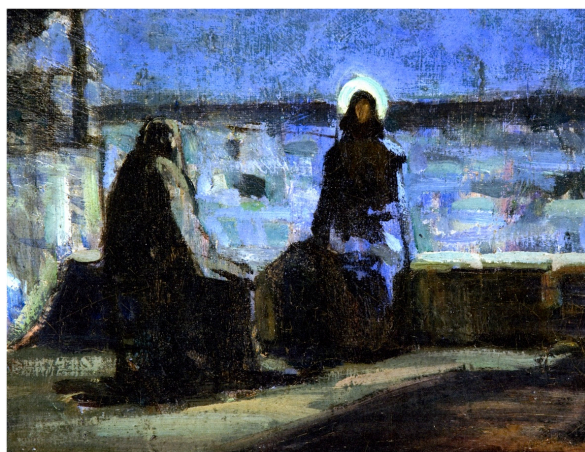
503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

January 22, 2023

Third Sunday of Epiphany



Next Sunday

Commemoration of the Priests

1 Tm 4:6-16 (Counsel to Timothy)

Lk 12:42-48 (Vigilant and Faithful Servants)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for January 8th - 14th

Online.....\$1,438.30

Collection.....\$717.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,155.30

YTD Total.....\$3,239.60

YTD Goal.....\$4,616.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,376.40**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 22nd, 11:00am

+Barbara and +Lynn Harris

Monday, January 23rd

+Lynnette Hardaway

Tuesday, January 24th

Sudeesh George

Wednesday, January 25th

Sudeesh George

Thursday, January 26th

Available

Friday, January 27th

+Evette Ghosson

Saturday, January 28th

Available

Sunday, January 29th

Available

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 22nd

Allam Family

Sunday, January 29th

Ghossein Agopos

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

SAVE THE DATE | Sunday, January 29, 2023

Lunch @ St. Sharbel After Mass

Lebanese Pizza

Oregono, Cheese, and Meat Pizza



SECONDARY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 22, 2023

This Sunday is the first collection, in a series, organized by the Eparchy throughout the year to provide monies to various organizations that support Catholic ministries.

The first will happen **THIS SUNDAY** and will benefit

Eparchial Charities

We will be passing a second collection around and thank you in advance for your support of these ministries.

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 for more details.

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

RSVP: CatholicFriendshipGroup@outlook.com

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

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.

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:

1/29
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 to register

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

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

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit." (John 3:5)

As we continue to celebrate Jesus's immense mercy in going down to the Jordan to be baptized this Epiphany season, we hear in today's Gospel an interesting exchange about the very same Mystery of baptism Jesus has given to the world for eternal life and the remission of sin. Nicodemus, one of the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, is confused when Christ tells him that only someone born again can enter heaven (John 3:3). Nicodemus wonders how someone can be born a second time, but Christ is referring to a second birth through baptism.

Appropriately, this reading is the Gospel read at every baptism in the Maronite Church. Baptism is not just a ceremony but, as St. Paul says, we die with Christ in baptism that, through Him, we may also be raised to new life as He was (Rom. 6:4). This is why the Maronite baptismal ritual calls the waters of baptism "a new womb which gives birth to spiritual children" and why baptism in the East was always done by immersion – plunging under the water is a symbol of entering into the tomb of Christ, dying to this world, and rising out of the water we rise to new life.

Jesus Christ, Life Himself, united His divine nature to our weak human nature and subjected Himself to death and resurrection that we too may have the eternal life of His divinity. Through baptism "all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Gal. 3:27) as St. Paul says. As the Maronite priest says during baptism to the newly baptized, "You are clothed in the Living Father, you receive the Son, the Christ, and you are wrapped in the Holy Spirit; you receive the robe of glory that Adam had taken off." Adam brought death into the world by his sin and ignoring of God, Who is Life. But when one accepts baptism, whether an infant or an elderly person, one receives God Himself into his or her person.

It might sound a bit strange that new life comes through this death of baptism. However, we die in baptism only in the sense that we are separating ourselves from the passing things of this world. It is not truly a death – as living a fleeting life is not truly living at all. But by casting off this fleeting life, we can accept eternal life from Jesus Christ by being born again by baptism, which He revealed Himself in the Jordan. And baptism is not simply a ritual of water but, just as His baptism revealed when the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove, it is also endowed with the Spirit. In the beginning of creation, as Genesis describes, the Holy Spirit hovered over the waters during the making of all things. The Holy Spirit once again hovers over the waters of baptism, and makes the baptized His permanent dwelling, recreating them anew.

It is by this new birth that we become spiritual children of the Father, and brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. But baptism is only the beginning of our spiritual lives. As the priest calls baptism in our rite, it is the "clothing of righteousness," "the heavenly robe," "the shield of faith against the arrows of the Evil One" and "the armor of salvation." Baptism is not the end of our journey but the equipment. Having received the new life of baptism, whether as children or adults, we are called to the feast of heaven. To get there, we must follow the path of righteousness which Christ Himself walked before us to instruct us in His way, just as He gave us the example of His baptism. Following Him will lead us to the Kingdom of God.

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