



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

October 27, 2019

Seventh Sunday After the Holy Cross
Next Sunday



Consecration of the Church

Heb 9:1-12 (The Worship of the First Covenant)

Mt 16:13-20 (Peter's Confession About Jesus)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for October 13th - 19th

Online.....\$315.00

Collection.....\$862.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,177.00

YTD Total.....\$75,653.14

YTD Goal.....\$77,532.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,878.86**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, October 27th 10:30 am

+Halim and Helen Mouawad

Monday, October 28th

Available

Tuesday, October 29th

Available

Wednesday, October 30th

Available

Thursday, October 31st

Available

Friday, November 1st

Available

Saturday, November 2nd

Available

Sunday, November 3rd

**+Halim Slilaty- 40 Day Memorial offered
by Rita Pipes**

*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

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, October 27th

Redmond Family

Sunday, November 3rd

Available

Parish / Community 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



REMINDERS

Please sign up to help if you haven't already for the Fall Dinner!

Also, please bring sweets to sell!

The Cedars of Saint Sharbel Youth Group Discussion Schedule:

All meetings held in upstairs classroom immediately following Sunday Mass.

November 10 and 24

December 22 - Christmas Breakfast Service Project - Church Basement

January 12 and 26

February 9 and 23

March 8 and 22

April 19

Reflection

Seventh Sunday After the Holy Cross

Mt 25:31-46

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matt.25:40) says Christ in this Sunday’s Gospel. It is a daunting invitation. As Christ explains, at Judgment all deeds we have done for those in need, whether it be something like feeding the hungry, visiting the sick or consoling the sorrowful, we are actually doing for Him. This is because each person is made in the image of God and all Christians are made part of the Mystical Body of Christ by virtue of baptism. The converse is also true as Christ explains – any wrongdoing or negligence of one another is ultimately a sin against Him Himself. This is why King David says, “Against You, You alone, have I sinned” (Ps. 51:4) for whether we intend to or not, sin is a rejection of God’s instruction to love one another – even if they are an enemy. And Christ is quite clear that those who do not love even their enemies will inherit “eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me” (Matt. 25:41-43).

It is a very difficult task that Christ has given us – love each other, even those who hate us, or we shall choose to go into the eternal fire. But before we understand the task, why would Christ even tell make mention of this threatening fire? If God is all-loving, why would there be such punishment? God is love and the source of all life. If we reject loving those made in His image, which includes our enemies, we reject His image, His self – Who is the source of all life. Those who go into the eternal fire choose it themselves by rejecting love and, therefore, life. It was Christ, after all, Who knew that Judas would betray Him. Yet, in His love He still washed the feet of His beloved friend, Judas. Jesus, our omnipotent God, could have called legions of angels down from heaven to stop Judas but instead chose to wash his feet. That is our example of how to treat even our enemy.

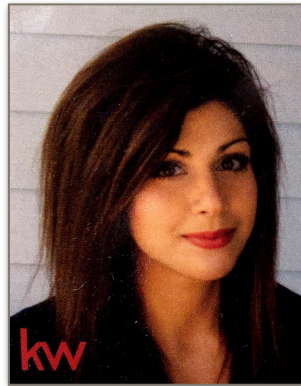
But even if a person is not our enemy, we must be aware that they are made in the image of God. We are called to serve our Lord present in the other in whatever situation presents itself. Perhaps we do not often encounter a homeless person whom we would readily clothe and feed, but the mundane situation of an upset coworker or neighbor might occur. In that moment, we have the opportunity to serve the Lord by seeing Him in the other and assisting that person in need by every little action. Our service of the Lord need not, and generally will not, be dramatic and largely notable. But it is precisely by every little action that we serve the Lord throughout all our days. And likely we will have moment where we fail in seeing the Lord in one another or reject helping Him. But, just as in loving a human, if our love of God persists we apologize and try again. Shortcomings are inevitable if we try by ourselves, but if we recall that we are motivated by divine love and ask for God’s assistance we can serve Him in a pleasing manner, seeing Him in each and every person.

With confidence in faith and motivated by the love in our God, which governs how we treat one another, we should not fear Judgment. Instead, we should hope to hear Him say after having served Him, “Take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world” (Matt. 25:34).

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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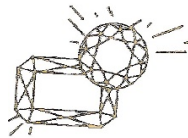
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