



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

September 10, 2023

Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

First Sunday after the Holy Cross

2 Tm 2:1-10 (Timothy's Conduct)

Mk 10:35-45 (Ambition of James and John)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, September 10th, 11:00am

+Farida Ibrahim

Monday, September 11th

Available

Tuesday, September 12th

Available

Wednesday, September 13th

Available

Thursday, September 14th

Available

Friday, September 15th

Available

Saturday, September 16th

Available

Sunday, September 17th

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.

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for August 27th - September 2nd

Online.....\$333.30

Collection.....\$975.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,308.30

YTD Total.....\$65,188.87

YTD Goal.....\$80,780

YTD Difference.....**-\$15,591.13**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, September 10th

Available

Sunday, September 17th

Available

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SEPTEMBER 10 –Parish Council Meeting
Sunday After Mass

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Next Collection: September 10, 2023, Catholic University



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COME JOIN US!

Sunday, September 10
—After Holy Mass 12:00-1:30pm

For Fellowship games and Dabkeh
Bring your food, blanket, or lawn chair and meet us on the
lawn by St. Sharbel Church

For any question contact Sara or Edith
familystsharbelpdx@gmail.com



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

Join us for the National Day of Remembrance
for Aborted Children and ensure that our
unborn brothers and sisters will not be
forgotten.

Memorial Service *for Victims of Abortion*

Date & Time

Saturday, September 9, 8:30 AM

Location

Our Lady of the Lake

650 A Avenue

Lake Oswego, OR 97034

Special Details

After 8:30 AM Mass, we will pray at Our Lady
of the Lake's Memorial to the Unborn in the
courtyard outside the Parish Hall

Local Contact

**Sharon, Respect Life Coordinator,
Parish Office at 503-636-7687**

*For more information on this event, visit
NationalDayOfRemembrance.org*

PLEASE COME JOIN US FOR THE

St. Ignatius Renaissance Festival

Sunday, October 15, 2023
9am - 3pm

St. Ignatius Parish
3400 SE 43rd Ave. • Portland, Oregon
In Dillon Hall

**FREE ADMISSION
FREE PARKING**

Exhibitor Booths
Silent Auction
Food, Beer & Wine
Puppet Shows
Sherwood Forest
(Kids Activities)

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+

SAVE THE DATE:

NEW DATE - September 16th

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

Starting @3:00PM

For more info on the MYA, contact Claude@trazzafoods.com



Wanted ONE Holy Hour per Week!

Contact Nadia Redmond

503-671-0440

-or-

Email: n.redmond@comcast.net

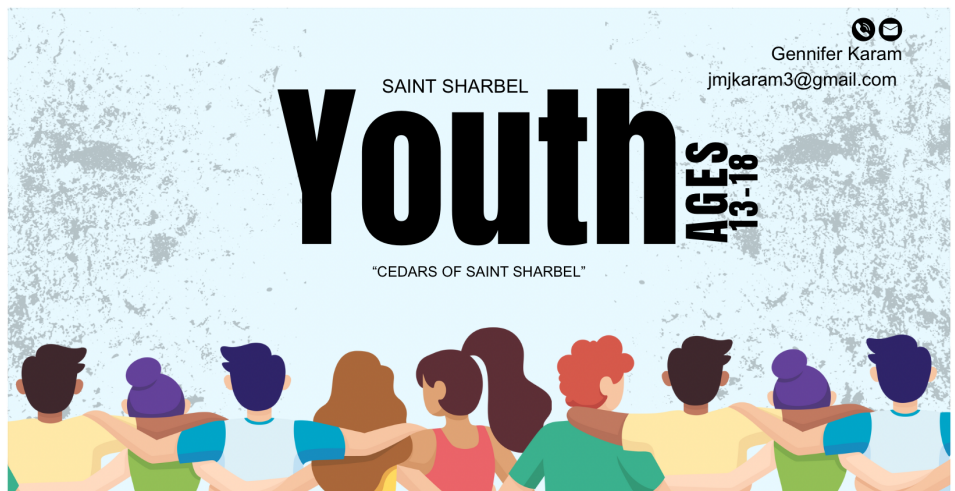
Religious Education

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

Please continue to pray for our parish and ministries.



Rescheduled: Mandatory parent meeting **September 24** after mass

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.

September 14th is one of the major feasts in the Syriac tradition – the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. St. Helena, the mother of St. Constantine, the Emperor of Rome, established the day as the Feast of the Cross, as she found the cross of Jesus Christ by Golgotha in Jerusalem on this day. It was found while St. Helena was overseeing the construction of a church over the place where Christ was crucified and was buried. Having found the true cross, Constantine proclaimed a holy day to venerate it throughout the Empire.

But why do we venerate the cross? It would seem a bit odd to venerate the instrument of torture used against our Lord and God if He had not risen from the dead. However, we know that Christ rose from the dead, and so He made a mockery out of death and its instruments. Jesus showed in His crucifixion that He has the power to make even an instrument of death a means of life. He transformed His cross, which was used to sentence Him to death, into an instrument that brings life to all those who believe in it, “an armor of righteousness, a companion of assistances, and a fount of immortality” (as our prayers call it). But why does the cross receive such lofty titles? When Jesus, our immortal God died, He descended to the place of the dead and defeated death, rising again and promising His believers the same. So what others see as a way to death, Christians see it as the key that brought eternal life. God is so great He can make a symbol of death one of life – hence why the Syriac tradition often contrasts the cross to the tree that Adam ate from and died: “The fruit from the tree killed Adam, and the Fruit from heaven redeemed him.” Christ is the Fruit of Life Who has given Himself to us for life, and the cross is the tree that has borne Him for us. It was the foolishness of Adam that caused his fall, but it was the mercy of Christ that returned him to Eden – this is what the cross represents.

But the cross does not simply represent the suffering of Christ. On Sunday morning we lift up the cross in glorious victory because it is empty along with the tomb. The cross is a sign of the Resurrection, for by it Christ descended to Sheol and raised the dead who served Him in their lives to heaven. We exalt the cross again on the Holy Cross and bless the four corners of the world for it continues to be the very pillar of the world. Creation itself and its continuance rely solely on the merciful salvation of God – the cross is the very pinnacle of this sustaining mercy. In mercy, Christ exorcised demons and healed the sick, worked miracles and showed His divinity. This mercy pervades every aspect of our life and remains with the baptized at all times, for we have put on Christ through the waters of baptism.

The cross is the sign of salvation, and it is the banner of our King. We have easy access to this mighty power. Our enemies, the demons and devils, flee at the very sight of the Lord’s sign. By the sign of the cross and invocation of the Persons of the Trinity we obtain the assistance of the mercy of God. The sign of the cross is so commonly made that it is overlooked, but each and every time we make the sign of the cross we recalled and call upon the help and hope of God’s entire plan of salvation. When we are in need, let us trace this powerful sign upon ourselves as we pray:

We trace the living sign of the cross between our eyes
and by its power we are protected from harm and injury.

Demons flee before whomever signs himself with the cross –
the [same] cross that restore
the House of Adam from error.

(Trans. from the Prayers for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross)

Bulletin Sponsors



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