



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 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

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

Children's Christmas Eve Pageant

All children interested in participating—Please see Nadia Redmond or Eva Bekahi after Divine Liturgy this Sunday. Roles and sizing for costumes will be assigned.

you're invited to
Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 17th
Breakfast with Santa

Proceeds will support the church.

Menu: Eggs, Ham, Pita Bread, Olives, and Yogurt Spread.
(Gluten Free Options Available)

Following 11:00am Mass
St Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church
1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

Christmas Novena

Begins December 16 — Concludes December 24th



OREGON RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL PRO-LIFE CONTESTS

THIS YEAR'S THEME:

EVERYONE HAS A BEGINNING

DRAW Deadline January 15, 2024 **WRITE**

All artwork must be original, incorporate the contest theme, and completed on the original form on cardstock.

Essays must incorporate the contest theme and will be judged on general organization, grammar, clarity of message, and originality.

DIVISIONS

KINDERGARTEN
1ST-2ND GRADE
3RD-5TH GRADE
6TH-8TH GRADE
9TH-10TH GRADE
11TH-12TH GRADE

COMPUTER DRAWING

9TH-12TH GRADE

WIN UP TO
\$500

DIVISIONS

5TH-6TH GRADE
7TH-8TH GRADE
9TH-10TH GRADE
11TH-12TH GRADE

WIN UP TO
\$500

SPEAK

First place winner of local contest will compete in the state contest at the Together We Advocate Conference in Tualatin on March 2, 2024. Winner will give their speech at the conference and earn an expense paid trip to compete in the National Right to Life oratory contest - location TBD.

Division

11th-12th Grade as of 2/1/24

Speech must directly address one of the following topics:

Abortion

Infanticide

Euthanasia

Stem Cell Research

WIN UP TO
\$600

FILM

Film must be three minutes or less and sent digitally via link or mailed flash drive. Group entries are permitted. Does not need to follow theme, but must affirm life in a creative way.

Divisions

Youth: Ages 10-13
Junior: Ages 14-17
Adult: Ages 18+

WIN UP TO
\$500

STATE ONLY COMPETITION

For more information contact your contest coordinator or Jaleya Taylor, jaleya@ortl.org, 503-463-8563

Christmas 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

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: 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: 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

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.



Reflection

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

Bulletin Sponsors



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