



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

January 13, 2018

First Sunday After Epiphany



Next Sunday

Second Sunday After Epiphany

2 Cor 4:5-15 (The Paradox of the Ministry)

Jn 1:35-42 (The First Disciples)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, January 13th, 10:30 am

Available

Monday, January 14th

Available

Tuesday, January 15th

Available

Wednesday, January 16th

Available

Thursday, January 17th

Available

Friday, January 18th

Available

Saturday, January 19th

Available

Sunday, January 20th

Available

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 January 1st - 5th

Online.....\$145.00

Collection.....\$0.00

Weekly Total.....\$145.00

YTD Total.....\$145.00

YTD Goal.....\$1,846.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,701.00**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, January 13th

Available

Sunday, January 20th

Redmond 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



Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual pro-life novena, *9 Days for Life*, Monday, January 14 – Tuesday, January 22. Pray for the respect of all human life with daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Download a free mobile app, or sign up to receive the novena through daily emails or text message. (A printable version is also available online.) Sign up at www.9daysforlife.com!



**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 Jennifer Karam. Please contact Jennifer 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 Jennifer Karam in order to be on the email list for up to date reminders and possible changes to this schedule.

January 13: Session 3: **Real Friends**

January 27: Session 4: **Follow Me**

February 10: Session 6: **The Cost**

February 23: Cedars Snow Day! Snow inner tubing 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.**



*Feed the hungry, Give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked
Shelter the homeless, Visit the sick, visit those in prison
Bury the dead*

The Eparchy receives many requests from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to assist others. The Latin Church has approximately 18 second collections during the year and fulfills their obligations in that manner. The Eparchy has always limited the second collections not to burden our Faithful. The Eparchial Charities Collection will allow the Eparchy to contribute to the most in need causes served by the USCCB. "Jesus' disciples and Christian stewards recognize God as the origin of life, giver of freedom, and source of all things. The gifts received will be used to show our love for God and for one another.

Since the foundation of the Church, it has been the tradition of the Christian community to share goods because the believers were all of "one heart and mind" (Acts 4:32). One of the principal tasks of the Apostles in the early Church was to collect goods and redistribute them in an equitable way: "There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet

of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need" (Acts 4:34-35). St. Justin, one of the early Church Fathers, wrote, "Those who are well off, and who are also willing, give as each chooses. What is gathered is given to him who presides to assist orphans and widows, those whom illness or any other cause has deprived of resources, prisoners, immigrants and, in a word, all who are in need."

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Reflection

First Sunday After Epiphany

Jn 1:29-34

We have all had experiences of stumbling around in the dark, stumbling feeling around for something familiar, only to trip over something unseen or become frightened by something we think we might hear. Pitch darkness can even be disorienting when we are unfamiliar with where we are. Unsurprisingly, people before the invention of electric lights associated this darkness of night with death, and the eagerly awaited light of the morning with life.

Having celebrated the great feast itself a few days ago, today we celebrate the first of several Sundays dedicated to the Epiphany, the memorial of our Lord Jesus Christ's baptism. In Syriac, our tradition calls the feast denho or dawn referring to the passage in Zechariah 6:12 in the ancient Syriac version of the bible, known as the Peshitta, "His name is Dawn (denho), and He shall dawn from below." Why is our Lord and His baptism called dawn by the Prophet Zechariah?

As we reflected upon for the Consecration and Renewal of the Church, Christ established, in His love and mercy, the Church as His Bride as a means of bringing all of humanity in union with Him. Throughout the Season of Announcements we reflected upon how the Old Testament expressed the Bride's anticipation of her Groom's coming throughout the ages. Finally, we saw how John the Baptist is the forerunner of Christ who was sent to prepare things, much like a best man for a groom. In this role, John the Baptist prepared the rite of his baptism that was a placeholder and anticipation of the baptism of Christ, Who baptizes with "the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). Jesus knew humanity was "walking in [the] darkness" (Is. 9:2) of sin, wandering far away from Him. But in His mercy, just as He descended from heaven in His humility, He descended to the Jordan River where He had sent John the Baptist. John the Baptist hesitated to baptize Him at first because he knew he could not give anything to Jesus, Who created all things. John was correct, for Jesus had no need of baptism, just like He had no need to become a weak human since He is our all- powerful God. But it was in Christ's love of humanity that He descended to the Jordan so that the waters of baptism themselves may be sanctified for He is the Pure One Who chose water as a means of spiritually purifying us, giving us eternal life, and sharing with us His divinity, which is why St. Paul says, "All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Gal 3:27).

The Light that has dawned from below is the eternal Light from above, Who came dawn to illumine those who were blinded by the dark gloom of sin. As St. Jacob of Sarug said in his homily on the Epiphany, Christ was in want of nothing except to bring Adam back up from the pit of death, which he entered through sin. And by Christ shining His light upon the world and granting the opportunity for us to put Him on by baptism, He allowed us to enter into the Trinity, Who appeared fully for the first time in history of humanity at His baptism – the voice of the Father, the Son in the Jordan, and the Holy Spirit taking the visible sign of a dove (Luke 3:22). The Light which has dawned from below not only opened our eyes to the reality of our God, but has invited us to share in His divinity if we partake of the baptism He sanctified for us and follow what He has asked us through His Bride.



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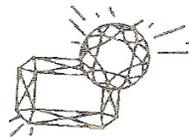
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