

# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

503.231.3853

[stsharbelpdx@gmail.com](mailto:stsharbelpdx@gmail.com)

[www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)



## July 22, 2018

### The Apostles Proclaim the Kingdom



#### Next Sunday

*The Fruit of the Message to the Jews*

**Eph 2:17-22** (Commission to Preach God's Plan)

**Lk 19:1-10** (Zacchaeus the Tax Collector)

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, July 22nd, 10:30 am

*Michael Shami*

Monday, July 23rd

*Available*

Tuesday, July 24th

*Available*

Wednesday, July 25th

*Available*

Thursday, July 26th

*Available*

Friday, July 27th

*Available*

Saturday, July 28th

*Available*

Sunday, July 29th

*The Ordinands*

***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 July 8th -14th

Online.....\$900.00

Collection.....\$572.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,472.00

YTD Total.....\$47,660.68

YTD Goal.....\$51,688.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$4,027.32**

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, July 22nd

Anonymous

Sunday, July 22nd

Available

## Parish Events

Brothers and Sisters,

Just a note to thank everyone for their hard work and support of the festival, special thanks to the Committee and Chairs. We MET our goal which is wonderful.

**We had a special challenge gift offer from a parishioner who will match up to \$5000 additional gifts to the Festival.** These can be a pledge but have to be paid by the end of the year. Please reply to my email ([frchristopherfabre@gmail.com](mailto:frchristopherfabre@gmail.com)) with your pledge. May God bless and keep each one of you safe. Please know you are loved and a special member of our parish family!

God bless, Abouna Chris

### 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

It is with great excitement and anticipation that we remind you that our beloved bishop will be here next weekend to ordain two of the Eparchy's seminarians on the first step to priesthood. Seminarians Peter Zogbi and Michael Shami will be ordained to the order of SubDeacon, with God's grace and through the imposition of hand by the Most Rev Elias Zaidan.

All are invited to join this important milestone for our seminarians. After the ordination, which will occur during the Divine Liturgy on Sunday July 29th at 10:30 am, the parish will host a lunch in the parish hall immediately after the conclusion of the ordinations.

We continue to pray for these men, and for the abundance of vocations to the priesthood and to religious life. As well we wish special congratulations and thanks to the Zogbi and Shami families.

## Community Events

### ST. STEPHEN FESTIVAL JULY 29th, 12-5pm

St. Stephen's Catholic Church would like to invite you to join us at our Parish in SE Portland for our St. Stephen Festival on Sunday, July 29th from Noon - 5pm. Admission is free and there will be plenty of games and activities for kids as well as a craft fair, bake sale, and an art show. Food, beer, and wine will be available for purchase and provided by Hoda's Mediterranean catering. We'll be closing our festival with solemn Vespers at 5pm in the Church.

If you'd like more information about the festival you can e-mail Lisa Hezmalhalch, the festival committee chair, at [HezzieLCH@gmail.com](mailto:HezzieLCH@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook event page

# Reflection

## *The Apostles Proclaim the Kingdom*

Mt 12:22-32

Often when someone hears “Maronite,” even if they themselves are not Maronite, the first thing they think of is St. Sharbel. He is such a great saint that he has gained world renown and, in fact, was added to even the Roman Calendar for July 24<sup>th</sup>, the day after the Maronite feast day. So many lessons can be learned from this great saint, beginning with his very name.

St. Sharbel was born Joseph Makhlof. Sharbel, the name of a second century Syrian martyr, was the name he chose when he became a monk that seemed to foreshadow the rest of his life. The name comes from two Syriac words, *sharbo* (history/story) and *el* (God), put together meaning the history or story of God. From the very choice of this name, Sharbel made God the very subject of his life rather than just another object. He fasted, prayed and worked in the field every day, offering all to God – every mundane action, whether it be picking a grape or taking a step, was a sacrifice to the Lord.

From placing God as the protagonist of his life, rather than himself, his holiness has come to be known throughout the world and God has worked many miracles through his intercession. So many and global are the assistances God has worked through him that even some of us may have witnessed them like the healing of a blind woman in Phoenix in 2016 after venerating his relics, though she had never previously heard of him. Having placed God as the center of his life, it is most appropriate that he would pass away while offering the Divine Liturgy. St. Sharbel loved the Syriac language and our Maronite tradition, and tradition holds that he passed away during the *Abo dQushto* or, as many know it in English, the Father of Truth.

As St. Sharbel’s life slipped away while holding the Body of Christ in his hands the beautiful words of *Abo dQushto* were being sung, originally from a 4<sup>th</sup> century written by St. Jacob of Sarug. The man who had placed God as the center of his life prayed in this world for the last time:

Behold, His [Christ’s] blood is poured out on Golgotha for my salvation and it implores on my behalf. Accept my petition for its sake. How many are my debts, how many are Your mercies if You should weigh them? Your compassion greatly outweighs mountains if You weigh them.

This great saint was a monk and, therefore, had a life different from our own day-to-day. Nonetheless, his example teaches us to place God as the center of our lives. This verse of the *Abo dQushto* has the speaker admit that his sins are many, implicitly comparing them to heaps of mountains. But God’s mercy is so great that if put on a scale with mountains His mercy greatly outweighs all else. The mercy of God is the center of the hymn, as it was the center of St. Sharbel’s life. Our tradition teaches us to be mindful of our sin, but we act for God and love of Him, nothing else. If one reacts to sin or fear of Satan we are placing sin or fear of Satan as the center of our life. But because we love God we act for Him as the subject and reject all that is contrary to Him by choosing Him, rather than reacting to other things. In this way we all take the name “Sharbel” because we make our lives the story of God.

Perhaps with his last dying breath the great saint sang the conclusion of *Abo dQushto*, which we should join in with him all the days of our lives:

Glory be to the Father Who sent His Son for our sake. Adoration be to the Son Who by His crucifixion freed all. Thanks be to the Spirit by Whom the mystery of our salvation was fulfilled. Blessed is He for in His love He gave us life; to Him be glory.



**Gibran N Zogbi**  
Agent

2925 SE 73rd Avenue  
Hillsboro, OR, 97213  
Bus 503-649-9514 Fax 503-649-1612  
gibran.zogbi.qdmq@statefarm.com



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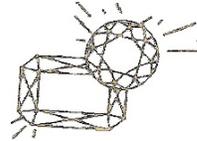
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