



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 31, 2023

Finding of the Lord in the Temple



Next Sunday

Glorious Epiphany of Our Lord

Ti 2:11-37 (Transformation of Life)

Lk 3:15-22 (The Baptism of Jesus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for December 17th - 23rd

Online.....\$643.00

Collection.....\$1,294.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,937.00

YTD Total.....\$101,367.58

YTD Goal.....\$117,708.00

YTD Difference.....-\$16,340.42

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 31st, 11:00am

Unavailable

Monday, January 1st

Available

Tuesday, January 2nd

Available

Wednesday, January 3rd

Available

Thursday, January 4th

Available

Friday, January 5th

Available

Saturday, January 6th

Available

Sunday, January 7th

+Marie and Wadih Germanos

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 31st

Available

Sunday, January 7th

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:



MYTH VS TRUTH IN THE PRO-LIFE DEBATE

SAVE THE DATE



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

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 Jalaya Taylor, jalaya@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



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

SAINT SHARBEL

Youth AGES 12-17

JANUARY 14
FEBRUARY 18
MARCH 10
APRIL 14
MAY 5

"CEDARS OF SAINT SHARBEL"
Youth Catechesis

Gennifer Karam
jmjkaram3@gmail.com

A colorful illustration of a group of diverse youth standing in a circle, viewed from behind, with their arms around each other in a supportive gesture.

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:

JANUARY 21, 2024 — Right after Mass
We will be discussing the final rule, rule 14 of St Ignatius on
descendant of spirits.

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

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.



Christmas seems to be the most joyous time of the year, and rightfully so as we celebrate the day our Lord Jesus Christ came into the world in His love to save us. It is interesting to ask, why, then, do we celebrate two dark events the week of Christmas – the martyrdom of St. Stephen, the first martyr (Dec. 27) and the Holy Innocents, slain by King Herod (Dec. 29)? Why would we celebrate two feasts about death during the same period we celebrate the birth of God as a man? The answer to the “why” can be found in looking exactly “what” both feasts are.

St. Stephen’s feast comes two days after Christmas every year. He was one of the men appointed to be a deacon by the Apostles. In Acts 7, St. Stephen recounts how God has always guided His people, as Pope Benedict XVI says, to prove how Jesus Christ is the completion of God’s plan of salvation for all He has done for us. The Jewish Sanhedrin, or council of leaders, was enraged by this, as well as the rest of his preaching of Christ, and they had him stoned to death. But, imitating Christ’s own words on Good Friday during His crucifixion, St. Stephen prayed that God receive his spirit and forgive those who killed him. As such, St. Stephen is known as the first martyr (coming from the Greek word witness) to the faith of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Innocents, then, are considered in their own way to also be first martyrs. As Matthew writes in the second chapter of his record of the Gospel, Herod met the Magi before they made it to the Christ Child and so he heard the King of the Jews had been born. King Herod feared that such a king should be born in his jurisdiction and threaten his own rule, so he commanded that all boys in Bethlehem under the age of two be killed so as to kill Christ. Jesus, Mary and Joseph successfully fled to Egypt to avoid Herod’s persecution, but unfortunately Herod slaughtered many children. The Maronite Office likens Herod to the Pharaoh in Exodus: Two Kings traveled on two paths: they made war against infants. Pharaoh, the wicked king, and Herod, hater of truth. Pharaoh drowned infants to lessen the children of Israel and Herod killed youths for he willed to kill the Lord of All. Woe to both of them for they fought against truth. Behold, they [the children] were made heirs of the Garden of Eden, and torment is reserved for the kings.

Why, then, do we celebrate the death of saints so near to the birth of Christ? In both their own ways, St. Stephen and the Holy Innocents were martyred (that is, witnessed) for Christ, Who is the Truth – St. Stephen in his words, and the Holy Innocents in the purity of their being. Because of their witness, they are known as the first martyrs. But by witnessing to Christ, they did not die. They were killed in body, but as the prayer above says, “They were made heirs of the Garden of Eden” while those who persecuted them will receive torment. As we reflected last week, by Christ’s birth He has united His divinity to our humanity. Those who witness to Him will receive life eternal in heaven, even if they should be killed – as Christ Himself says, “Whoever loses their life for me will find it” (Matt. 16:25). Christ was killed on Good Friday but He rose on Easter Sunday because He Himself is life – and He has united His life to those are Christian.

Each of us who call ourselves Christian must witness to Christ. Certainly only a few are called to physically die in profession of Christ, but persecution comes to all Christians, in one form or another. We are called to profess Christ in all we do for, as Christ has told us, “My Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day” (John 6:40). After the Birth of Our Lord in the flesh, we celebrate St. Stephen and the Holy Innocents’ entrance into eternal life through the same Lord – may their prayers be a rampart to us.

Bulletin Sponsors



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Manager



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