

February 5, 2017
Commemoration of the Priests



Next Sunday is the Commemoration of the
Righteous & the Just
Heb 12:18-24 (Penalties of Disobedience)
Mt 25:31-46 (The Judgement of the Nations)

Saint Sharbel
Maronite Catholic Church



Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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on the web: www.stsharbel.org

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 5th, 10:30 am
+Manne Atie

Monday, February 6th
Available Intention

Tuesday, February 7th
Available Intention

Wednesday, February 8th
Available Intention

Thursday, February 9th
Available Intention

Friday, February 10th
Available Intention

Saturday, February 11th
Available Intention

Sunday, February 12th
Available Intention

*Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 9:00
am before the morning Liturgy.*

*Confession every Sunday at 9:15 am before
the morning Liturgy.*

*Also join us to pray the Rosary on Sundays at
10:00 am before the Liturgy begins.*

Altar Flowers

Sunday, February 5th
Nadia Redmond & Family

Sunday, February 12th
Available

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD

If we belong to God, it's logical that everything we have truly belongs to Him!

Offering Report for January 23rd-29th

General Collection.....\$1,790.00

Projected Weekly Amount

Required to Meet Budget.....\$2,307.00

Difference.....-\$517.00

St Sharbels wants to remind you about electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account [**or processed using your credit or debit card**]*. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. This helps us be good stewards, as the bills come even when we aren't able to be at church due to life's challenges.

You are in complete control of the giving, you simply go to the website and it walks you through things. The best option for the church is when your gift comes from your checking account because it costs nearly nothing. There are about 8-10 families giving this way, and very helpful for a number of reasons.

Of course we are so grateful for all your gifts to God. We each have time, treasure and talents that are given to us by the Lord, and which we are able to offer back to Him through His church on earth. I am so proud of all that you do for St Sharbel's. We are a small but mighty parish, mighty because of our reliance on God.

LOCAL EVENTS

2/8 National Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking: The U.S.



Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Migration designated February 8 as an annual day of prayer for survivors and victims of human trafficking. February 8 is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy.

Once Josephine was freed, she dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. How can I help? Visit www.usccb.org/stopslavery to learn more about how to identify a potential victim and what you can do to help.

2/5 Human Trafficking Silent Prayer Vigil: St. Andre Bessette Catholic Church, 601 West Burnside Street, Portland, Sunday, February 5, from 11:15-11.45 PM. Please join together to pray for victims and an end to human trafficking.

2/11 Nationwide Defund Planned Parenthood Rally in Portland

When: Saturday, February 11, 10 – 11:30 am

Where: Planned Parenthood, 3727 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd in Portland

More Info: Contact Therese Ruesink at [503 997 1884](tel:5039971884) or ruesinktherese@comcast.net

2/12 Monthly Prayers for Life: There will be a prayer service including the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the culture of life at St. Agatha's Catholic Church next Sunday, February 12, at 1:00 PM. St. Agatha's is located at 7960 SE 15th Avenue, Portland. If you would like a ride, please call Sharon at [503-675-1874](tel:5036751874).

PARISH EVENTS

Feast of St. Maron/Profession of Solemn Vows

We will celebrate the Feast of St. Maron this year with the Monks of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as Abouna Decker, the Prior of the Order, accepts the Final Vows of Monk John Michael.

The Mass will be celebrated at **Our Lady of Peace Chapel**
3600 SW 170th Ave., Beaverton, OR 97003.



ABOUNA'S CORNER

SUNDAY OF THE PRIESTS
(Sharing in the High Priesthood of Christ)

1 Timothy 4: 6 - 16 / Luke 12: 42 - 48

On this Sunday, we the Church and her children, celebrate the memory of all the departed bishops and their assistants the priests, who have shared in the service of the priesthood of Christ and served their people well. They are called *Good Shepherds*, like Jesus himself, and who cared deeply for their flock. Now in her prayers, the Church, remembers them during this season of light, Epiphany, and prays for them with gratitude.

The Letter to the Hebrews reveals *Christ as the High Priest* who opens the Sanctuary of God, once and for all, for all humanity to enter. He has become *the bridge* who links God's heart with our hearts, so that through him, mercy and grace may flow freely between humanity and divinity. This is what our priests do every Sunday: they invoke and open this channel of divine grace – through Christ who opens for us and shares with us his divine priesthood.

The priesthood of Christ is exemplified in our bishops, the descendants of the Apostles of Christ, and in the ordained priests of our communities. As we look forward to a visit from our bishop or to new and upcoming ordinations which will occur in the Eparchy this year (including the Ordination of Brother John Michael) we are reminded by the Scriptures of this special *gift* of priesthood as a *manifestation of Jesus Christ's presence among us*. This gift of priesthood is one of the many gifts that we share as we bear Christ's light in us and among us: *Emanuel (God is with us!)*

Our Scripture readings today show us how this gift, of the laying of hands over the head of the one ordained, is a special gift sanctified by the Apostolic Church: so that the graces of God's sacraments may flow freely through the ordained. The priest becomes the *Steward of Christ* who gives his people their *bread from heaven* in due time for sustenance through his divine power.

And now as we pray in thanksgiving for this wonderful gift of the priesthood, and the service of the shepherds – bishops and priests of the past – let us also pray for the priests and shepherds of the future, that this service may not be rationed through shortages in vocations. Let us do whatever we can to encourage our priests and those in ministry for greater dedication, as our service to Christ himself: the Lamb of God's love and the High Priest of all bishops and priests.



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