



# 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)

## January 7, 2023

### Glorious Epiphany of Our Lord



**Next Sunday**

**2nd Sunday of Epiphany**

**2 Cor 4:5-15** (The Paradox of the Ministry)

**Jn 1:35-42** (First Disciples)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for December 24th - 31st*

### END OF YEAR TOTALS

Online.....\$5,821.50

Collection.....\$3,337.00

Weekly Total.....\$9,158.50

YTD Total.....\$110,526.08

YTD Goal.....\$120,016.00

YTD Difference.....-\$9,489.92

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 7th, 11:00am

**+Marie and Wadih Germanos**

Monday, January 8th

*Available*

Tuesday, January 9th

*Available*

Wednesday, January 10th

*Available*

Thursday, January 11th

*Available*

Friday, January 12th

*Available*

Saturday, January 13th

*Available*

Sunday, January 14th

**+Kameel Mouammar**

**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, January 7th

*Available*

Sunday, January 14th

*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

## End-of-Year Giving Letters

Letters will be going out over the next two weeks for your Sunday giving amounts to the Parish. If you have moved or changed addresses this year, please email and let us know your correct address.

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



## 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 Jalaya Taylor, [jalaya@ortl.org](mailto:jalaya@ortl.org), 503-463-8563

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

With Permission from the Eparchy...

## FEAST OF EPIPHANY

Will be celebrated  
Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 11am

# Parish Programs



**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**

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

An illustration of a group of diverse youth, including boys and girls of various ethnicities, standing in a circle with their arms around each other. They are wearing colorful clothing. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net)

Please continue to pray for our parish and ministries.





## Reflection

This Sunday we celebrate the great feast of the Epiphany. While the Latin Church now remembers the Magi visiting the new born Christ on this feast, we have kept the ancient purpose of celebrating the baptism of Christ in the Jordan at the hands of John the Baptist. It might appear to come randomly after our Lord's birth at first, but the celebration is an ancient one already recorded in the year 200. It purposefully follows after Christmas for the reason why we call it *Denho* in Syriac.

Our tradition calls the feast of the Epiphany *Denho* in Syriac, which is the same word for the dawning of the sun. The Syriac Fathers use the word often referring to both Christ's first coming when He was born a child, and His second coming when He will descend from heaven at the end of time. It is appropriate since Christ is called the Light Who has shone on us in the darkness of sin (cf. Is. 9:2, John 1:9). The name is reference to the prophet Zechariah as recorded in its unique Syriac form, "Thus the Lord Almighty says, 'Behold a man, and His name is Dawn (*Denho*), and He shall dawn from below and build the Temple of the Lord.'" This prophet foretells, as many of the prophets, the coming of Jesus Christ, for as St. Paul said, "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son... The Son is the radiance of God's glory" (Heb. 1:1-3).

The Light which has dawned on us on Christmas has once again dawned on the feast of the *Denho* (dawn). Christ is the darkness Who wished to chase away the darkness from our lives and bring us into His divine light. He saw us, His image, had become tarnished by sin and wished we have life rather than the death of sin. In His love, Christ chose to lower His Highness to save us – He lowered Himself in His birth, in His baptism and on the cross. Each time, Jesus Christ had no requirement or compulsion other than His love for mankind. On Christmas, Jesus, God Almighty and Ancient of Days, become a newborn, dependent baby to what had fallen into the corruption of sin, our human nature, and give us His immortal, divine nature. By His cross, He again took what was the result of our sin, suffering, and gave us what was His – His body and blood to eat and drink for the remission of sin and eternal life. And His baptism is no different – though He is sinless, the Creator lowered Himself to be baptized in the very water He created to wash things that He might bless it for baptism.

Jesus Christ chose water for baptism because it shows the superabundance of His mercy – it is common, essential and life-giving. Just as He started creation in Genesis with His Spirit over the waters (Gen. 1:2) so too did He start the re-creation of the fallen image by Spirit and water again (Luke 3:22) that all might have access to this source of renewal. By Christ's baptism, He has given us the sacrament of baptism to enter into His mystical body and begin a new life in Him. This is what Zechariah means when he says Christ will build the Temple of the Lord regarding this great feast, for as St. Paul tells us, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own" (1 Cor. 6:19). It is precisely through baptism, which Christ has given us that we become temples of the same Spirit that first animated us. Christ is the Light Who has dawned upon us, filling us with His Spirit and revealing to us His Hidden Father.

Let us implore the Lord Who has come and saved us in His abundant mercy:

O God the Word, Who was revealed and made known by the prophets, mystically spoken of through their words, and Who came and fulfilled their parables, illumine us, Your servants, by the light of Your divine baptism. Renew us by Your Holy Spirit that with perfect renewal of soul and body we may feast this glorious and holy feast, the illuminator of our souls, now and at all times, forever. Amen.



# Bulletin Sponsors



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