



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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

## September 23rd, 2018 Second Sunday After the Holy Cross



### Next Sunday

*Third Sunday After the Holy Cross*

**Phil 3:17-4:1** (Wrong Conduct and Our Goal/Live in Concord)

**Mt 24:23-31** (The Great Tribulation/The Coming of the Son of Man)

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, September 23rd, 10:30 am

*Available*

Monday, September 24th

*Israel & The Jews*

Tuesday, September 25th

*Israel & The Jews*

Wednesday, September 26th

*Israel and the Jews*

Thursday, September 27th

*Israel and the Jews*

Friday, September 28th

*Available*

Saturday, September 29th

*Available*

Sunday, September 30th

*+Hannah And Souad Karam*

***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 September 9th - 15th

Online.....\$1,035.00

Collection.....\$544.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,579.00

YTD Total.....\$65,193.94

YTD Goal.....\$68,338.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$3,144.06**

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, September 23rd

Redmond Family

Sunday, September 30th

Available

## 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

## Parish Events

### Safe Environment Presentation for Children (Grades 1 - 6):

To all St. Sharbel Parents of children (Kindergarten thru high school) participating in the Catechism Programs (Altar Servers, Sacrament Preparation, Angel Scouts, and Crossroads):

The US Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* is requiring each Catholic parish to offer personal safety education for the children in all our programs. Our Eparchy requires us to participate and follow the policies that are in place by the Archdiocese of Portland.

To comply, the Archdiocese of Portland has implemented the *Called to Protect* programs for children and young people in all parishes. All minors in Catholic schools and in parish, religious education or youth ministry activities are required to participate in these programs, every school year.

For our children in Sacrament Preparation and in Angel Scouts (grades in 1<sup>st</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup>): On Sunday, September 30 at 9:15 AM, I will be presenting the *Called to Protect* program to our children. I will present the program upstairs in the classroom.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 503-671-0440.

Thank you for working with me and Abouna on providing a safe environment for the children/youth in our parish.

Sincerely in Christ,

Nadia Redmond  
Coordinator of Religious Education  
& *Called-to-Protect* Trainer

### Safe Environment Presentation to all Parents

Dear parents of children in the parish,

I want to first commend Nadia for keeping our parish in strict compliance with Diocesan/Eparchial standards relating to protection of minors. Part of her work involves a mandated training for all in the parish. What is required is that we offer training to parents. The training is kind of a reminder about principles which keep our kids safe. (All those working with youth are required to take similar annual trainings).

We will offer this annual training **after Mass on Sunday, September 23rd (adults only)**. This is very important, and I want to encourage you to attend if you haven't done it in a while.

Let us all attend to this important matter, especially in light of recent revelations of problems.

God bless and keep each of you safe and happy!  
Abouna

### Sunday School Program

**Sunday School classes begin  
September 30, 2018 for grades 1st-6th.  
Classes start at 9:15 am till 10:15 am.**

**To register your child(ren) for classes,  
please complete the registration form  
(attached as pdf to original email).**

**Contact Nadia Redmond for further  
information, phone: 503-671-0440 or  
email: [n.redmond@comcast.net](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net)**





## ST SHARBEL'S YOUTH GROUP

St. Sharbel's Youth Group is for anyone ages 12 to 19-ish who's interested in building friendships, participating in important and relevant discussions, having fun, and most importantly, following Jesus!

They will meet twice a month for sessions which teach us about our identity as followers of Christ, service to others, and various social activities. All meetings are held at the St. Sharbel Church basement 7:00 to 9:00 pm unless otherwise indicated. Social Activities and Service Events are to be announced ahead of time through email announcements.

First meeting will be on Friday, October 12, at 7 pm in St. Sharbel Church Basement.

Facilitated by Maroun Maroun and Gennifer Karam. Please contact Gennifer or Maroun directly to register.

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### *Community Events*

#### Measure 106

The measure would prohibit public funds from being spent on abortions, except when medically necessary or required by federal law. Under the measure, an abortion would qualify as *medically necessary* if a licensed physician determines that a woman would suffer an injury or death unless an abortion is performed. Under the measure, public funds may be spent on abortions in circumstances of rape or incest or diagnosed ectopic pregnancies. Ectopic pregnancies, also called extrauterine pregnancies, are pregnancies where a fertilized egg becomes implanted outside of the uterus and has no chance of proceeding normally to birth and which could cause fatal bleeding to the mother.

For additional info please visit.

[https://ballotpedia.org/Oregon\\_Measure\\_106,\\_Ban\\_Public\\_Funds\\_for\\_Abortions\\_Initiative\\_\(2018\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Oregon_Measure_106,_Ban_Public_Funds_for_Abortions_Initiative_(2018))

# **Reflection**

Mt: 24:1-14

At the beginning of this new Season of the Holy Cross, the church, reflects through the holy scriptures at how the victory of Christ has given her new life; how this came through the preaching of the gospel of the good news of salvation of Jesus her Lord, and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the gospel of St. Matthew we hear Jesus speaking of the destruction of the temple as the new beginning of his gospel mission of salvation. Likewise, in a parallel way, Saint Paul speaks of Jesus being raised from the death as itself the new gospel of salvation. For us, the church and her children, who are open to these mysteries, the temple destroyed is intended to be the crucified body of Christ; so that the gospel victory of his resurrection may be preached.

In our Syriac tradition we speak of the Cross of Jesus as a bridge that helps us to cross over to the newness of life: the glory of the kingdom. Christ himself is the gate that let's us into our eternal home. The gate is also the saving wood of his cross.

Saint Ephrem writing in the fourth century, speaking of the Cross as the new Tree of Life, mystically describes the branches of the Tree of the Cross as the arms of a mother who picks-up her children to nourish them with the fruits – the sacraments – from the bosom of her branches. Christ himself, through his saving cross has become for us this Tree of Life; the Luminous Sign of our victory over death through the life-giving graces of the Father's nurturing Spirit.

The Victorious Cross, therefore, becomes the sign of all that is good, coming from Christ the Lord: the gospel, the sacraments, new life, his shield of protection, as well as the sign of his final victory.

This is the gospel (good news) of Christ's salvation; let us rejoice, and may his peace be with us!



**Gibran N Zogbi**

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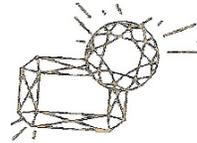
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