

# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

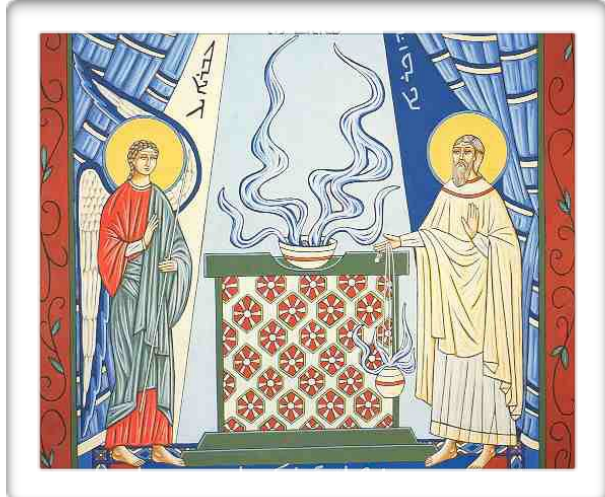
503.231.3853

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

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

## November 18, 2018

### The Announcement to Zechariah



#### Next Sunday

*The Announcement to the Virgin Mary*

Gal 3:15-22 (The Law did not Nullify the Promise)

Lk 1:26-38 (Announcement of the Birth of Jesus)

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 18th, 10:30 am

*+Chorbishop John Trad*

Monday, November 19th

*Ryan Bogart*

Tuesday, November 20th

*Mary Thu Do*

Wednesday, November 21st

*Available*

Thursday, November 22nd

*Available*

Friday, November 23rd

*Available*

Saturday, November 24th

*Available*

Sunday, November 25th

*+Antoine & Georgette Zogbi*

***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 November 4th - 10th

Online.....\$1,205.00

Collection.....\$1,425.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,630.00

YTD Total.....\$84,833.94

YTD Goal.....\$83,106.00

YTD Difference.....\$1,727.94

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, November 18th

Redmond Family

Sunday, November 25th

Allam Family

# Parish Events

## 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

## Children's Christmas Eve Pageant

You are invited to participate in this year's Christmas Eve pageant. Registration and first choir rehearsal is after the Divine Liturgy this Sunday, November 4th. You will be provided with songs to practice for the pageant and your parents will receive further information. All attendees of this first rehearsal will have the first choice for a role in the Christmas Eve Pageant!

**All Children, ages 3-13**

**Parents:** mark these dates in your calendar for pageant rehearsals:  
Sundays, November 4th, and December 9th and 23rd.

**Time:** Immediately after the Liturgy (approximately noon to 1pm)

**Place:** Upstairs Classroom

Looking forward to a joyful season, Nadia Redmond, Edith Demers, and Katherine Moffitt  
Your Christmas Eve Pageant Organizers

email: [n.redmond@comcast.net](mailto:n.redmond@comcast.net)



Attention all young men and women,  
come check out St. Sharbel's new youth group,

**The Cedars!**

Who: Anyone ages 13 to 18 (ish) interested in building friendships, participating in important and relevant discussions, having fun, and most importantly, following Jesus!

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

What: Saint Sharbel's Cedars is a group of young people, inspired by our Lord's call to be His disciples, who will meet twice a month for sessions which teach us about our identity as followers of Christ, service to others, and social activities.

Where/When: All Cedars sessions are held at the St. Sharbel Church upstairs classroom immediately following the mass on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 11:45 am - 1:30 pm, unless otherwise indicated. All meetings, social activities and service events are announced ahead of time through email announcements and church announcements.

Save the Dates! Here's our tentative Cedars Schedule for 2018-2019:

\*\*\*Please make sure to give your email address and cell number to Gennifer Karam in order to be on the email list for up to date reminders and possible changes to this schedule.

November 11: Session 2: Come and See

November 25: Session 3: Cedars of Saint Sharbel Matinee: A movie TBA

December 16: Breakfast with Santa - Cedars Service Activity for the Church. More info to come.

January 13: Session 3: Real Friends

January 27: Session 4: Follow Me

February 10: Session 6: The Cost

February 23: Cedars Snow Day! Snow intertubing on Mt. Hood - Please note this is a SATURDAY. More information to come.

March 9: Session 7: Undecided Topic TBA

March 24: Session 8: Undecided Topic TBA

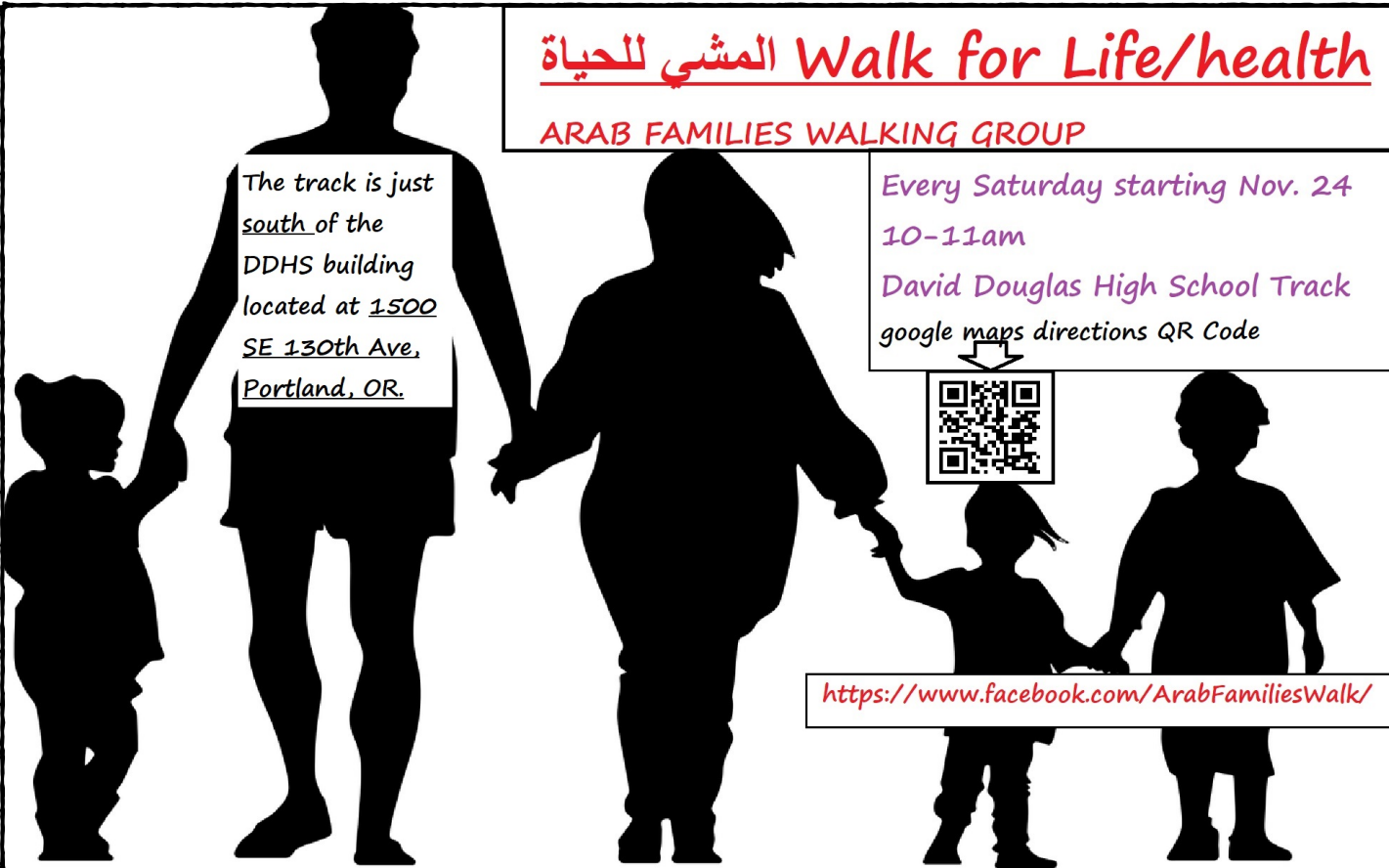
April 28: Session 9: City of Jerusalem Presentation

May 12: End of the Year Bowling Excursion.

# Community Events

## المشي للحياة Walk for Life/health

### ARAB FAMILIES WALKING GROUP



The track is just south of the DDHS building located at 1500 SE 130th Ave, Portland, OR.

Every Saturday starting Nov. 24  
10-11am

David Douglas High School Track  
google maps directions QR Code



<https://www.facebook.com/ArabFamiliesWalk/>



### *The Monastic Vocation*

*"As we progress in this way of life and in faith, we shall run on the path of God's commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love."*

— The Holy Rule of St. Benedict

### Discernment Retreat Dates

November 16–18, 2018

March 22–24, 2019

July 20–22, 2019

October 18–20, 2019

***Come and See.*** Discerning a vocation to the monastic life is best done by personal experience and an encounter with the monks behind the cloister. We, at Mount Angel Abbey, open our door to men at least 18 years old and are discerning a vocation to come and join us for a three-day monastic discernment experience.



The Benedictine Monks of  
MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY  
ST. BENEDICT, OREGON

Contact:

Fr. Odo Recker, O.S.B.

503-881-8919

[vocation@mtangel.edu](mailto:vocation@mtangel.edu)

[www.mountangelabbey.org/vocations](http://www.mountangelabbey.org/vocations)



# Reflection

Lk 1:1-25

## The Announcement to Zechariah

Announcement, annunciation, greeting, and good news (that is the Gospel) all share a common root in Syriac Aramaic, our liturgical language. Starting today for the next few weeks, the Maronite Church, along with all the other Syriac Churches, will celebrate a period often called the Season of Announcements. On each Sunday, an announcement, a greeting, the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is announced to mankind, first by Gabriel Whom the Father sends from heaven. The reason for the Father sending Gabriel to deliver this good news is to make Himself better known to us, just as previously mentioned with the establishment of the Church, so that we can come to be near Him, and rejoice with Him.

Particular to this Sunday, God sends the archangel Gabriel to Zechariah, the father-to-be of John the Baptist and high priest at the time in the Temple in Jerusalem. The Gospel tells us that Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, were obedient and followed all of God's commands, but were both barren and old (Luke 1:6-7). Nonetheless, they prayed devoutly that God would grant them a child – apart from Zechariah's office, Zechariah and Elizabeth were devout Jews and so would have heard the Old Testament read out entirely at very least once a year, listening to how God began His covenant of an intimate relationship with Abraham by granting him a son, even though he and his wife were old and barren. This demonstrates God's entire dealings with Israel are the pure gift of His initiative, mercy, and love that overcome the expectations of the world. Knowing this, Zechariah and Elizabeth had the confidence to ask that God do it again.

God in His mercy heard their prayer and answered by sending Gabriel to announce the birth of John. After all, nothing is impossible for God, which is why He chooses to work what seems to be the impossible at times. In fact, the birth of John foreshadows Christ's own birth, Whom Isaiah says will be a "shoot from the stump of Jesse" (Is. 11:1). Israel at this point has been destroyed, conquered by Rome, and any rebellion thoroughly crushed – the monarchy's lineage, that of Jesse, has been lost. Humanity would expect nothing to come from this now "dead" stump – but God works unexpected wonders, and comes Himself from this supposedly dead stump by His birth. We call John the Forerunner and Proclaimer of Christ, as he was sent ahead to "make ready for the Lord a people prepared" (Luke 1:17) like Gabriel tells Zechariah. His first message is his extraordinary birth from barren parents, demonstrating God shall make even the dead alive in Him, and He shall come from this stump. Gabriel tells Zechariah not only has God answered his prayer, but his son will be the preparing the world for the coming of God.

But Zechariah doubts what the archangel Gabriel is telling him – instead of rejoicing at the good news, which John is being sent to specifically proclaim, he cheapens it with dispute. Though he knew the Scriptures so well he doubted the generosity of God and that He would work such a miracle in his life because it simply does not seem likely by his expectations. Of course, God has given us reason to use, but He also gives us faith and knowledge of Him in His revelation. All things are a gift from God; even the tongue that enables us to speak was given to us by God, for which we should be thankful, and the tongue that does not thank God is essentially useless – Zechariah learned this by being made mute until his son was born. But we must also remember we ask for the intercession of *Saint Zechariah* because, though he failed at one moment, he loved God and continued being faithful as he was before. So today with St. Zechariah, let us praise Jesus Christ our God by remembering when we pray and professing with our tongues that He is the "Hope Who has given hope to the hopeless, and makes a way for the impossible, the Maker of great miracles, and Giver of beautiful gifts, the Creator Who, by the beckon of His Creatorship, His will exists in those Who He willed to make – everything is easy for His love..." (Evening Prayer for the Announcement to Zechariah).



**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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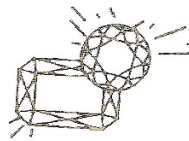
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