



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

July 9, 2023

7th Sunday of Pentecost



Next Sunday

8th Sunday of Pentecost

Rom 8:1-11 (The Flesh and the Spirit)

Mt 12:14-21 (The Chosen Servant)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for June 25th - July 1st

Online.....\$633.30

Collection.....\$462.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,095.30

YTD Total.....\$46,114.65

YTD Goal.....\$60,008.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$13,893.35**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, July 9th, 11:00am

+Manuel Nemer (40 Day Memorial)

Monday, July 10th

Available

Tuesday, July 11th

Available

Wednesday, July 12th

Available

Thursday, July 13th

Available

Friday, July 14th

Available

Saturday, July 15th

Available

Sunday, July 16th

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, July 9th

Available

Sunday, July 16th

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



Wanted ONE Holy Hour per Week!

Contact Nadia Redmond

503-671-0440

-or-

Email: n.redmond@comcast.net

More info at:

<https://sevensistersapostolate.org/>

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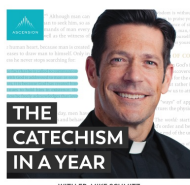
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Maronite Young Adults (MYA)

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.

MORE DETAILS TO COME

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

Reflection

“Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves” (Luke 10:3) our Lord said without mincing words. This is what He told the first 72 disciples He sent out to go before Him while He taught Israel about the Kingdom of God. Those who are baptized into the spiritual and true Israel, the Church, follow Christ as His disciple and join those 72. It is no small task knowing we are sent out before Christ like lambs among wolves - but must always remain confident that our competence comes not from ourselves, but by God, for Whom we have become temples by our baptism.

Christ is “the Way, the Truth and the Life,” and “does not delight in the death of a sinner, but desires that they repent and live.” Those who turn to Christ and follow Him obtain eternal life in Him. To bring all back to Him, Christ sends His disciples out in every age in His love. But true love must be freely accepted, and therefore He both gives us the chance to accept or reject Him, and the chance to accept or reject His imperative to His disciples.

In the Maronite Church, we have a rich treasury of saints who accepted to bear witness to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the world out of love of Him that others might share in the joy. During this Season of Pentecost, we commemorate many of them, which demonstrate the great diversity of ways these disciples served their Lord. Within the same week, we celebrate St. Marina (July 16) and St. Nuhra (July 22), who show the vast range of ways those who follow God bear His witness among the wolves undaunted.

St. Marina occupies the quieter, but equally heroic, side of the spectrum in following Christ. In her life, she wished to live her whole life for God, as well as any man, and did not wish to impede her widower father from joining the monastery. So St. Marina joined the monastery with her father, disguising herself as a man. One day, a nobleman's daughter slanders Marina, disguised as a monk, by claiming she impregnated her. Marina accepts her banishment from the monastery and lives a strongly ascetic life, even though it was anatomically impossible for her to have committed her accused crime. In a beautiful debate hymn in the Syriac tradition between her and Satan, Satan tries to convince her with the logic of the world to just reveal she is a woman and exonerate herself: he tries to scare her with fear of social isolation, loss of pride and fear of being attacked. But Marina defeats Satan by reminding him he has already lost, and all those who follow Christ follow victory, thus she continued to live her life for Christ in monastic practice.

St. Nuhra, on the other hand, was called by God to outwardly speak and profess his faith. According to the Maronite tradition, he went to Alexandria from Persia to profess the true faith in Christ. Eventually he was questioned by pagan lords, and cut to pieces for refuses to worship pagan gods. In the logic that Satan tried to use with Marina, it would seem Nuhra lost and the lords won. But Nuhra professed his faith, strengthened by God, and continues to live eternally in heaven. We have forgotten the names of the pagan lords who murdered him, but remember his name and know he has truly triumphed. Just as Christ died and His enemies said they had won, Nuhra died in body but will rise again with all the saints on the Last Day. We are called to the same by our baptism. Though the world suggests the wolves shall win, those who follow the Lamb of God shall have eternal life and all else will fade into nothingness.

Strengthen us, O Lord God, by Your power as You strengthened St. Nuhra in his steadfast witness of You. Perfect us in Your profession as You perfected Your martyr. Grant us that we may profess You before every man as he confessed You before kings and did not deny You. Ignite Your love in us like Your athlete who blazed with zeal. May we rebuke the transgressors of Your law as he rebuked the heathen king, the hater of truth. When You number us with him in Your Kingdom and delight us like him in Your bridal chamber, we shall joyfully offer glory and thanks together to You, and to Your Father, and to Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (From the Syriac Maronite Office for the Feast of St. Nuhra)

- Article Credit: St Rafka Parish

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