

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

May 21, 2023

7th Sunday of the Resurrection



Next Sunday

Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-21 (The Coming of the Spirit)
Jn 14:15-20 (The Advocate)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for May 7th - 13th

Collection	\$1,053.30 \$667.00 \$1,720.30
YTD Total	\$37,027.05
YTD Goal	\$43,852.00
YTD Difference	\$6,824.95

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, May 21st, 11:00am

Graciella Zogbi

Monday, May 22nd

Available

Tuesday, May 23rd

Available

Wednesday, May 24th

Available

Thursday, May 25th

Available

Friday, May 26th

Available

Saturday, May 27th

+Evette Ghosson

Sunday, May 28th

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, May 21st Redmond Family Sunday, May 28th Available

News | Events

Parish Council

Bruce Ashford

Charlie Ashou

Gus Bekahi

Ben El Haji

Agopos Ghossein

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Lydia Massaad

+Doug Raab

+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Peter Rizk

Mitch Siekmann

+Finance Committee



High School Graduate Scholarships

MYO – John A. Solomon Two for High School Seniors \$2000

Naomi & Paul Kassouf Two for High School Seniors \$2000 Massabki Brothers One for High School Seniors \$2000

Abouna Sharbel
Three for High School Seniors \$1000

Undergraduate Scholarships

Chagoury Family Undergraduate One for College Student \$2000 Thomas & Jennie Ayoub One for College Student \$2000

Grad & Professional Scholarship

Chagoury Family Graduate
One for Graduate Student \$2000

Study Abroad in Lebanon Opportunities

Notre Dame University-Louaize
Up to 10 scholarships total for Fall 2022 or Spring 2023

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik
Up to 12 students for Summer 2023 Semester

For more information and applications visit www.namnews.org. namscholarships@gmail.com. or call NAM at 330-212-9207

Application Deadline: May 31, 2023

JOIN US! Bible in a Year/ Catechism in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz.

<u>The Catechism in a Year | Free Parish Promotional Resources – Ascension (ascensionpress.com)</u>
<u>The Bible in a Year | Free Parish Promotional Resources – Ascension (ascensionpress.com)</u>

There will be a signup sheet posted in the basement for those interested in making either one of these faith commitments alongside our youth and young adults.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Next Collection:

MAY 21, 2023

Catholic Communications

Parish Programs

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: MAY 21—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

"Who amongst kings would have a crown of thorns placed upon himself? When and where have you heard of such a king who would wear this kind of crown?" scoffed the wicked thief at the crucifixion of our Lord on Good Friday (according to our Syriac tradition of dialogue hymns). In the eyes of the world, Jesus, Who saved so many and worked such great miracles, was a failure on Good Friday – He was hanged upon a cross and crowned with a crown of thorns in mockery. But the Good Thief retorts with wisdom that surpasses even the Apostles at that time, "A man is unable to do this, but Jesus is imperishable. He has uprooted the thorns of the earth by His thorns in order to free Adam from the curse." A human king, which is what the wicked thief thought Jesus claimed to be, would wear a gold crown and struggle to exert his rule over those who defy him. Jesus, our God, is a king without question, Who assumed the lowest parts of our humanity to elevate us in our fallen state to His divine nature. Jesus is the Immortal and Almighty God, but as the priest prays in our liturgy, "You have assumed what is ours and You have given us what is Yours." In today's Gospel reading, Christ assures His Apostles by His own appearance in a real body that His true bodily and human death was to offer immortal life to us.

"It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have" (Luke 24:39) said our Lord in appearing to His disciples once again. Having seen Christ in the flesh and as a man, many of the disciples believed Jesus was dead after His crucifixion. And He did truly die – He was not a ghost, but He had actual hands and feet that were nailed, as well as His side that was pierced, blood that was spilled and breath that left Him. Christ died in His humanity, but He is the Immortal Lord and so He rose again from the dead three days later with the same human body. If Christ had not truly been human, He would not have assumed all our human frailties and raised them up to participate in His divine nature redeeming us from the fall of Adam. If Christ had not truly been divine, He would have simply died, not been raised and all we do would be in vain as St. Paul says (1 Cor. 15:14) because a mere man would not have had power to save us from sin and death. But God, Who does not have hands or feet, assumed them in His human birth so that He might be near us as another human being, and ultimately die as a human. But, being God, He descended to the place of the dead, Sheol, and destroyed death and sin for all Who follow Him – this is why He says elsewhere that, of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk "I am the light in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Christ has already seen death and conquered it for those who follow Him for "the one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25). They will live not only in memory but in the Kingdom of Heaven and will rise from the dead, as Christ did, sharing in His divine reality if they only follow Him through the trials He has already faced before us.

Assuring His Apostles, Luke records Jesus as having said, "Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me...This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:44,46-47). Death seems to be a hopeless reality if we face it as humans. Those who thought Christ was only man thought He was destroyed at His death. A crown of thorns was the perfect mockery as all His suffering would have been pointless had He only been a man dying for Himself. But Christ is God and life itself Who destroyed death by His death, and gave to humanity His divinity in eternal life by His rising. We need only to repent from our sins, which bring death upon us like Adam, and turn back to Him Who patiently waits for us to respond to His appearing.

- Article Credit: St Rafka Parish

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