



# 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)

## July 30, 2023

10th Sunday of Pentecost



**Next Sunday**

*Transfiguration of Our Lord*

**2 Cor 3:7-17**

**Mk 9:1-7**

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for July 16th - 22nd*

Online.....\$393.30

Collection.....\$466.00

Weekly Total.....\$859.30

YTD Total.....\$50,089.55

YTD Goal.....\$66,932.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$16,842.45**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, July 30th, 11:00am

**+Rosemary Lee**

Monday, July 31st

*Unavailable*

Tuesday, August 1st

*Unavailable*

Wednesday, August 2nd

*Unavailable*

Thursday, August 3rd

*Unavailable*

Friday, August 4th

*Unavailable*

Saturday, August 5th

*Unavailable*

Sunday, August 6th

*Unavailable*

***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, July 30th**

*Available*

**Sunday, August 6th**

*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

**SECOND COLLECTIONS**

*Next Collection:*

**September 10, 2023**

Catholic University



**Reminder:**

While Abouna is out of town Mass  
Intentions will be Unavailable.  
See Parish Website for available and unavailable  
dates: <https://www.stsharbel.org/parish-calendar/>

Thank You in Advance for your  
Understanding!



**Wanted ONE Holy Hour per  
Week!**

Contact Nadia Redmond  
503-671-0440

-or-

Email: [n.redmond@comcast.net](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net)

More info at:

<https://sevensistersapostolate.org/>

## Parish Programs

### Maronite Young Adults (MYA)

SAVE THE DATE

# BBQ PARTY



MYA is a local chapter of a national Maronite organization for single and married men and women ages 19+

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**August 26th**

Barbecue and Bonfire at Claude and Gennifer's home in Dundee.

**Starting @ 5:00PM**

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.

## CEDARS OF SAINT SHARBEL

Mandatory Parent Mtg.  
Sunday, August 27

After the Holy Mysteries — We will meet to discuss the needs and goals of the youth group this year!





## Reflection

Often when someone hears “Maronite,” even if they themselves are not Maronite, the first thing they think of is St. Sharbel. He is such a great saint that he has gained world renown and, in fact, was added to even the Roman Calendar for July 24th, the day after the Maronite feast day. So many lessons can be learned from this great saint, beginning with his very name.

St. Sharbel was born Joseph Makhlouf. Sharbel, the name of a second century Syrian martyr, was the name he chose when he became a monk that seemed to foreshadow the rest of his life. The name comes from two Syriac words, sharbo (history/story) and el (God), put together meaning the history or story of God. From the very choice of this name, Sharbel made God the very subject of his life rather than just another object. He fasted, prayed and worked in the field every day, offering all to God – every mundane action, whether it be picking a grape or taking a step, was a sacrifice to the Lord.

From placing God as the protagonist of his life, rather than himself, his holiness has come to be known throughout the world and God has worked many miracles through his intercession. So many and global are the assistances God has worked through him that even some of us may have witnessed them like the healing of a blind woman in Phoenix in 2016 after venerating his relics, though she had never previously heard of him. Having placed God as the center of his life, it is most appropriate that he would pass away while offering the Divine Liturgy. St. Sharbel loved the Syriac language and our Maronite tradition, and tradition holds that he passed away during the *Abo dQushto* or, as many know it in English, the Father of Truth.

As St. Sharbel's life slipped away while holding the Body of Christ in his hands the beautiful words of *Abo dQushto* were being sung, originally from a 4th century written by St. Jacob of Sarug. The man who had placed God as the center of his life prayed in this world for the last time:

Behold, His [Christ's] blood is poured out on Golgotha for my salvation and it implores on my behalf. Accept my petition for its sake. How many are my debts, how many are Your mercies if You should weigh them? Your compassion greatly outweighs mountains if You weigh them.

This great saint was a monk and, therefore, had a life different from our own day-to-day. Nonetheless, his example teaches us to place God as the center of our lives. This verse of the *Abo dQushto* has the speaker admit that his sins are many, implicitly comparing them to heaps of mountains. But God's mercy is so great that if put on a scale with mountains His mercy greatly outweighs all else. The mercy of God is the center of the hymn, as it was the center of St. Sharbel's life. Our tradition teaches us to be mindful of our sin, but we act for God and love of Him, nothing else. If one reacts to sin or fear of Satan we are placing sin or fear of Satan as the center of our life. But because we love God we act for Him as the subject and reject all that is contrary to Him by choosing Him, rather than reacting to other things. In this way we all take the name “Sharbel” because we make our lives the story of God.

Perhaps with his last dying breath the great saint sang the conclusion of *Abo dQushto*, which we should join in with him all the days of our lives:

Glory be to the Father Who sent His Son for our sake. Adoration be to the Son Who by His crucifixion freed all. Thanks be to the Spirit by Whom the mystery of our salvation was fulfilled. Blessed is He for in His love He gave us life; to Him be glory.

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