

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

503.231.3853

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www.stsharbel.org



March 17, 2019

Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman



Next Sunday

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

2 Cor 13:5-13 (Final Warnings and Appeals)

Lk 15:11-32 (The Parable of the Lost Son)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, March 17th 10:30 am

Available

Monday, March 18th

Available

Tuesday, March 19th

Available

Wednesday, March 20th

Available

Thursday, March 21st

Available

Friday, March 22nd

Available

Saturday, March 23rd

Available

Sunday, March 24th

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 March 3rd - 9th

Online.....\$1,057.00

Collection.....\$1,368.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,425.00

YTD Total.....\$15,802.15

YTD Goal.....\$18,460.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,657.85**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, March 17th

Available

Sunday, March 24th

Redmond Family

Parish / Community Events

Lenten Schedule:

Stations of the Cross in English and Arabic — **Fridays during Lent, 7:00pm**
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament — **Sundays during Lent, 9:00am**
Holy Week Schedule available at stsharbel.org

Parish Council

+Bruce Ashford
(Treasurer)

Charlie Ashou

Gus Bekah

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



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.

March 24: Session 8: **Undecided Topic TBA**

April 28: Session 9: **City of Jerusalem Presentation**

May 12: **End of the Year Bowling Excursion.**



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Presents

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Each

This year's drawing will be held on **April 28th, 2019** at St. Rafka, Livonia Michigan
Thank you for your support in previous years for this raffle fund-raiser, as it is an important part of the NAM annual budget. We are counting on your generosity once again, to support our community projects.

To purchase a personal ticket(s), your parish NAM Delegates have 4 tickets to sell, please contact Christopher or Nadia Redmond at 503-671-0440

All requests and payments must be received by **April 1st, 2019.**

www.namnews.org

Join Us
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or Husn Karam at 503.679.3880

Doors Open at 6:30

Dinner at 7:30-

Major Credit Cards Accepted

(Babysitting &

Dinner Included)

Starting at \$80-

Limited VIP Tickets

12 and Under \$25



Reflection

Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman

It is part of common human experience to be excluded from something. Perhaps you are excluded by fellow students or coworkers from a group for an old grudge or family members might keep you at a distance because of your faith. However it manifests, social exclusion is an unfortunate inevitability of human relationships and hurtful. In the today's reading from the Gospel the hemorrhaging woman is exactly that – a social reject. According to Jewish purity laws, she is dirty because of her illness. If any other Jew deemed pure by the Law were to touch her that person would become ritually impure, defiled and in need of being ritually purified else they make others impure as well. This poor woman was suffering, and her suffering was increased by her rejection from others. So she tried all earthly doctors' remedies, but none helped (Luke 8:43). Only Christ can help her, and so we see in this miracle, just like in the healing of the blind man, Christ's place as the Good Physician when He allows her to touch Him and be healed.

Christ knew rejection as He was the cornerstone that the builders had rejected (Ps. 118:22). Though without need, our all-powerful God descended to enter the trials of humanity and defeat them – rejection being one of them. Each time Christ heals someone or helps He is attacked by His enemies until the point where they kill Him. But He does so knowing He will die so that He can save humanity from the death of sin. The hemorrhaging woman, rejected by all, tries all human means of getting better. But, as King David says, “trust not in princes” (Ps. 146:3) for “our help is in the name of the Lord” (Ps. 124:8). Sin is a battle we cannot win by ourselves. Adam lost in the Garden, and if we try to be pure of sin on our own we will always fail. But, like the hemorrhaging woman who was discouraged by others, if we spiritually reach out and grab the Pure One, Jesus Christ, we shall be healed. Those who thought themselves pure laughed at the Pure One for their self-conceit blinded them from the truth of whose presence they were in (Luke 8:53). But that day, it was the hemorrhaging woman, the impure one, who was truly made pure because of her daring faith to grab the Pure One (Luke 8:48), and the “pure” who reviled her are truly the impure.

The sickness of sin is an epidemic in humanity, but the Good Physician has already come and prepared the cure in His love. Those who think they are healthy will not take the medicine – though in reality no one living is righteous before God (Ps. 143:2). We must look to the hemorrhaging woman as our inspiration for boldness, and our faith must overcome both our sense of self-sufficiency and fear. We will neither seek the medicine of our sin if we think we are well nor will we approach Him who gives it if we are too afraid. But let us not fear if we truly love Christ for He gives us every opportunity for our salvation. Let us receive the Good Physician's prescription, Lent, which He has written to prepare us to receive the ultimate Medicine of Life, His Eucharist made possible by His sacrifice on the cross. In keeping with this Lenten prescription, let us fast from food and negative deeds, as well as let us give alms to the poor and pray.

All the sick and sinful Christ heals and accepts are an example calling us to repent – the tax collector, the thief who was crucified with Him, Mary Magdalene, and the hemorrhaging woman. Though the Mass is the source and summit of our worship as Christians, and the Eucharist is receiving Christ Himself, we should constantly pray asking for His mercy. Our Syriac tradition stresses the power of the cross, the symbol that stands in place of all the life-saving actions of Christ. We might not have the highest medicine of the Good Physician available to us all the time, but every hour of the day we have His cross available to us. Let us make this holy sign, a holy means of access to Him, throughout our day, approaching Him in strong faith, and asking to be healed of all that sickens us for He wishes us to be well.

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish



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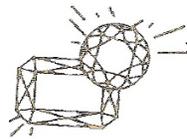
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