



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

February 11, 2024

Entrance Into Lent: Miracle at Cana



Next Sunday

Healing of the Leper

Rom 6:12-23 (Freedom from Sin/Life in God)

Mk 1:35-43 (Jesus Leaves Capernaum/The Cleansing of a Leper)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for January 28th- February 3rd

Online.....\$763.00

Collection.....\$334.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,097.00

YTD Total.....\$5,549.20

YTD Goal.....\$11,540.00

YTD Difference.....-\$5,990.80

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 11th, 11:00am

+Richard Allam Sr. (40 Day Memorial Mass)

Monday, February 12th

Available

Tuesday, February 13th

Available

Wednesday, February 14th

Available

Thursday, February 15th

Available

Friday, February 16th

Available

Saturday, February 17th

Available

Sunday, February 18th

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

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, February 11th

Available

Sunday, February 18th

Redmond Family

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

ASH MONDAY

February 12, 2024

@7:00PM

Fr Freddy Ocun will be the celebrant

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March 24: Palm Sunday

Hosanna Sunday (Shaneenee) — 11:00am

Procession to follow with the distribution of Palms.

*Confessions will be heard **before** Mass only*

Breakfast and Egg Hunt after Mass

March 28: Holy Thursday

Institution of the Eucharist (Mass/Qurbono) — 7pm

Washing of the Apostles Feet

Confessions will be heard before/after the Holy Mysteries

March 29: Great Friday

Burial Procession (Zeeyah) — No Eucharist — 7pm

Commemoration of the Burial of our Lord

No confessions available in the evening

March 30: Saturday of Holy Week

Morning Service — 11am

Rite of Forgiveness (General Absolution)

No individual confessions available

Night of Vigil Easter

Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord (Mass/Qurbono) — 9pm

Followed by Rite of Peace and Procession

No individual confessions available

March 31: Easter Sunday

Sunday of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord — 11am

No Procession, Mass

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JOIN US ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 AT 10 AM



INFORMATION SESSION

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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

"CEDARS OF SAINT SHARBEL"
Youth Catechesis

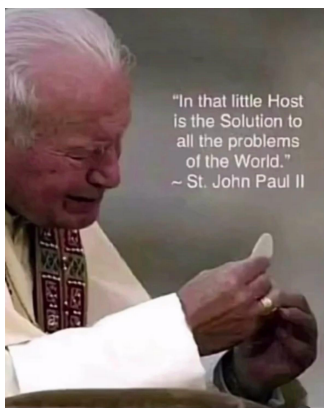
FEBRUARY 18
MARCH 10
APRIL 14
MAY 5

Gennifer Karam
jmkaram3@gmail.com

An illustration of a group of diverse youth, seen from behind, standing in a circle with their arms around each other. They are wearing various colored shirts (yellow, green, blue, pink, etc.).

Maronite Young Adults (MYA)

MYA is a local chapter of a national Maronite organization for single and married men and women ages 19+



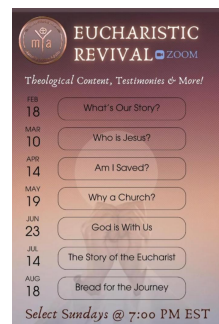
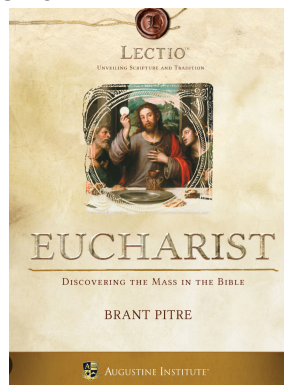
NEXT MEETING:

February 25

Watch the first video in the series and be prepared to discuss at the meeting



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.



A great banquet requires great planning. Anyone who hosts guests knows the anxiety of arranging a perfect party. In today's reading from Gospel, Jesus saves the hosting couple from utter embarrassment at their own wedding when they run out of wine – the main drink of the day. In His mercy, Christ performs His first miracle by turning six huge jars of water into wine – and not just any wine, but the best vintage. While it might seem strange that we commemorate a party before the start of the fasting of Lent it is no accident. The following Sundays of the Lent all commemorate the merciful acts of our Lord, the Lover of Mankind, on those whom He takes pity (such as the Leper next week, Mark 1:35-43). Each merciful act of Christ in healing the sick and suffering reveals to humanity that He is the Divine Physician Who has come to heal our souls and bodies. But all this climaxes with a banquet. Before His passion He gave us His body and blood, which truly given when crucified and shed the following day, at the Last Supper – a banquet. The banquet at Cana points us to what to await at the end of Lent – the commemoration of Christ, Life Himself, giving us the flesh of life at His banquet. And these two banquets point to the ultimate banquet in the resurrected glory of Easter at the end of time in heaven, which we celebrated at the Consecration of the Church, for the Church is the wedding party preparing for the banquet. For this reason, before we begin fasting we recall the banquet of Cana, which Christ gave us as a foreshadowing.

When we receive an invitation to a party we make sure not to fill up on junk food that day. In fact, sometimes we do not eat so that we can eat more delicious food at the banquet. Similarly, in the spiritual life we must prepare for the banquet of Holy Thursday, Easter, and the end of time to enjoy it properly with Christ. If we fill our souls with junk food pleasures of this world to fulfill our immediate desires, like Adam in the Garden eating the apple, we have less room for God. This is why Christ has given us a powerful means of preparing spiritually, which we traditionally associate with Lent – fasting. If Adam had fasted, he would not have transgressed the commandment of God when tempted by Satan. Christ shows us, when He fasts and is tempted by Satan, that He triumphs over him (Matt. 4:1-11). Fasting controls our passions, and is an imperative of Christ, which He reminds will be rewarded by the Father (Matt. 6:18).

In the pastoral care of the Church, the canonical obligation of fasting is not regularly required (i.e. it is not a mortal sin if you do not fast), but it is also not required to bring armor to battle, and as the Syriac Father Aphrahat tells us fasting is "Accounted like treasure in heaven. It is armor against the Evil One, and a shield against the Enemy's arrows" (On Fasting). Fasting is an integral part of our tradition for thousands of years because of the spiritual assistance it grants. One should try to do as much as they healthily can. According to the Maronite tradition, fasting is not eating until noon Monday through Friday, followed by two meals of just what one needs to eat, and it excludes animal products (meats/fish with a spine, dairy, egg) and alcohol. It is daunting at first but one must remember it is for one's preparation to receive the Risen Christ and the Kingdom. Of course, our tradition is also very sensible – we are not legalists, but adherents to the Spirit. If this fast is too much, one should ask their priest how they can make it more manageable – perhaps try just Wednesday and Friday this Lent or abstaining from meat. But the important thing to remember is that it is not an athletic competition to see how much we can not eat, but preparation for Christ's coming, both back from the dead at Easter and on the last day.

But fasting does not just include not eating. St. Isaac of Nineveh reminds us there are spirits besides angels that do not eat but they also do not pray – demons. Fasting is an opportunity to remove the junk food from our lives during a fasting period to focus better on the spiritual life. If one, for instance, does do the fast above they could replace breakfast with praying a couple psalms from the Book of Psalms. Ultimately, we must prepare our whole selves for Christ, not just our stomachs. Aphrahat, once again, says that your body, which is a temple of God, has one doorway through which the King Jesus Christ enters for communion. A man would not drag manure and trash out the door a king will enter – likewise, as we fast, we must strive to fast from all sorts of hateful language, gossip, and trouble-making for our Lord said, "That which enters man does not defile him but what comes out of him from the mouth defiles him" (Matt. 15:11).

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