

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



May 6, 2018

Jesus Appears to the Apostles in the Upper Room



Next Sunday

Week of the Resurrection/Ascension

Acts 1:1-14 (The Promise of the Spirit/Ascension of Jesus/The First Community in Jerusalem)

Mk 16:15-20 (The Commissioning of the Eleven / The Ascension of Jesus)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, May 6th, 10:30 am

First Communicants

Monday, May 7th

Available

Tuesday, May 8th

Available

Wednesday, May 9th

Available

Thursday, May 10th

Available

Friday, May 11th

Available

Saturday, May 12th

Available

Sunday, May 13th

+George Bassili

Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 9:30 am before the morning Liturgy.

Confession every Sunday at 9:45 am before the morning Liturgy.

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

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for April 22nd - 28th

Online.....\$1,345.00

Collection.....\$709.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,054.00

YTD Total.....\$29,438.68

YTD Goal.....\$31,382.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,943.32**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, May 6th

Allam Family

Sunday, May 13th

Available

Parish Events

Altar Sponsorship

We are in need of families or individuals to sponsor the altar. Sponsorship helps with altar bread, communion wine, candles for the celebration of the Holy Offering of the Mass. Your gift will be acknowledged on the website calendar and published in the bulletin. Here are a few points:

- Contact Ann Marentette to schedule **Altar Sponsorships**. Her email is : abmarentette@gmail.com
- Your gift is a love offering, with the minimum gift being \$30. (Somewhere between \$50-60 is my guess about the breakeven point for us.) Again, there is no set amount, everyone has different means, so offer what you will.
- You can make your offering on the website, or you can put a check in collection plate, just note on the check or envelope what it is for (Altar Support).
- The big Sundays are Easter and Christmas, but also Mother's Day, and Feast Days (i.e., St Sharbel Feast, Epiphany, Holy Cross, Immaculate Conception, etc). Those are available on *first come first served basis*. Obviously we spend more on flowers those days, so you could bear that in mind in considering your offering for that week's sponsorship.
- If you want to actually have a florist do the flowers for a big weekend, work with Ann to coordinate that.
- Just like Mass Intentions, there might be weeks where no one signs up. I would be ideal for people to sign up for every Sunday, but we are inviting you to take the initiative to sign up.

Parish Council

+Bruce Ashford
(Treasurer)

Charlie Ashou

Gus Bekahi

Nick El Hajj

Agopos Ghossein

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Anne Marentette
(Secretary)

Doug Raab

+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Mitch Siekmann

Laif Waldron

Ex Officio
+Deacon Tony
+Deacon Wadih

+Finance Committee



Please pray for our first communicants as they faithfully prepare to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. On Sunday, April 29th, they will be participating in their First Holy Mystery of Penance (Confession). On the Feast of Our Lady of Lebanon (May Crowning), Sunday, May 6th, the communicants will receive Our Lord's Precious Body and Blood in their First Eucharist during the Divine Liturgy. I thank Nadia Redmond for her dedication and time to catechize the following first communicants:

Malak Alks Hamo
Milad Alks Hamo
Anthony Allam
Thaddeus Calko
Jude Gama
Joseph Massaad

-Abouna Christopher

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Community Events

Looking for a natural and affirming way of family planning?

WHEN: May 3rd, 17th, and 31st

WHERE: NW Family Services
6200 SE King Rd.
Portland, OR 97222

INSTRUCTOR: Lauren Fuller

CONTACT: lfuller@nwfs.org



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Father Philip Scott, FJ

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ROOMS

\$ 172 Single occupancy

\$ 344 Double occupancy

(there are only 5 double rooms, otherwise couples use a single room each)

COMMUTORS ~ \$ 112 for 6 meals (Friday evening thru Sunday lunch)

Deposit \$ 50 is due with registration and goes toward total payment. Remainder to be paid by May 15th, make payable to: Sister Mariam Sharbel Vianney

CALL or EMAIL for REGISTRATION FORM

Email: grace.an.mercy@gmail.com

Phone: [503-269-3736](tel:503-269-3736)

Reflection

The Appearance to the Disciples in Jerusalem

“Who amongst kings would have a crown of thorns placed upon himself? When and where have you heard of such a king who would wear this kind of crown?” scoffed the wicked thief at the crucifixion of our Lord on Good Friday (according to our Syriac tradition of dialogue hymns). In the eyes of the world, Jesus, Who saved so many and worked such great miracles, was a failure on Good Friday – He was hanged upon a cross and crowned with a crown of thorns in mockery. But the Good Thief retorts with wisdom that surpasses even the Apostles at that time, “A man is unable to do this, but Jesus is imperishable. He has uprooted the thorns of the earth by His thorns in order to free Adam from the curse.” A human king, which is what the wicked thief thought Jesus claimed to be, would wear a gold crown and struggle to exert his rule over those who defy him. Jesus, our God, is a king without question, Who assumed the lowest parts of our humanity to elevate us in our fallen state to His divine nature. Jesus is the Immortal and Almighty God, but as the priest prays in our liturgy, “You have assumed what is ours and You have given us what is Yours.” In today’s Gospel reading, Christ assures His Apostles by His own appearance in a real body that His true bodily and human death was to offer immortal life to us.

“It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have” (Luke 24:39) said our Lord in appearing to His disciples once again. Having seen Christ in the flesh and as a man, many of the disciples believed Jesus was dead after His crucifixion. And He did truly die – He was not a ghost, but He had actual hands and feet that were nailed, as well as His side that was pierced, blood that was spilled and breath that left Him. Christ died in His humanity, but He is the Immortal Lord and so He rose again from the dead three days later with the same human body. If Christ had not truly been human, He would not have assumed all our human frailties and raised them up to participate in His divine nature redeeming us from the fall of Adam. If Christ had not truly been divine, He would have simply died, not been raised and all we do would be in vain as St. Paul says (1 Cor. 15:14) because a mere man would not have had power to save us from sin and death. But God, Who does not have hands or feet, assumed them in His human birth so that He might be near us as another human being, and ultimately die as a human. But, being God, He descended to the place of the dead, Sheol, and destroyed death and sin for all Who follow Him – this is why He says elsewhere that, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). Christ has already seen death and conquered it for those who follow Him for “the one who believes in me will live, even though they die” (John 11:25). They will live not only in memory but in the Kingdom of Heaven and will rise from the dead, as Christ did, sharing in His divine reality if they only follow Him through the trials He has already faced before us.

Assuring His Apostles, Luke records Jesus as having said, “Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me... This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem” (Luke 24:44,46-47). Death seems to be a hopeless reality if we face it as humans. Those who thought Christ was only man thought He was destroyed at His death. A crown of thorns was the perfect mockery as all His suffering would have been pointless had He only been a man dying for Himself. But Christ is God and life itself Who destroyed death by His death, and gave to humanity His divinity in eternal life by His rising. We need only to repent from our sins, which bring death upon us like Adam, and turn back to Him Who patiently waits for us to respond to His appearing.

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish



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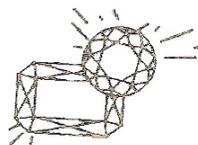
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