



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

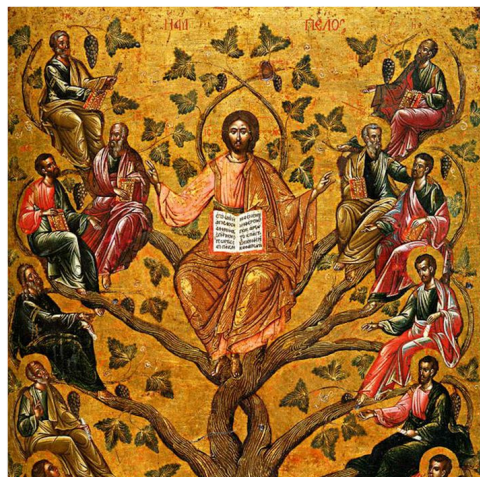
503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

December 24, 2023

Genealogy of Jesus



Next Sunday

Finding of the Lord in the Temple

Heb 7:11-19 (Melchizedek, a Type of Christ)

Lk 2:41-52 (The Boy Jesus in the Temple)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for December 10th - 16th

Online.....	\$968.00
Collection.....	\$1,294.00
Weekly Total.....	\$2,262.00
YTD Total.....	\$99,430.58
YTD Goal.....	\$115,400.00
YTD Difference.....	-\$15,969.42

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 24th, 11:00am

Unavailable

Monday, December 25th

Available

Tuesday, December 26th

For All the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, December 27th

Available

Thursday, December 28th

Available

Friday, December 29th

Available

Saturday, December 30th

Available

Sunday, December 31st

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 24th

Available

Sunday, December 31st

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



Sunday, December 24, 2023
6pm — Mass Immediately to Follow

For unto us
a child is born!



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
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.



Historically, the line of succession for a monarch is extremely important: a king's father should be a king, whose father was also a king or at least noble. It is no different in Middle Eastern culture – we often discuss people's family and their line of descent as saying something about who they are. For royal persons, the proof of their royalty was shown by their genealogy, the record of their family through generations. This week we read the genealogy of Jesus from the Gospel (Matt. 1:1-17).

But what exactly does the reading mean? One would guess that the Lord of All, our Almighty God, would have the most prestigious genealogy when He willed to become man. However, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, chose to make himself “nothing by taking the very nature of a servant” (Phil. 2:7). So that Christ might raise up our fallen nature, the Most High took the lowest and humblest place on Earth. He Who is robed in fire in the courts of heaven chose to be born in a cave and placed in a trough of animals wrapped in rags. And His genealogy attests to His own lowering of His Lordship to humility.

Rather than examining each and every person mentioned in the 42 generations, it serves to look at just one as an example: Rahab. Rahab is mentioned in the beginning of the Old Testament in the Book of Joshua when the Hebrews are trying to establish themselves as a nation. This descendent of Christ is explicitly mentioned to be a prostitute. Though He could have chosen to have only royal ancestors, God chose to enter into the entire lowliness of the human race that He might sanctify and purify it entirely. If one of us were to be told our ancestor was a prostitute we would likely be embarrassed – but our God has chosen to become a lowly man that He might allow us to participate in His divine nature (what Eastern Christianity calls divinization or *theosis*). Our Syriac Fathers emphasize often that the King of Kings, Jesus Christ, was not born to a great house but to a poor, young virgin, Mary, and Joseph, a working man. This is demonstrative of God's love for mankind, in that the Rich One would become poor to enrich us. When Christ became man, He united to His divinity to our humanity and therefore we were given access to His divinity. Our prayers for the Sunday Before Christmas recount this:

O Richest One, You became poor for our sake that You should make us rich. You dawned from the Holy Virgin and appeared in the world while legions of angels sang praises with their clamor on this day of Your birth, saying, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good hope to mankind.” O Lord, enrich us by the gift of Your divine graces and, with the heavenly hosts, may we offer glory and thanks to You, and to Your Father, and to Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen.

The Hidden One became manifest as man that we might not only see Him, but that we too might participate in the wealth of His holiness and immortality. Christ has come to save us, not because we did something to deserve His salvation but because of His gratuitous love.

By the descent of Christ, He has raised us up to be greater than the angels in that if we follow His will and receive what He has given us in His earthly dispensation we truly become the likeness of God as He made us (Gen. 1:27). Christ has suffered every abasement, condescension and abasement that He might lift us up from the shame of our sin to His own glory. Let us give thanks to Him in His humility and glorify Him for His love, which moved Him to elevate us by His birth.

Bulletin Sponsors



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Manager



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