



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

December 10, 2023

Birth of John the Baptist



Next Sunday

Revelation to Joseph

Eph 3:1-13 (Commission to Preach God's Plan)

Mt 1:18-25 (The Birth of Jesus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for November 26th - December 2nd

Online.....\$1,660.50

Collection.....\$495.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,155.50

YTD Total.....\$88,223.38

YTD Goal.....\$110,784.00

YTD Difference.....-\$22,560.62

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 10th, 11:00am

40 day Memorial + Agopos Ghossein

Monday, December 11th

Available

Tuesday, December 12th

Available

Wednesday, December 13th

Available

Thursday, December 14th

Available

Friday, December 15th

Available

Saturday, December 16th

Available

Sunday, December 17th

+Dr. Thomas Rask

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, December 10th

Available

Sunday, December 17th

Redmond Family

Parish Council

Chair: Lydia Massaad

Charlie Ashou

Eva Bekahi

Ben El Hajj

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Michael Layoun

+Doug Raab

+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Peter Rizk

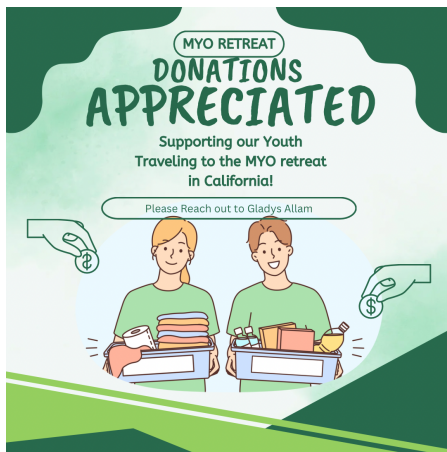
Mitch Siekmann

Gibran Zogbi

+Finance Committee



Begins December 16 — Concludes December 24th



NEW EPARCHY CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon Policy to Address Harassment, Discrimination, and Violence by Church Personnel

The Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles ("Eparchy"), part of the Syriac-Antiochene tradition and rooted in the Gospel values and teachings of the Universal Catholic Church, is committed to upholding an environment that is free of unlawful harassment, discrimination, violence, and/or retaliation in our parishes and missions. Church personnel are held to a high standard of ethical conduct and personal integrity. They have a responsibility to behave in a manner that bears witness to the teachings of the Universal Catholic Church. For purposes of this policy, Church personnel include employees, members of the clergy, directors of religious education, teachers, volunteers, minors serving in responsible positions in a program associated with the Eparchy and third parties providing goods or services to the Eparchy or a program associated with the Eparchy.

The Eparchy is committed to reporting any known or suspected child abuse or neglect to Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline 800.4.A.CHILD (1.800.422.4453) and the Neglect Hotline 800-392-3738 or 844-CAN-TELL (1.844.226.8355) or any other child protection hotline according to the jurisdiction where the suspected abuse or neglect is alleged to have occurred.

The Eparchy expects that all relationships among persons on any parish, mission, or engaged in any program, activity or event associated with the Eparchy will be respectful and free of bias, prejudice, and harassment. All members of the communities of the Eparchy share the responsibility to avoid, discourage, and report any form of unlawful harassment, discrimination, or violent behavior.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the policies and procedures associated with The Safe Environment Program of the Eparchy.

****Full Policy is attached to the bulletin Email for reference**

THE POLITICS OF
ABORTION:
CHALLENGING THE
NARRATIVE

**JANUARY
27TH 2024**

Doors open at 1:30 with
Resource Organizations
2:00-4:00 Expert Speakers

**\$10 Admission
Students/Children Free**

JOHNSON CENTER
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9101 E BURNSIDE
PORTLAND OR

To Register and follow
event updates:



MYTH VS TRUTH IN THE PRO-LIFE DEBATE

SAVE THE DATE



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: 12/10 — After Mass

We will be discussing rule #13 of St. Ignatius

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

DECEMBER 10

JANUARY 14

FEBRUARY 18

MARCH 10

APRIL 14

MAY 5

SAINT SHARBEL

Youth

AGES
12-17

"CEDARS OF SAINT SHARBEL"
Youth Catechesis



Gennifer Karam
jmkaram3@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.



It is telling that we celebrate the birth of a man – St. John the Baptist – in the season leading up to the great celebration of the birth of our Lord and God, Jesus Christ. It reveals much about the divine plan of salvation, but I would like to identify in particular what it says of the relationship between God and man. It seems obvious to say that Christ's salvation of mankind was for the sake of mankind. But what is often taken for granted in speaking about the divine action in the world is that it is out of His benevolence and love of mankind that God acts. God does not act in the abstract, far from humanity, but salvation is wrought amongst men and using the free will of men. John the Baptist is an example of mankind's intimate involvement in our own salvation. Even Christ becoming man was His involvement of our very nature in His plan to sanctify us and elevate us to participate in His divinity.

We celebrate John the Baptist this Sunday because he is the saint sent ahead of Christ by Christ to prepare His way, "the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord'" (John 1:23). As we recall from the Announcement to Zechariah, not only is John's mother, Elizabeth, very old, she was also barren for her entire marriage to Zechariah. Yet, God has deemed it fitting in His love for mankind to make the barren fruitful, and so Elizabeth begets a child in her old age – but not just any child, but the prophet of the Most High. John goes before Christ to prepare the way to announce the Gospel. It is John who first baptizes, and, in fact, it is John who baptizes Jesus, which He humbles Himself to just as He humbled Himself to be born of the Virgin Mary. In God's greatness, He has come down to us that He might bring us up to Himself and He involves us only by our own free will. The miraculous birth of John is the answer to Elizabeth and Zechariah's prayers, and John's ministry is his response to the call of the Lord.

Knowing God is infinitely good and seeking to involve us in our own sanctification, how do we respond? The prayers of the Syriac Maronite tradition give us profound insight:

O God most high and incomprehensible, Who in His goodness established the worlds and brought them into being, in Whose wisdom created heaven and adorned it with stars, by Whose will a voice, which announced before Himself, was begotten from a barren and fruitless womb, now beget in us sweet voices of Your praises, noble exaltations of Your thanks and choice acclaim of Your wonders. Make us worthy all the days of our lives that with purity and holiness we may give thanks to You, worship You and glorify You, and Your Father, and Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (From the Syriac Maronite Vespers for the Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist)

This prayer begins by acknowledging the God we address is He Who created all things, not out of obligation, but in His goodness. In the same goodness, He called John to go before Him from a barren womb. Just as God did before, we ask Him to now again beget in our, at times, barren selves His own praises. It is a deception of the devil to believe there is an insurmountable gap between God and man – for in God's goodness, He has bridged it by becoming man Himself. Therefore, even in all our limitedness and failings, by the power and grace of God, Who has created us in His image, we are lifted up to His glory if we only ask. We are each called by God to give glory to Him in our own way – just as Elizabeth was called to birth John, John was called to be the prophet of Christ, and the priest is called to offer sacrifice, each of us are to play our own role in purity and holiness.

Bulletin Sponsors



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nisreen.mouammar@gmail.com