



# 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)

## October 1, 2023

**Third Sunday After the Holy Cross**



**Next Sunday**

**Fourth Sunday After the Holy Cross**

**1 Thes 5:1-11 (Vigilance)**

**Mt 24:45-51 (The Faithful or the Unfaithful Servant)**

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for September 17th - 23rd*

Online.....\$643.30

Collection.....\$321.00

Weekly Total.....\$964.30

YTD Total.....\$68,882.77

YTD Goal.....\$87,704.00

YTD Difference.....-\$18,821.23

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, October 1st, 11:00am

*Available*

Monday, October 2nd

*Available*

Tuesday, October 3rd

*Available*

Wednesday, October 4th

*Available*

Thursday, October 5th

*Available*

Friday, October 6th

*Available*

Saturday, October 7th

*Available*

Sunday, October 8th

*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, October 1st

*Available*

Sunday, October 8th

*Available*

## Parish Council

Charlie Ashou

Eva Bekahi

Ben El Hajj

Agopos Ghossein

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Lydia Massaad

+Doug Raab

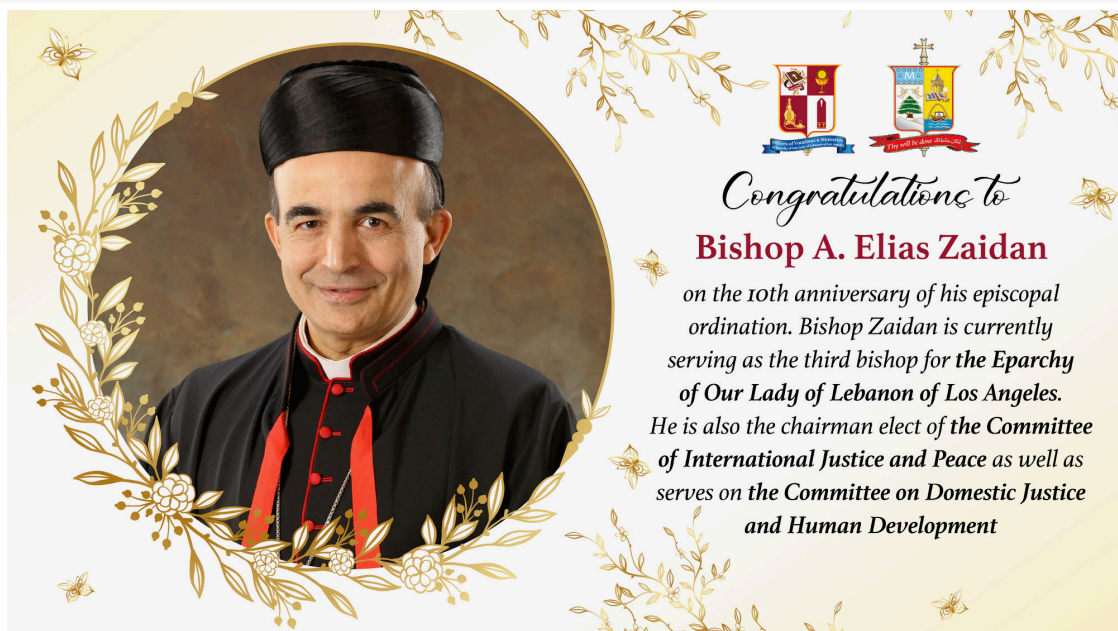
+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Peter Rizk

Mitch Siekmann

+Finance Committee



*Congratulations to*

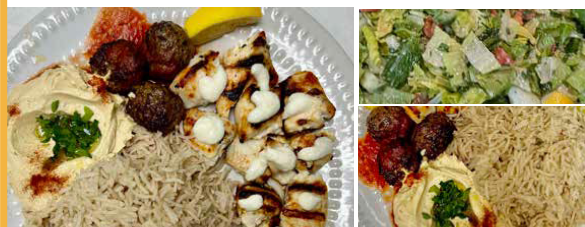
**Bishop A. Elias Zaidan**

on the 10th anniversary of his episcopal ordination. Bishop Zaidan is currently serving as the third bishop for the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles. He is also the chairman elect of the Committee of International Justice and Peace as well as serves on the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

Next Collection: **October 22, 2023**, World Mission Sunday—  
*Propagation of the Faith*

### JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH AUTHENTIC LEBANESE DINNER



Join us for our delicious and authentic Lebanese Dinner Fundraiser in our parish hall. We'll be serving generous portions of grilled chicken with lemon garlic sauce, basmati rice, kafta balls, hummus and mediterranean salad.

**October 15th • Noon till 5pm**

**\$18 Dinner Ticket Donation • To Go Orders Available  
1804 SE 16th Avenue, Portland • [saintsharbel.com](http://saintsharbel.com)**

We'll also be holding a bake sale of tasty Middle Eastern and American pastries that will tempt any sweet tooth. Children's activities.

FOR TICKETS  
CONTACT

AGOPOS GHOSSEIN 503.317.4164

## PRAY THE ROSARY

EVERY SUNDAY BEFORE MASS WE PRAY THE  
ROSARY AT 10:30AM.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PERSON OR WITHIN  
YOUR OWN FAMILY TO PRAY THE ROSARY  
TOGETHER.



**SUNDAYS 10:30AM**



## 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+

For more info on the MYA, contact [Claude@trazzafoods.com](mailto:Claude@trazzafoods.com)



### Wanted ONE Holy Hour per Week!

Contact Nadia Redmond  
503-671-0440

-or-

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

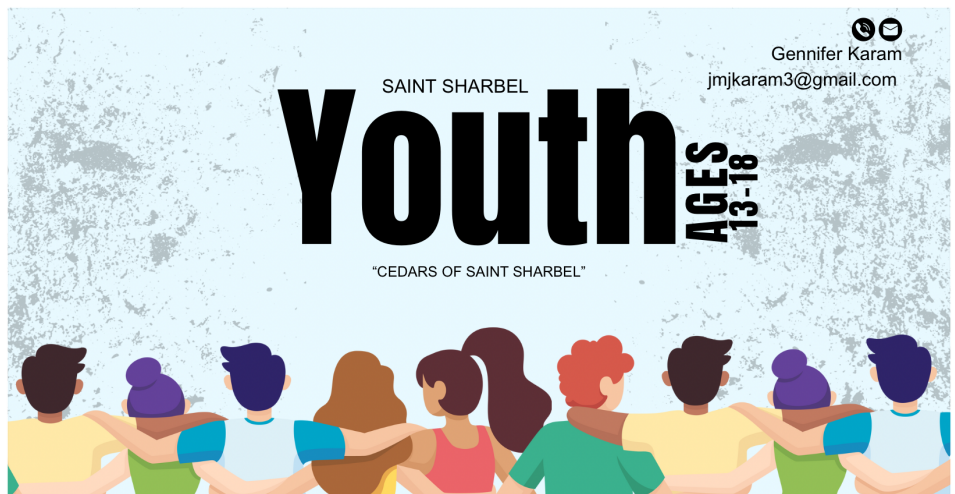
### Religious Education

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.



**Rescheduled:** Mandatory parent meeting **OCTOBER 1st**, during the first part of the Cedars meeting

**Purpose:** To discuss goals, and needs of the youth for this year

It's a new year! First Cedars of St. Sharbel faith formation meeting will be on Sunday, October 1st 12:15-1:30. Bring your Bible please.

Ages 13-18 welcome.

“You know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night” (1 Thess. 5:2) St. Paul wrote in today’s epistle. The Last Day is an unavoidable reality, but we do not know when it will come. Today’s Gospel presents two types of responses servants of the Lord can give to this inevitable day – one servant does as he is instructed, while the other parties and squanders what he has been entrusted because he assumes his Master will be away for a long time. Unfortunately for the second servant, his Master returns when he did not expect Him and he is punished.

But to those who love Christ, to the servant who he has been instructed by the Gospel, His return is a frightening event to dread, but an event we await with great eagerness. The servant who does not do as he has been instructed rightly fears the day his Master returns because he knows he will get in trouble for his purposeful disobedience. But the servants who try their best to follow their Master’s commands simply wish to see their Master again for their love of the Master is the same reason they follow His commands. And Christ, our Master, has not left us with commands to simply busy us, but because He knows best, as our omnipotent God and Creator, what should bring fulfillment and holiness.

Christ never said the instructions He has left would be always simple or easy, but He invites us to imitate Him, saying “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9:23). Knowing we would face great challenges in the world at times to complete His commands, Christ left us with every divine tool needed to overcome them. As St. Paul wrote, “Let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:8-9). Faith and hope is our armor in the world, and our greatest weapon is the cross of Christ that protects us from harm and evil for God does not wish us to suffer, but to rejoice with Him forever in His love.

Equipped with faith, hope and love, and armed with the cross, we are prepared to face any challenge, whether our Lord will return tomorrow or in a thousand years. God is timeless, as is His love. If we truly wish to emulate Him, we must imitate His timeless love, not only in reciprocity to Him but to one another. Perhaps one of the greatest apparent crosses to carry and challenges we face in opposition to our faith and hope is Christ’s command to love our enemies and pray for them (Matt. 5:44). But that is, in fact, not in opposition but essential to how Christ has equipped us. We will only defeat our enemies in an ultimate sense by loving them – not in a naïve way thinking that everyone shall become our friends, but with the same love that God loves even those who offend Him. If God in His love wishes that we should be saved, then we must also love our enemies with the hope that we can all enter heaven. We can begin today to prepare concretely for the last day with things as simple as praying for those who wish us ill, and being the one to reach out and make peace when possible.

The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night, sneaking up on us. It is left to us whether we shall receive it in great joy because we will see the Master we love so dearly, or be horrified when we realize we have neglected His commands.



# Bulletin Sponsors



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your advertisement today!

nisreen.mouammar@gmail.com