



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

October 15, 2023

Fifth Sunday After the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

Sixth Sunday After the Holy Cross

Gal 6:1-10 (Life in the Community of Christ)

Mt 25:14-30 (The Parable of the Talents)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for October 1st - 7th

Online.....\$403.30

Collection.....\$556.00

Weekly Total.....\$959.30

YTD Total.....\$72,047.37

YTD Goal.....\$92,320.00

YTD Difference.....-\$20,272.63

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, October 15th, 11:00am

Available

Monday, October 16th

Available

Tuesday, October 17th

Available

Wednesday, October 18th

Available

Thursday, October 19th

Available

Friday, October 20th

Available

Saturday, October 21st

Available

Sunday, October 22nd

+Rabih Ghostine

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 15th

Available

Sunday, October 22nd

Redmond Family

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

SECOND COLLECTIONS

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

respect life month novena



Join thousands of Catholics in prayer
starting this Friday!

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Respect Life Month.

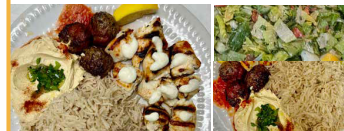
Join a nationwide novena starting Friday for the protection of human life from conception to natural death.

Each day of the novena features a different prayer intention, as well as a short reflection, suggested actions, and more.

Join THOUSANDS of Catholics in prayer Friday, October 13 - Saturday, October 21.

<https://www.respectlife.org/confirmation-respect-life-novena>

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

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

Cardinal Pierbattista

Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of
Jerusalem, the Ordinaries of
the Holy Land, and the United
States Conference of Catholic
Bishops, have invited us for a
day of fasting and prayer for
prayer and reconciliation on
Tuesday, October 17.

Let us join them asking our
merciful and loving God to
grant peace and prosperity to
the Middle East in these
troubled times.



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

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 MEETING: OCTOBER 22nd after Mass in the upper classroom. We will be discussing Rule #11 of St. Ignatius on Discernment of Spirits

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

More info at:

<https://sevensistersapostolate.org/>

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

NOVEMBER 5
DECEMBER 10
JANUARY 14
FEBRUARY 18
MARCH 10
APRIL 14
MAY 5

SAINT SHARBEL

Youth

AGES 12-17

"CEDARS OF SAINT SHARBEL"
Youth Catechis

Gennifer Karam
jmjkaram3@gmail.com

2024 REGIONAL RETREATS

MIDWEST JAN 12 -14, 2024
DAMASCUS CATHOLIC MISSION - CENTERBURG, OH

WEST COAST FEB 2 - 4, 2024
PAIL RETREAT - RUNNING SPRINGS, CA

SOUTH FEB 23 - 25, 2024
TEJAS CAMP & RETREAT - GIDDINGS, TX

EPARCHY OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON MYO

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.



The Parable of the Ten Virgins awaiting the Bridegroom from today's Gospel (Matt. 25:1-13) is a commonly used theme in our Syriac tradition. Christ taught us this image because of its usefulness in mentally preparing for the last day, and so our wise Syriac Fathers have been certain to use it in their writings, hymns and homilies. There is a wealth of symbolism in it: the virgins and the Bridegroom, the oil of the lamps, and the wedding banquet.

The first element of the reading is the virgins and the Bridegroom. As Christ says, "Many are invited, but few are chosen" (Matt. 22:14). God wishes all to be saved, and so by His life-giving sacrifice on Earth He has called all peoples to His Church, but He does not force us to receive His loving salvation, as love cannot be compelled. Therefore, just like the virgins, while all are invited to His banquet, there are those who do refuse through their actions, even if they say with their mouths, "Lord, Lord, open the door for us!" (Matt. 25:11). The Bridegroom, then, is Christ Who has married His Church to bring His divinity to all of her children – that is us. If we enter into the banquet, then we shall obtain the life and love of God.

The second element is the lamps' oil. If God requires us to accept His loving salvation, what does that entail? Here we see it in the difference of the lamps of the virgins. All the virgins are invited to the banquet and none of them know when the Bridegroom will arrive. The five wise virgins brought enough oil that even if they should wait, their lamps would not burn out – while the foolish virgins did not bring enough oil. The Syriac Fathers say the oil of our lamps are our righteous and virtuous deeds that we commit for love of God and neighbor. We do not know when Christ the Bridegroom will return, but we can keep His commands on Earth while we wait, filling our lamps with the oil of righteousness. This righteousness is giving the Lord His due glory in prayer, as well as helping those in need on Earth, for all are made in the image of God. Regardless of the dark of midnight, the wise virgins can see the Bridegroom because they brought enough oil.

Likewise, no matter how dark the night of this world becomes with all its troubles, the wise will know the coming of Christ the Bridegroom by the light of their righteousness. But it is not something to prepare for tomorrow, but this very moment.

The last element is the wedding banquet. The Syriac Fathers refer to two things, which are intimately related, as the wedding banquet: the Eucharist and heaven. In this parable, it is clear that there are those who will not choose God, and therefore they reject heaven, rejecting life, love and fulfillment. But it is the same on Earth – Christ has prepared us the banquet of His flesh and blood in the Eucharist on Earth that we may have a foretaste of heaven. Just as heaven will be in union of God, so too are we when we rightly receive His flesh and blood from the priest for eternal life and the forgiveness of sins. Unlike the virgins, however, we have access to the Bridegroom at this very moment in the Eucharist.

Let us be prepared with an oil of righteousness with the five virgins that we may have our lamps brightly burning in the world. Then, when the Bridegroom comes, we can go out to meet Him and enter into His banquet rejoicing and celebrating.

—Article Credit: St Rafka Parish

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