

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 5, 2023

Commemoration of the Righteous & Just



Next Sunday

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

1 Thes 5:1-11 (Vigilance)

Lk 16:19-31 (The Parable of the Rich Man & Lazarus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for January 22nd - 28th

Online	\$733.30
Collection	\$571.00
Weekly Total\$1,304.30	
YTD Total	\$5,508.20
YTD Goal	\$9,232.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$3,723.80**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 5th, 11:00am

+Dr. Thomas Rask

Monday, February 6th

+Luis Ángel Martínez Canales

Tuesday, February 7th

Available

Wednesday, February 8th

Available

Thursday, February 9th

+Karam Karam

Friday, February 10th

Available

Saturday, February 11th

Ella Rask

Sunday, February 12th

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, February 5th

Allam Family

Sunday, February 12th

Available

Parish Council

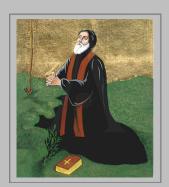
Bruce Ashford
Charlie Ashou
Gus Bekahi
Ben El Hajj
Agopos Ghossein
Adib Karam
+Claude Karam
Lydia Massaad
+Doug Raab
+Thaddeus Rask
Nadia Redmond
Peter Rizk
Mitch Siekmann

+Finance Committee

FEAST DAY of Saint Maron

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9th

Feast Day Mass—12pm @St. Sharbel



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:

2/12 Cedars youth/parents meet at 1:00 for lunch at Five Guys in Beaverton, and then carpool to King Pins for 2 games of Laser Tag

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



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 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 <u>Claude@trazzafoods.com</u>

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

This Sunday is the second of the three weeks of commemorations of the departed before Lent which encourage us to pray for the eternal rest and forgiveness of specific groups within the Church. Last Sunday, as we recall, was the Commemoration of Priests in which we prayed for those priests who served the Lord in His Church on Earth. This Sunday we specifically pray for the righteous and the just who have left from amongst us in this world for the next. As we reflected upon last week, we pray for the departed that they may be forgiven of any offense they committed on Earth and enter the eternal life of heaven. Praying for the dead is an ancient practice God revealed in the Old Testament, and which is precisely why we sometimes call the funeral rite in Syriac the *Takso dLwoyo* (the Rite of Accompaniment). We accompany the body of the dead to their grave and we accompany their soul to the Kingdom of Heaven by our prayers.

Of course, as Christians we believe death is a temporary state, permanent as it seems. The Resurrection of Christ has foreshadowed the fate of all mankind for we will all be raised on the last day for Judgment. As Christ taught us, He will justly judge us, separating the just from the wicked, and "When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers" (Prov. 21:15). What is this just reward that brings joy the just? One of the hymns describes it simply:

"The righteous never die," our Lord said in His Gospel, and death shall never reign upon them for our Lord is their resurrection. May our brethren who have justly labored and righteously toiled with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Patriarchs, arrive at the Place of Life. (Trans. from Evening Prayer of the Commemoration of the Just and Righteous)

The payment of the just, who labored for the work of the Lord in this life, is eternal life in the next in heaven. It follows, then, that the punishment for those who were wicked is eternal death in hell. But the motivation of the just is not the fear of punishment, but the joy of justice – love of the Lord and His work. The just are those who followed our Lord's commands in prayer, fasting and charity. In following the Lord in this perishable life, they will share in His divine splendor in the next when "the just will rise from their graves clothed in light like the sun."

We pray this Sunday that those who are righteous and just are forgiven all their sins and granted eternal repose in heaven for "No one living is righteous before You" (Ps. 143:2) – even those who seem to have been perfect upon Earth. Every person is in need of our prayers, and this Sunday we pray especially for those who provided an example of a good Christian life in this world for us. We ask the Lord that He forgive them in His superabundant mercy and raise up His own image from the dirt of death, into which sin has dragged it:

Renew, O Lord, the image of Your likeness which death has cast into the abysses of ravenous Sheol. Raise up the bodies from the deep pits and cracks of the earth of those who renounced the world, its detestable things, its disgraceful pleasures, toiling diligently in just works and monastic ways of life and, as the rest of mankind, have tasted the cup of tyrannous death. Awake, O Lord, their souls and bodies, and shake the dust and dirt from their faces. Make them worthy of the Resurrection on Your right hand so that with confidence they may offer glory and thanks to You, and to Your Father, and to Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen.

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