

# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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# December 17, 2023

**Revelation to Joseph** 



Next Sunday Genealogy of Jesus Rom 1:1-12 (Greetings/Thanksgiving) Mt 1:1-17 (The Genealogy of Jesus)

# Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for December 3rd - 9th

Online	\$720.20
Collection	\$8,225.00
Weekly Total	\$8,945.20

YTD Total	\$97,168.58
YTD Goal	\$113,092.00

YTD Difference......**\$15,923.42** 

# **Liturgy Intentions**

Sunday, December 17th, 11:00am +Dr. Thomas Rask Monday, December 18th Available Tuesday, December 19th Available Wednesday, December 20th Available Thursday, December 21st Available Friday, December 22nd Available Saturday, December 23rd Available Sunday, December 24th 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, December 17th Redmond Family Sunday, December 24th Available

### News | Events

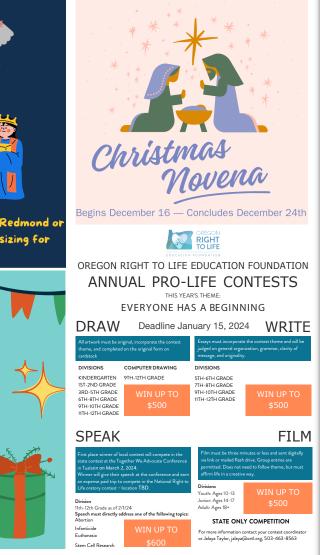
#### **Parish Council**

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





hristmas Eve Sunday, December 24, 2023 11am Sunday Mass – Genealogy Sunday

6pm Christmas Pageant – Vigil Immediately Following

Christmas Day Monday, December 25, 2023 11am – Mass

Feast of Circumcision Monday, January 1, 2024 11am – Mass

GOD BLESS YOU



### Maronite Young Adults (MYA)



MYA is a local chapter of a national Maronite organization for single and married men and women ages 19+

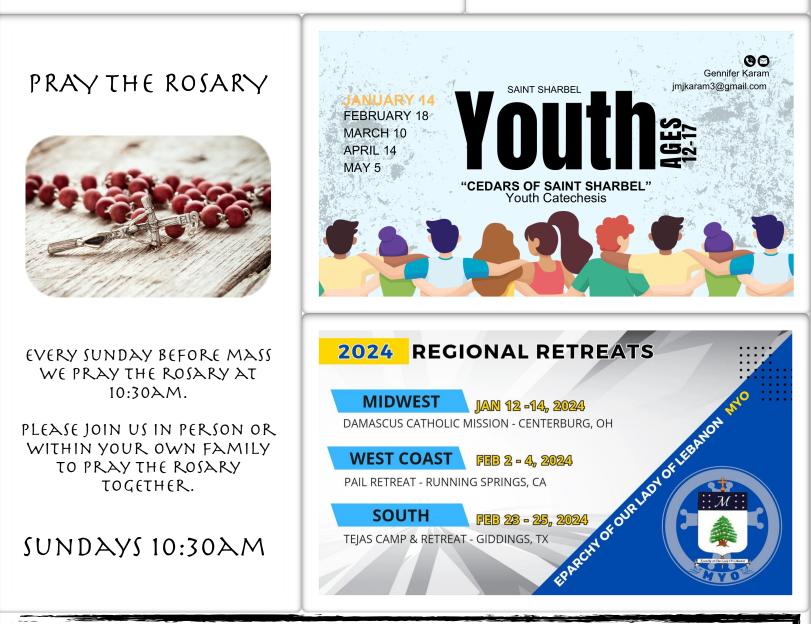
### NEXT MEETING: TBA

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

#### Wanted ONE Holy Hour per Week!



Contact Nadia Redmond 503-671-0440 -or-Email: <u>n.redmond@comcast.net</u> More info at: https://sevensistersapostolate.org/



## **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, <u>n.redmond@comcast.net</u>

Please continue to pray for our parish and ministries.



Everyone is familiar with the feeling of excitement while eagerly awaiting a guest we will be happy to see. There is a particular thrill to hospitality that our Middle Eastern culture knows very well, and, when particularly excited to receive a guest, we tell others of their future visit. The Old Testament in its entirety is that – the great anticipation of all the prophets, kings, and saints of God expressing their joy at the coming of their King, Jesus Christ, while making known the small glimpses the Holy Spirit gave them of Him. We may feel anxious waiting thirty minutes for a guest, but those saints of the Old Testament waited thousands of years.

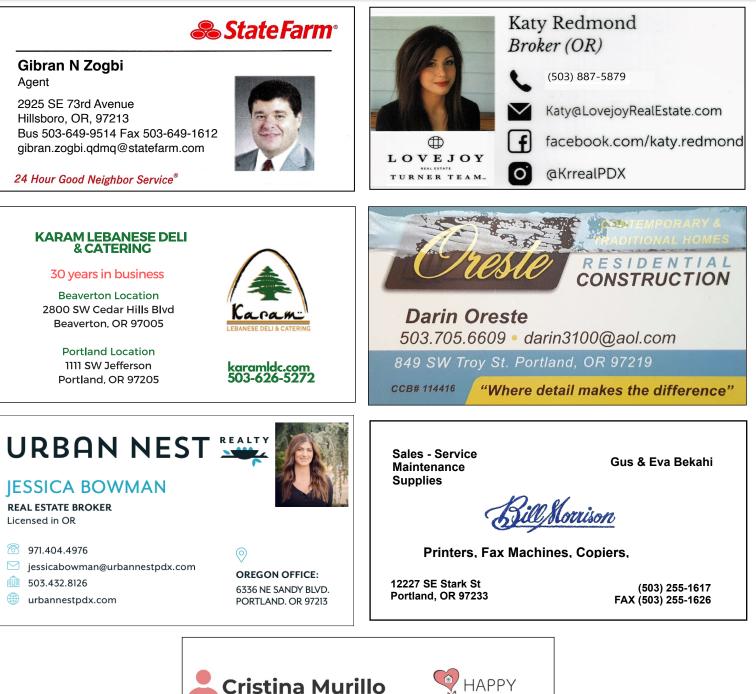
But the coming of Jesus is such an immense occasion, no one would have thought they would have lived to see it - and yet our eternal God, Jesus, entered into a particular time. It should be no surprise that Joseph, though a holy and righteous man, did not expect to be the foster father of God Himself. Today, we celebrate the last announcement Gabriel made known in this Season of Announcements before the birth of our Lord. As the Syriac Fathers tell us, the Ever-Virgin and Pure Mother of God, Mary, was slandered by her neighbors and friends as having conceived through adultery. Joseph, hearing this lie, saw his betrothed, who was a consecrated temple virgin, pregnant. Feeling hurt because he thought he had been betrayed, he was going to quietly break off the betrothal - Joseph thought he was being merciful, since Jewish Law prescribed execution to adulteresses (Lev. 20:10). Gabriel was sent by God, however, to inform Joseph that he was mistaken - Gabriel tells Joseph that Mary is the virgin whom Isaiah was awaiting when he said, "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel" (Is. 7:14). Joseph, being a just man, joined the thousands of years of saints awaiting the coming of God. The very title the prophet Isaiah foretells of Jesus bears testimony to both His divine nature and the excitement the prophets had to see Him - Emmanuel, God is with us. The title professes that Jesus is both truly God, and that He is truly amongst us by His taking flesh and becoming man. It is the title all the saints of old waited thousands of years to say, and it perfects God's desire for us to be near Him mentioned in the reflection for the Consecration of the Church.

What Joseph dreaded at first by his own misunderstanding became the greatest honor. The next time he was to pray the psalms of David in his prayers he would know that his son shall be the one whom "all kings shall fall down before" and "all nations give him service" (Ps. 72:14). And when Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem, and Mary gave birth to Jesus, suddenly the words of the prophet Micah made sense to him when he said, "O Bethlehem ...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days" (Mic. 5:2). Along with those few verses, all the Old Testament proved to Joseph, Mary, and those who knew that Jesus was the Lord that this is whom all generations awaited.

How blessed we are that as Christians we can say each day of our life "Emmanuel" – God is with us, both as a statement of fact by our union with Christ by our baptism and communion, as well as a promise that He shall come again. And we, as Christians, do not fear His coming. One might fear a thief from entering the house, but Jesus is our King and God, an honored and eagerly awaited guest. Let us prepare ourselves for His coming by doing what He has asked us through His Church, that way when He comes again – in the Eucharist at Mass, at the feast of Christmas, and, ultimately, at His Second Coming - we may proudly receive Him singing with Isaiah, "Emmanuel - God is with us!"

-Article Credit St. Rafka Parish

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