



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

February 26, 2023

2nd Week of Lent: Healing of the Leper



Next Sunday

Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman

2 Cor 7:4-11 (Call to Holiness/Paul's Joy in Macedonia)

Lk 8:40-56 (Jairus's Daughter and the Woman with a Hemorrhage)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for February 12th - February 18th

Online.....\$278.30

Collection.....\$1,451.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,729.30

YTD Total.....\$10,988.60

YTD Goal.....\$16,156.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$5,167.40**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 26th, 11:00am

+Elie Layoun

Monday, February 27th

+Evette Ghosson

Tuesday, February 28th

Available

Wednesday, March 1st

Available

Thursday, March 2nd

Available

Friday, March 3rd

Available

Saturday, March 4th

Available

Sunday, March 5th

+Luis Ángel Martínez Canales (40 Day Memorial Mass)

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, February 26th

Karam Family

Sunday, March 5th

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

EPARCHY OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON OF LOS ANGELES REGULATION FOR GREAT LENT

Then to all Christ Said, "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps." (Lk 9:23)

The Church has always helped us fulfill these words of Jesus by prescribing very definite penance for all Catholics. Accordingly, the Pope, the Patriarch, and the American bishops have outline obligatory fasting and abstinence. Our Eparchial Regulations are:

- **Ash Monday (February 20, 2023) and Great Friday (Good) Friday (April 7, 2023)** are days of abstinence for all Catholics *over the age of 14*. On these two days, *fasting* as well as abstinence is also obligatory for those *from the ages of 18-59*. Abstinence means abstinence from meat and meat products. Fasting means no food from midnight to noon, except for plain water. No Catholic will lightly excuse himself or herself from this obligation.
- **All other Fridays of Lent** are days of *abstinence* from meat (and meat products) for everyone 14 years of age and older. Here again, Catholics will not hold themselves lightly excused.
- **If there is a serious health problem, the obligation of fasting and abstinence would not apply.**
- **Fasting from midnight to noon daily is optional.**
- **We strive to make all days of Lent a time of prayer, penance, and charitable assistance toward the less fortunate and needy.**

Need to Schedule a Mass Intention?

STEP 1: Go to the Website <https://www.stsharbel.org/mass-intentions/>

STEP 2: View Available Dates via the Button

STEP 3: Fill Out the Mass Intention Request Form

STEP 4: Donate a Mass Stipend

*Priority will be given to Parishioners

*Mass Intentions are added manually from the Request Form, so please allow 24-48 hours for mass intentions to be scheduled.

*NO Stations of
the Cross
Tonight...
Due to Weather*

**February 24,
2023**

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Next Collection

**February 22-April 9,
2023**

Eparchial Development
Appeal

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:

- 2/26 Cedars Meeting discussing the Theology of the Body simplified
- 3/12 Cedars Meeting with Surprise Guest
- 3/26 Cedars Meeting with Mental Health Focus
- 4/16 Cedars Meeting and last dabke rehearsal
- 4/30 Cedars Dabke for/with St. Sharbel Families
- 5/7 Cedars Movie Day - last meeting until the Fall

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:

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Meeting After Mass

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

Going to the doctor's office can always be a bit nerve wrecking whether because of the scrutiny of being examined, the possibility of getting injections or, worse, the need to have surgery. Sometimes a physician must even perform very painful procedures, like pull teeth or remove an organ. But, ultimately, we go to the physician, not for the pain, but in spite of it because we place our hope in him to make us better – even if that means feeling worse in the short run. These next few weeks of Lent we commemorate the different healing miracles of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Divine Physician. In the entrance to Lent, Cana Sunday, we witnessed that Jesus is truly the Creator of all things, demonstrated by His power to command even water to become wine, and so He can likewise easily make the sick well.

So often in the Syriac tradition do we hear Christ called a physician, such as in one of the *Hoosoye* for this Sunday of the Leper: "Heavenly Physician Who meekly appeared in the land of beings below to heal the sicknesses and blemishes of earthly men..." Christ is the Physician who has come down from heaven, lower Himself to be mistaken for a lowly servant even though He is God, to heal us from our wounds. But those who have faith in God see Him by the light of faith – that is why the leper in today's gospel boldly calls out to Him to heal him with confidence, saying, "If you are willing, you can make me clean" (Mark 1:40). Christ responds to the man, being moved to mercy, simply with "I will. Be clean!" (Mark 1:41).

How rich the man's faith to call out to Christ with such boldness, but how can he now repay Christ? Who could possibly pay a physician of such skill? The answer is we cannot and we need not for Christ's medicine and motivation are one in the same. As our office beautifully puts it, He is "the Heavenly Physician Whose mercy sent Him to those lost in sin to heal their illnesses by the medicine of His compassion..." It is His love for humanity that moves Him to come to us, reveal His divinity and heal us – not due to our merits, but due to His incomprehensible goodness. Over the next few weeks, we will see again and again the sick call out and our Lord heal them – whether they are leprous, blind, paralytic, hemorrhaging, possessed or even dead.

But Christ is not only the Creator and Physician of the body but also the soul. He revealed to us that He is the Physician to our souls by the healing of bodies as an outward sign. Indeed, the lesson we should learn from each of those healed in the Gospel is that someone calls out to Christ to hear them and have mercy. Just as in today's gospel, it says Jesus "*etraham 'alaw*" or "had mercy upon him," that is the leper. The leper called and the Lord heard him. Each Sunday before the readings during the *Qadishat* we call out *etraham alain* – have mercy on us! When we call out to Christ, Who is God, almighty and immortal, let us cry out "have mercy on us" in the same faith of the leper who called and was healed of all his illness. The leper knew he called to the almighty and immortal God Whom he could not repay, but instead had absolute trust in His love of humanity. When we call out "have mercy on us," let it not be by sheer memorization of words but with the conviction of the leper who called out with faith and was saved from his sickness that decayed his body. We can have ever the more trust because, unlike the leper, we have the example of all these previous healings in the Gospel as proof that Christ is truly the Divine Physician Who has come to take away the illness that has taken root in us – worst of all, sin.

Let us implore our Lord Jesus Christ, the Divine Physician, Who heals in the abundance of His goodness to have mercy on us and heal us now for the sake of His love of humanity:

O Good and Kind Lord, in Your goodness You healed the leper who approached You. In Your compassion and Your abundant mercy heal our bodies and souls, we who are sinners and Your servants who have become leprous with sin and by the abundance of our transgressions. Purify us in Your mercy and with Your hyssop wash Your worshippers, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (Trans. from the Evening Prayer of the Sunday of the Leper)

Bulletin Sponsors



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