



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

March 3, 2024

Parable of the Prodigal Son



Next Sunday

Healing of the Paralytic

1 Tm 5:24-6:5 (False Teaching and True Wealth)

Mk 2:1-12 (The Healing of a Paralytic)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, March 3rd, 11:00am

Available

Monday, March 4th

Available

Tuesday, March 5th

Available

Wednesday, March 6th

Available

Thursday, March 7th

Available

Friday, March 8th

Available

Saturday, March 9th

Available

Sunday, March 10th

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.

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for February 18th - 24th

Online.....\$643.00

Collection.....\$431.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,074.00

YTD Total.....\$9,821.90

YTD Goal.....\$18,464.00

YTD Difference.....-\$8,642.10

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, March 3rd

Available

Sunday, March 10th

Available

Parish Council

Chair: Lydia Massaad

Sara 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 National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM)
Presents*

*The 32nd Annual Spring Raffle - 2022
Only 450 Tickets are printed
Donation: \$100 per ticket*

This just may be the year your lucky number is chosen!!!!

Cash Prizes!!!

1st \$10,000.00
2nd \$3,000.00
3rd \$2,000.00
4th \$1,500.00
5th \$1,000.00

This year's drawing will be held on **April 14, 2024** at Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Washington, D.C.;

Thank you for your support in previous years for this raffle fund-raiser, as it is an important part of the NAM annual budget. We are counting on your generosity once again, to support our community projects.

To purchase a personal ticket(s), your parish NAM Delegates have 4 tickets to sell, please contact Nadia Redmond at 503-671-0440 or email: n.redmond@comcast.net

All requests and payments must be received by **March 17, 2024**.

www.namnews.org

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays During Lent @7:00PM

Questions to Gibran or Ben

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March 24: Palm Sunday

Hosanna Sunday (Shaneene) — 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

Signing of the Chalice — Pre-Sanctified Liturgy — 11am

Confessions available before of after by request

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

Welcome BACK!

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Manakish (Za'atar) — Oregano, Cheese and Meat

To Welcome Back Abouna!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING



MARCH 3, 2024

Will take place directly after mass

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/>

MYO EVENTS

Friday, March 8th @5:45pm

MYO Meeting in the basement for meatless meal, games, and Praise and Worship music before Stations of the Cross.

All Youth ages 13-18 are welcome!

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



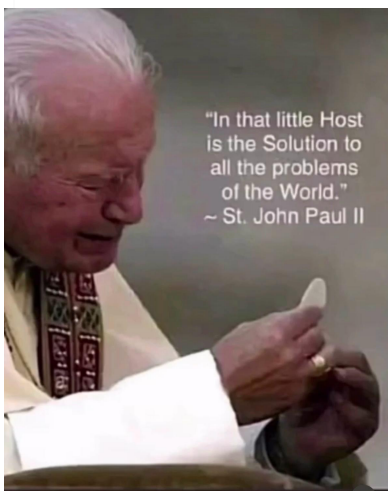
Cedars of St. Sharbel Youth Catechesis Ages 12-17

To sign up, contact Gennifer Karam jmkaram3@gmail.com

March 10 - Mental Health and Faith
w/guest speaker

April 14 - Love and Responsibility

TBA - Final Meeting Before Summer




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

**EUCCHARISTIC
REVIVAL** 

Theological Content, Testimonies & More!

FEB 18	What's Our Story?
MAR 10	Who is Jesus?
APR 14	Am I Saved?
MAY 19	Why a Church?
JUN 23	God is With Us
JUL 14	The Story of the Eucharist
AUG 18	Bread for the Journey

Select Sundays @ 7:00 PM EST

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.



When we view a conflict in hindsight we often think about the gravity of the offense – what was done, how much damage was caused, who was hurt. And we should be mindful of the effects of our offenses, especially when they are sins directed at God. In today's Gospel, we see the Prodigal Son makes clear that he wished his father was dead, asking for his inheritance in advance and then going away to waste it all – truly a serious offense. In the Parable of the Prodigal Son it would seem that the Prodigal Son deserves nothing but punishment in our estimation of justice and rightfully so – previously he could not have cared about his father or family and left to enjoy himself, only to return when things went wrong. But the offense of this misbehaving son only receives a couple verses out of the entire story, and Christ does this one purpose. The story of salvation is not focused on the offenses of humanity against God, though great they may be, but on the infinite generosity of God's mercy to the contrite person.

Why does Christ present us with this parable, and why does the Maronite Church read it during the Fast of Lent? Sin is our death, and every time we stray towards sin we choose our own interests in spite of the abundant generosity of God – essentially saying we care that God neither lives nor dies, but we shall go our own way from the generous Father to see to our own lives. But it is not simply enough to react to sin, and to disavow sin; if we are reacting to sin, sin remains the center of our lives. The way to return back from death to life is through Life Himself, our Lord, who said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). The means to return to Christ is through constant repentance from our sin. When the older son is outraged that the father so warmly greeted the Prodigal, he responds, "We had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again" (Luke 15:32) reminiscent of when God spoke through the prophet Ezekiel, "For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God. Repent and live!" (Ez. 18:32).

Repentance is not to despair in our depraved we are because of our sins, but the acknowledgment of how much greater God is than our sin and His ability to wipe them away. Sin and death killed Adam in the Garden, but, by His cross, our Lord killed sin and death. If He did not intend to make available for us the forgiveness of sins, He would not have taught us in the Our Father to say, "Forgive us our trespasses" (Matt. 6:12). But Christ in His infinite mercy has made forgiveness available to those who simply and sincerely ask for it, in spite of their offense like the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

But how can we repay God for all He has given us in His generosity? Just like the Prodigal Son, we cannot now nor ever repay Him, but the first step begins with trying not to repeat the repayable offense – not because our relationship with God is some kind of transaction, but because we love God and do not wish to repeatedly harm those we love. By Christ's live, death and resurrection, He destroyed the sin we could never overcome ourselves. But out of our love, though our praise or fasting adds nothing to His greatness, we must offer Him our best, just like the widow who deposits the two coins in the Temple and her offering is more pleasing to God than the large donations of the wealthy (Luke 21:1-4).

God has no need for our fasting nor is He magnified by our praise, but we offer both of these during Lent because, like a child making gifts for his parents from construction paper of little monetary value, we love the Lord and He loves us. Let all we do be for the reunification with the generous father who welcomes us prodigal sons back in spite of our offenses.

Bulletin Sponsors



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