



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

November 25, 2018

The Announcement to the Virgin Mary



Next Sunday

The Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth

Eph 1:1-14 (The Father's Plan of Salvation)

Lk 1:39-45 (Mary Visits Elizabeth)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 25th, 10:30 am
+Antoine & Georgette Zogbi

Monday, November 26th
Available

Tuesday, November 27th
Available

Wednesday, November 28th
Available

Thursday, November 29th
Available

Friday, November 30th
Elaina Graham

Saturday, December 1st
Available

Sunday, December 2nd
+Dr. Tom Rask (40 Day Memorial)

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 11th - 17th

Online.....\$855.00

Collection.....\$12,217.00

Weekly Total.....\$13,072.00

YTD Total.....\$97,905.94

YTD Goal.....\$84,952.00

YTD Difference.....\$12,953.94

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, November 25th

Allam Family

Sunday, December 2nd

Available

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



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 2nd and 4th 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 25: Session 3: Cedars of Saint Sharbel Matinee: A movie "Paul: Apostle of Christ"

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 behind Floyd Light & the East Side Community Center at: 740 SE 106th Ave, Portland, OR 97216

Every Saturday starting Nov. 24
10-11am

Floyd Light Middle School Track

google maps directions QR Code



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



We hope everyone enjoyed a happy and blessed Thanksgiving Holiday!



Reflection

Lk 1:26-38

The Announcement to Virgin Mary

This Second Sunday of the Season of Announcements commemorates the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary by the angel Gabriel, in which he tells her that she will be the Mother of God. This feast is so important in the Syriac tradition that we celebrate it twice a year – on this Sunday and on March 25 – nine months before the celebration of Christ's birth. Our Syriac tradition is known for defending her title as 'Mother of God' against the heretics of the early century who denied her of it. Particularly, the Bishop of Constantinople Nestorius denied Mary bore God in her womb – but the Gospel today is clear, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). God became man in His goodness that we might share in His divine nature – to deny that is to deny the goodness and generosity of God! So today we celebrate God the Son's humility, for He chose to become a child born of the Virgin Mary as Isaiah foretold (Is. 7:14). When Mary received the word of the angel Gabriel, the Word God was conceived in her by the power of God.

The Syriac tradition holds Mary in such high esteem because she, as the human mother of Jesus Christ, she is physically and figuratively the closest person to God. All Christians seek proximity to God, because in love of Him we seek to be near Him. No one is closer than the immaculate, holy Mother of God. St. Ephrem and the other Syriac Fathers show this by comparing Mary's closeness to Jesus as opposed to His appearances in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, those unworthy who dared to touch the Ark of the Covenant, which God gave to Israel as a sign of His love of them, died because they sought something they were not due (2 Sam 6:6-7). Yet Mary became the perfect Ark of the New Covenant at the Annunciation when she became the temple of God and bore Christ, the sacrifice of the New Covenant Who would die for us. Likewise, even the angels of fire, called seraphim, in the highest part of heaven that stand around the throne of God described by the Prophet Daniel cover their faces lest they look upon God's blazing face. The legions of fiery seraphim fear to be burned by the fire of God, yet Mary sat Him upon her lap and kissed His face. Mary held in her lap a wriggling child, the Ancient of Days Who governs the stars, as she suckled Him Who sends rain upon the earth.

These images the Fathers teach us illustrate many aspects of our belief about Christ's birth, but two obvious ones are the humility of God and the worthiness of Mary. Our omnipotent Lord and God, Who showed His absolute might in ages past, now takes the form of a meek and small child at the Annunciation to be near humanity. Why should the King of All trade His throne in heaven for the womb of the Virgin? Because He loves creation He comes to save, and to raise up our fallen nature He has lowered Himself. In raising up our nature, He has sanctified and designated the Holy Virgin Mary as His temple. Mary lived and served on the Temple of Jerusalem as a virgin since her childhood, always close to holy things and living a righteous life. Set apart from birth, she was a holy woman set apart for a holy purpose, as this prayer emphasizes:

O Holy Virgin, You holily received the holy Annunciation from the holy angel and holily carried in Your holy womb the Lord of Holies and Hallower of Holy Things. In the holiness of your holy conception you hallowed children and babes. Therefore, hallow us, O Holy Virgin, by the holiness of your holy prayers so that we may holily glorify Your holy Hallower, Whom you holily conceived and holily carried in the holy Holy of Holies. May we hallow Him with His Father, and living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times forever. Amen. (Prayer from Syriac Maronite Vespers for Annunciation)

The prayer mentions the word 'holy' a lot. The degree to the holiness of Mary is ineffable because she became the human vessel of Christ, from whom He took a body. In her great proximity to God, she provides us access ourselves. The Holy Virgin still stands closer to His throne than the ranks of seraphim and remains the greatest intercessor of the Church. She provides us both an example to aspire for closeness to God's holiness, and a means to do so through her. Let us glorify God Who has become man in His humility, and given us this great assistance on Earth. May her prayers be a rampart to us



Gibran N Zogbi

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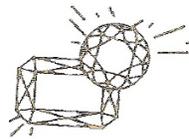
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