



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 8, 2023

First Sunday of Epiphany



Next Sunday

Second Sunday of Epiphany

2 Cor 4:5-15 (The Paradox of the Ministry)

Jn 1:35-42 (The First Disciples)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for December 25th - 31st

Online.....\$6,470.30

Collection.....\$19,572.00

Weekly Total.....\$26,042.30

YTD Total.....\$132,819.42

YTD Goal.....\$120,016.00

YTD Difference.....\$12,803.42

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 8th, 11:00am

+**Abouna Paul Mouwad** (*founding pastor of our parish*)

Monday, January 9th

+**Travis Warner**

Tuesday, January 10th

Available

Wednesday, January 11th

+**Joanne Drowne**

Thursday, January 12th

Available

Friday, January 13th

Available

Saturday, January 14th

Available

Sunday, January 15th

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 8th

Available

Sunday, January 15th

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

Catholic Friendship Group - Catholic Singles, ages 40-60

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

Next topic: Miracles, Come join us for our next gathering.

Friday, January 13th. 6:30pm-8:00pm

Visit www.catholicfriendshipgroup.com for more details.

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

RSVP to: CatholicFriendshipGroup@outlook.com

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: *January 8, 2023, AFTER MASS* — @ St. Sharbel

For more info on the MYA, contact 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 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

We have all had experiences of stumbling around in the dark, stumbling feeling around for something familiar, only to trip over something unseen or become frightened by something we think we might hear. Pitch darkness can even be disorienting when we are unfamiliar with where we are. Unsurprisingly, people before the invention of electric lights associated this darkness of night with death, and the eagerly awaited light of the morning with life.

Having celebrated the great feast itself a few days ago, today we celebrate the first of several Sundays dedicated to the Epiphany, the memorial of our Lord Jesus Christ's baptism. In Syriac, our tradition calls the feast *denho* or dawn referring to the passage in Zechariah 6:12 in the ancient Syriac version of the bible, known as the *Peshitta*, "His name is Dawn (*denho*), and He shall dawn from below." Why is our Lord and His baptism called dawn by the Prophet Zechariah?

As we reflected upon for the Consecration and Renewal of the Church, Christ established, in His love and mercy, the Church as His Bride as a means of bringing all of humanity in union with Him. Throughout the Season of Announcements we reflected upon how the Old Testament expressed the Bride's anticipation of her Groom's coming throughout the ages. Finally, we saw how John the Baptist is the forerunner of Christ who was sent to prepare things, much like a best man for a groom. In this role, John the Baptist prepared the rite of his baptism that was a placeholder and anticipation of the baptism of Christ, Who baptizes with "the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). Jesus knew humanity was "walking in [the] darkness" (Is. 9:2) of sin, wandering far away from Him. But in His mercy, just as He descended from heaven in His humility, He descended to the Jordan River where He had sent John the Baptist. John the Baptist hesitated to baptize Him at first because he knew he could not give anything to Jesus, Who created all things. John was correct, for Jesus had no need of baptism, just like He had no need to become a weak human since He is our all-powerful God. But it was in Christ's love of humanity that He descended to the Jordan so that the waters of baptism themselves may be sanctified for He is the Pure One Who chose water as a means of spiritually purifying us, giving us eternal life, and sharing with us His divinity, which is why St. Paul says, "All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Gal 3:27).

The Light that has dawned from below is the eternal Light from above, Who came dawn to illumine those who were blinded by the dark gloom of sin. As St. Jacob of Sarug said in his homily on the Epiphany, Christ was in want of nothing except to bring Adam back up from the pit of death, which he entered through sin. And by Christ shining His light upon the world and granting the opportunity for us to put Him on by baptism, He allowed us to enter into the Trinity, Who appeared fully for the first time in history of humanity at His baptism – the voice of the Father, the Son in the Jordan, and the Holy Spirit taking the visible sign of a dove (Luke 3:22). The Light which has dawned from below not only opened our eyes to the reality of our God, but has invited us to share in His divinity if we partake of the baptism He sanctified for us and follow what He has asked us through His Bride.

Bulletin Sponsors



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