



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

503.231.3853

[stsharbelpdx@gmail.com](mailto:stsharbelpdx@gmail.com)

[www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)

## December 3, 2023

Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth



Next Sunday

*Birth of John the Baptist*

Gal 4:21-5:1 (An Allegory on Christian Freedom)

Lk 1:57-66 (The Birth of John)

## Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for November 19th - December 2nd

Online.....\$643.00

Collection.....\$852.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,495.00

YTD Total.....\$86,067.88

YTD Goal.....\$108,476.00

YTD Difference.....-\$22,408.12

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 3rd, 11:00am

**+Chorbishop John Trad**

Monday, December 4th

*Available*

Tuesday, December 5th

*Available*

Wednesday, December 6th

*Available*

Thursday, December 7th

*Available*

Friday, December 8th

**Berna Sheehan on her birthday**

Saturday, December 9th

*Available*

Sunday, December 10th

**40 day Memorial +Agopos Ghosshein**

**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 3rd

*Available*

Sunday, December 10th

*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

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  
COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
9101 E BURNSIDE  
PORTLAND OR

To Register and follow  
event updates:



# SAVE THE DATE

**MYTH VS TRUTH IN THE PRO-LIFE DEBATE**



## Christmas Novena

Begins December 16, Concludes December 24th

MYO RETREAT  
**DONATIONS  
APPRECIATED**

Supporting our Youth  
Traveling to the MYO retreat  
in California!

Please Reach out to Gladys Allam



## SECOND COLLECTIONS

Next Collection:

**December  
3rd**

Maronite  
Patriarchal  
Charities

you're invited to  
**Breakfast with Santa**



Sunday  
December 17th

Breakfast with Santa  
@ St. Sharbel

Following Mass





# 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](mailto:Claude@trazzafoods.com)

## Wanted ONE Holy Hour per Week!



Contact Nadia Redmond  
503-671-0440

-or-

Email: [n.redmond@comcast.net](mailto: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

[jmjkaram3@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net)

Please continue to pray for our parish and ministries.



## Reflection

Today's Sunday follows the seasonal theme of announcements, but instead of a message from an angel this Sunday commemorates Mary, already pregnant with our Lord Jesus, visiting her cousin, Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist. Though the Gospel passage is fairly short the imagination of Syriac Fathers drove them to write much on the encounter because it conceals many truths about our faith in Christ. Many of the Syriac Fathers write about Mary "going in haste" (Luke 1:39) to Elizabeth because, for the sake of her virginal birth by the Holy Spirit, other women already gossiped against her and accused her of adultery. The holiest, purest, and most ideal servant of God being slandered should not be surprising – as Christ will later say, "blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me" (Matt. 5:11) because even He Himself knew that He would later suffer death at the hands of jealous slanderers for the truth. So why does Elizabeth bless Mary upon greeting her, and why does John leap for joy in Elizabeth's womb if others slander them?

The Syriac Aramaic verb *s'ar* means both to visit and to cure/make whole, and this is exactly the way the predecessors of our tradition would have seen the Visitation. All things have been created by God, and God wishes that we be united to Him. However, since Adam's transgression in the Garden and the various failures of Israel against the commands of God down through the ages there was damage done to the relationship between God and man. Humanity had become sick, progressively poisoned by continually choosing to drink the very sin that was poisoning it! Humanity chose sin again and again, which brought death as St. Paul tells us (Rom. 5:12). But in spite of our choice of sin, God made it clear that He does not rejoice in the death of a sinner (Ez. 18:23), and would not give up on humanity. As He tells us, He is life (John 14:6) because all existence comes from Him, and He wishes to raise all to life eternal. So Elizabeth and John rejoice for Life Himself, Christ our God, has visited them. By His very visitation, while carried in the womb of His mother, He brought them happiness for anyone who receives the Lord's presence is made whole and healed from sin for God Himself is Being and the Giver of All Good Things.

John, Christ's Herald, could see as a fetus in his mother's womb what the grown men of Jesus's time were blind to – that Christ is the Lord of All. It does not change once Christ is born, nor a grown man. Christ multiplied food for 5000 people, made the blind see, made the paralyzed walk, and still certain people at His time accused Him of being a servant of Satan (Matt. 12:24). It was false reasoning that led those to denounce Christ, whereas even a child in the womb could plainly see that He is God. So we too must decide whether we will reject Christ and His servants, or acknowledge Him and welcome Life Himself into our lives. Who wishes to visit us and bring us to Himself in life eternal. If we choose the latter in sincerity, we can pray with confidence in Christ:

Transcendent, hidden and incomprehensible God, in Your dispensation You dwelt in the Virgin Mary for our salvation and visited in Your caring Your Herald in the barren and sterile womb of old Elizabeth; now visit/heal our souls and bodies, which have fallen into sin, by Your divine assistances, and sanctify our spirits by Your holiness that we may excellently and holily give thanks to You for Your graces towards us, and we may worship and glorify You, and Your Father, and Your living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (Trans. from the Maronite Evening Prayer for the Visitation)

—Article Credit St. Rafka Parish



# Bulletin Sponsors



## Gibran N Zogbi

Agent

2925 SE 73rd Avenue  
Hillsboro, OR, 97213  
Bus 503-649-9514 Fax 503-649-1612  
gibran.zogbi.qdmq@statefarm.com



24 Hour Good Neighbor Service®

## KARAM LEBANESE DELI & CATERING

30 years in business

Beaverton Location  
2800 SW Cedar Hills Blvd  
Beaverton, OR 97005

Portland Location  
1111 SW Jefferson  
Portland, OR 97205



karamldc.com  
503-626-5272



## Katy Redmond Broker (OR)



(503) 887-5879



Katy@LovejoyRealEstate.com



facebook.com/katy.redmond



@KrrrealPDX

LOVEJOY  
REAL ESTATE  
TURNER TEAM

CONTEMPORARY & TRADITIONAL HOMES

# Oreste

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

**Darin Oreste**  
503.705.6609 • darin3100@aol.com  
849 SW Troy St. Portland, OR 97219  
CCB# 114416 "Where detail makes the difference"

## URBAN NEST REALTY

### JESSICA BOWMAN

REAL ESTATE BROKER  
Licensed in OR



971.404.4976  
jessicabowman@urbannestpdx.com  
503.432.8126  
urbannestpdx.com



OREGON OFFICE:  
6336 NE SANDY BLVD.  
PORTLAND, OR 97213

Sales - Service  
Maintenance  
Supplies

Gus & Eva Bekahi

*Bill Morrison*

Printers, Fax Machines, Copiers,

12227 SE Stark St  
Portland, OR 97233

(503) 255-1617  
FAX (503) 255-1626

## Want to Advertise Your Business?

Contact **Nisreen Mouammar** to set up  
your advertisement today!

nisreen.mouammar@gmail.com