



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

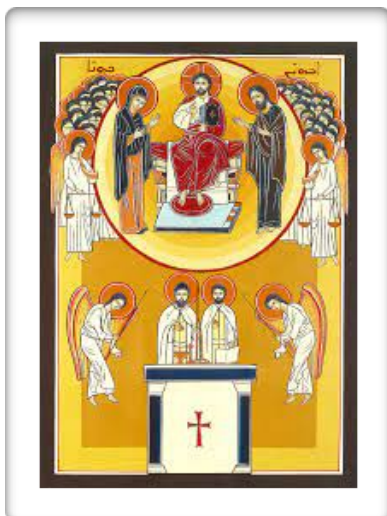
503.231.3853

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

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

## January 29, 2023

Commemoration of the Priests



### Next Sunday

*Commemoration of the Righteous & Just*

**Heb 12:18-24** (Penalties of Disobedience)

**Mt 25:31-46** (The Judgement of the Nations)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for January 15th - 21st*

Online.....\$393.30

Collection.....\$571.00

Weekly Total.....\$964.30

YTD Total.....\$4,203.90

YTD Goal.....\$6,924.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,720.10**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 29th, 11:00am

**+Mannie Atie**

Monday, January 30th

**Christian Young**

Tuesday, January 31st

*Available*

Wednesday, February 1st

*Available*

Thursday, February 2nd

*Available*

Friday, February 3rd

*Available*

Saturday, February 4th

*Available*

Sunday, February 5th

**+Dr. Thomas Rask**

***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 29th**

*Agopos Ghossein*

**Sunday, February 5th**

*Allam 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

# SAVE THE DATE | Sunday, January 29, 2023

Lunch @ St. Sharbel After Mass

**Lebanese Pizza**

**Oregono, Cheese, and Meat Pizza**

# AVAILABLE TO-GO | Contact Eva TODAY!

503-320-5834



**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR CAMP HOWARD**

**2023 OPEN HOUSES**  
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For registration & further information  
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■ Each Meet is timed electronically for the most accurate results; and you'll have results by the end of the day!

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■ Volunteer to coach a CYO team  
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Contact: [info@cyocamphoward.org](mailto:info@cyocamphoward.org)  
503-231-9484

You can also register at:  
[cyocamphoward.org/track](http://cyocamphoward.org/track)

Register at: [cyocamphoward.org/track](http://cyocamphoward.org/track) | Questions? Contact [info@cyocamphoward.org](mailto:info@cyocamphoward.org)

## 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.



**IN OREGON, ABORTION IS LEGAL UNTIL BIRTH**

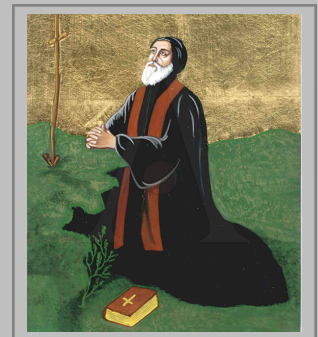
**OREGON MARCH FOR LIFE**

**JOIN US!**  
**JANUARY 28 | 2PM**  
**OREGON STATE CAPITOL**  
[ortl.org/march](http://ortl.org/march)

## FEAST DAY of Saint Maron

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9th

Feast Day Mass—12pm  
@St. Sharbel



# 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:

**2/12 - LASER TAG ( SEE BELOW)**

**2/26, 3/12, 3/26, 4/16, 4/30** - Last Meeting 'til Fall, **5/7** - Social Event TBA



Cedars will be going to lunch in Beaverton and then King Pins to play laser tag together on Sunday, February 12 at 1:00pm. Please RSVP to Gennifer no later than 2/8 so we can plan accordingly. Siblings are welcome, but must be under the supervision of mom or dad the entire time. More details to come, but mark your calendars!

Please contact Gennifer Karam at [jmjkaram3@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](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

Praying for the dead is an important part of Christianity, but particularly emphasized in the Syriac tradition. In fact, traditionally, every last verse of a hymn was always for the repose and forgiveness of the dead. Physical death is an inevitability, but we pray for those who have passed away from this world so that they do not suffer eternal, spiritual death but have eternal life in the Kingdom of God. For this reason, the Syriac calendar has three weeks of commemorations for the dead before Lent begins – the first recalls and prays for the priests who have served the Church.

As God spoke through Ezekiel the Prophet, “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live” (Ez. 33:11). It was through sin – the sin of Adam – that death entered the world (Rom. 5:12). But our Lord Jesus Christ came to return us sinners back to our inheritance of life. As He spoke through Ezekiel, He does not wish that we should die – even when wicked – but that we should repent and have life! This is why God became man Himself to give us every means of salvation and the forgiveness of sin, which He perfected by His own life, death and resurrection. He entrusted the Holy Mysteries to the priests to be performed and distributed, each sacrament like a treasury of mercy. God lowers Himself that He may be made present to us, just as one of the hymns for this Sunday beautifully describes the priests raising the body and blood of Christ our God over the altar:

Great wonder and awe seized the heavenly assemblies when they saw earthly priests raise over the altar the One by Whom heaven is filled and upon Whom they cannot look, but to Whom they cry out in fear and trembling, “Holy, holy!”

God, Whom all the prophets and kings of the Old Testament and millennia past desired to see, is made present to us on the altar. The angels cannot look upon Him, yet He has entrusted the priests to feed us His flesh and blood, the Eucharist, for “the Good One has given His body and His blood so that by them our debts could be forgiven.” Even more than the great Mystery of the Eucharist, priests also clothe us in Christ in baptism and forgive us by His authority by absolution. They teach us the life-giving words of the Gospel of our Lord, instruct us in the way of the saints and give us words of consolation in times of despair that, as the flock of God, we may turn from sin and embrace eternal life. Without the priests, to whom Christ entrusted His Mysteries, we would not have access to the sacraments He prepared for forgiveness and life.

As King David teaches us in the Psalms when praying before God, “No one living is righteous before You” (Ps. 143:2) – including the priests who have been entrusted with His Mysteries, which give us the forgiveness of sin and life! This is why we must pray for the priests, who in this life provided us with means of the forgiveness of sin and the path to eternal life. Now we can assist them by praying that God have mercy upon them and forgive them of all their offenses before Him. The priests who serve the Church, distributing the Mysteries of our Lord, holding the very flesh and blood of God in their hands and calling down the Holy Spirit, are honored with this magnificent duty and great responsibility. As our Lord tells us in the Gospel, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded” (Luke 12:48) and that is indeed much. Therefore, we must be particularly diligent in our prayers for the departed priests because much will be demanded of them in their judgment before the Lord. Let us pray to God on behalf of the departed priests with the words given to us in the hymns for this Sunday:

May the feet that tread through the sanctuary tread through the gates of Paradise, and may the ears that have heard Your words never hear sounds of sufferings. May the mouths that sang praise to You not cry from fire’s heat, my Lord. Place the priests who nobly served You and diligently shepherded Your people in the Jerusalem above, and may they offer thanks and praise with the angels of heaven to Your Divinity.

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