



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

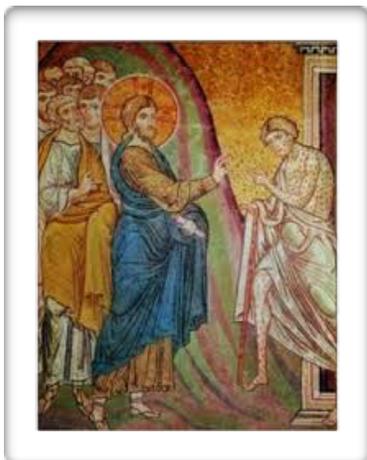
1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

March 5, 2017 Cleansing of the Leper



Next Sunday is Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman

2Cor 7:4-11(*Call to Holiness/Paul's Joy in Macedonia*)

Lk 8:40-56(*Jairus's Daughter and the Women with a Hemorrhage*)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, March 5th, 10:30 am

+ Laure Haecem

offered by the Massaad Family

Monday, March 6th

Available Intention

Tuesday, March 7th

Available Intention

Wednesday, March 8th

Stewart Family

Thursday, March 9th

Available Intention

Friday, March 10th

Available Intention

Saturday, March 11th

Available Intention

Sunday, March 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

Your Gifts To God

“God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Offering Report for February 19th- February 26th

Online.....\$1,273.00

Collection.....\$ 438.00

Projected Weekly Amount

Required to Meet Budget.....\$1,846.00

Difference.....-\$135.00

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, March 5th

Available

Sunday, March 12th

Available

Parish Events

LENTEN/HOLY WEEK 2017 REMINDERS

People focus on fasting and it's important. As a reminder, the Most Reverend Bishops Elias Zaidan and Gregory Mansour have previously issued the following Lenten guidelines for the Maronites of the U.S.:

- All Maronites over the age of 14, who are physically capable, are to **abstain** from meat on Ash Monday and all Fridays of Lent.
- Ash Monday and the Great Friday of the Crucifixion are also days of **fasting**. Fasting in the Maronite Church involves eating and drinking nothing at all (except water and medicine) from midnight until noon. The rest of the day normal meals can be taken, but without meat. All Maronites who are physically capable are to fast on these two days.

To say it another way:

- Ash Monday – fast until noon, then no meat
- All Fridays during Lent – abstain from meat, no fasting required
- Good Friday – fast until noon, then no meat

Abstinence means no eating of meat. Fasting means no food or beverage (except for water) between 12 Midnight to 12 Noon. Those over 60, and those with any medical condition or illness where fasting is deleterious are dispensed from this obligation, as are those who are required to perform strenuous labor. (As a reminder, each Sunday during Lent is a celebration of the Resurrection and isn't therefore Lent, so any things you have give up for Lent are properly set aside on Sundays).

But there is more than fasting! Great Lent is a time of prayer, penance, and change of heart; turning from sin and facing the Lord. Fasting and abstinence are part of the larger program we are encouraged to engage in during Lent. All parishioners are encouraged to seek Sacrament of Reconciliation at some point before Easter Sunday. You are encouraged to give to those less fortunate, either through the second collection for Bishop's charity or to individuals or organizations.

2017 LENTEN APPEAL

Eparchy of our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

The Bishop's Annual Appeal is conducted each year during Lent to ask for support for the most urgent needs in the Eparchy. Your gifts for this year's Annual Appeal will be allocated amongst several needs. You can read further on the ministries in the separate Lenten Appeal attachment.

Please make your gift to the Annual Appeal through your local parish. You may make it in a special envelope noted "Bishop's Appeal," or by noting it on your check. You may also make your donation online at www.eparchy.org.

Bishop Elias asks for you to generously give of your Time, Talent and Treasure:

Time: Volunteer your time for the Church.

Talent: Use the talents God has given you for the Church.

Treasure: Share your financial resources with the Church.



The National Apostolate of Maronites
Presents

The 25th Annual Spring Raffle - 2017

Only 400 Tickets are printed

Donation: \$100 per ticket

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

\$17,500.00 In Cash Prizes!!!

1st Prize \$10,000.00

2nd Prize \$3,000.00

3rd Prize \$2,000.00

4th Prize \$1,500.00

5th Prize \$1,000.00

Only 400 Tickets Printed - \$100 Each

This year's drawing will be held on **April 30rd, 2017** at

Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Lombard, IL

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) or to help us in selling tickets
please contact the National Office.

All requests and payments must be received by **April 23rd, 2017.**

For further information or to reserve tickets, please:

Mike J. Naber

Executive Director

NAM

P.O. Box 717

Yonkers, NY 10702

914-964-3070 phone, 914-964-3071 fax

OR

[Click here](#)

ABOUNA'S CORNER

CLEANSING OF THE LEPER

Mk 1:35-45

On this Sunday, in our Maronite prayers, Our Lord is referred to as the Physician of our souls and bodies. The symbolic connection between leprosy and sin cannot be overlooked in our gospel readings for this Sunday's Lenten Gospel. In the first reading St. Paul speaks of the grace of Christ that makes us righteous before God though we are sinners. In a parallel way, in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus heals the leper because of his great compassion towards him and makes him whole.

It seems to me that these parallel readings, of Jesus the Lord as our healer, in the Church's teaching during Lent is quite intentional. Combined with the Sunday of the Prodigal Son; the healings that we hear about in the Gospels of Lent remind us of something essential: that we need to be healed, and that we need to let Christ the Lord be the healer.

In our Syriac tradition this healing power of Christ is presented to us by his bride, the Church, and our mother, through her holy mysteries (in Syriac "raze", in English - sacraments). Saint Ephrem, called the Harp of the Holy Spirit, and named as Doctor of the Universal Church, speaks of this:

With three medicines You have cured our sickness;
Humanity was weak, suffering and failing;
You have strengthened it by your blessed bread,
You have consoled it with your sober wine,
And You have given it joy with your holy anointing.

Now is the season to seek out these healing-sacraments (Raze) of Christ. It is the time that we use the confessional as a means of acknowledging our sinfulness, and the Eucharist as the channel through which the graces of Christ – of healing and forgiveness – with the overflowing power of his Holy Spirit are poured out into us.

During this Lenten Season, let us all see the places in our which are broken, those places that need healing. God will come in, but he needs us to ask him, to invite him.



Gibran N Zogbi
Agent

21055 SW Tualatin Valley Highway
Aloha, OR 97006-1750
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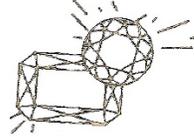
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