

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 24, 2019

The Announcement to the Virgin Mary



Next Sunday

The Visitation of the Virgin Elizabeth

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

Lk 1:39-45 (Mary Visits Elizabeth)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 24th 10:30 am

+Tom Sheridan 40 day mass

Monday, November 25th

Available

Tuesday, November 26th

Available

Wednesday, November 27th

Available

Thursday, November 28th

Available

Friday, November 29th

Available

Saturday, November 30th

Available

Sunday, December 1st

+Marie and Wadih Germanos

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 10th - 16th

Online.....\$1,140.00

Collection.....\$876.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,016.00

YTD Total.....\$82,955.14

YTD Goal.....\$84,916.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,960.86**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, November 24th

Maureen Sheridan

Sunday, December 1st

Available

Parish / Community Events

A NOTE FROM ABOUNA:

Brothers and Sisters,

Just a brief note about parish finances. We want to finish the year strong. We are a little behind in our goal for the collections plate for the year. That and the additional spending we did this year for parish refresh/remodel might impact our bottom line for the year. If you are able, and after prayerful consideration are able to, please consider a little extra gift for the parish sometime before the end of the year! God knows that I appreciate each and every one of you, and that I hate talking about money, but it has to be discussed. The Ladies Guild is preparing falafel for the end of the year fundraiser to kick in just a bit — please come down after church and have a lunch Sunday the 24th!

God Bless, Abouna Chris

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

FALAFEL FUNDRAISER

HOSTED BY THE LADIES GUILD

AFTER CHURCH SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019

The Cedars of Saint Sharbel Youth Group Discussion Schedule:

All meetings held in upstairs classroom immediately following Sunday Mass.

NOV: 24th - Evangelization: Called to Spread The Gospel

DEC: 15th - Christmas Breakfast Service Project - Church Basement

JAN: 12th - Truth vs. Tolerance
26th - Church Authority: What is It? and Apologetics

FEB: 9th - Youth and Young Adult Saints
23rd - Mary : Her Motherhood, her Apparitions, the Rosary

MAR: 8th - Sacraments and Mysteries : Their meaning, Grace
22nd - TBA

APR: 19th - The Truth About Human Sexuality and God

MAY: 17th - Social Event: TBA

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2019

Christmas Breakfast: Sunday, December 15

Christmas Eve Vigil: Tuesday, December 24, Kids Concert/play will be at 5:00pm, Mass will start immediately after.

Christmas Day: Wednesday, December 25, 10:30 am

Feast of Circumcision: Wednesday, January 1, 10:30 am

St. Sharbel's Children Christmas Pageant

Ages 4 to 12 years old are all welcome to participate in the Christmas Pageant. Children dress up in costumes for the Nativity scene and will learn a two songs to sing on Christmas eve. Rehearsals will be immediately after Mass in the upstairs classroom.

The dates are **November 24,**
December 8, 15 and 22.

Please email Nadia Redmond (n.redmond@comcast.net) by December 1st, if your child(ren) are interested and can attend all rehearsals.



SAINT SHARBEL PARISH
Invites you to our

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

December 15, 2019
Following the Holy Mysteries

~With special guest: St. Nick!~

This event's proceeds will benefit:
the Maronite Monks of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
and is organized by:
the Cedars of Saint Sharbel Youth Group and Parents



SANTIAM VICARIATE ADVENT PARISH MISSION

LIFE OF PASSION LIFE OF LOVE

A parish mission with Adam Storey

DECEMBER 1-3

ALL EVENINGS BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM



Sunday, December 1
Passionate Hearts

Monday, December 2
When the Rubber Meets the Road

Tuesday, December 3
Let's get Real

*"Adam's unique and passionate gift for sharing
his Catholic faith will leave you changed."*

-Jon Leonetti, Catholic speaker and author

COMPLIMENTARY CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED!

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
1035 N. 6th Ave, Stayton, OR 97383

Come for each night... bring your family & friends!

Reflection

The Announcement to the Virgin Mary

Lk 1:26-38

“And he [Gabriel] came to her and said, “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.” (Luke 1:28-9)

This week we celebrate the second visit of the archangel Gabriel to bring news from God to a human. This time he is sent by the Father to announce the conception of Christ to the Holy Mother of God, Virgin Mary. And she is frightened and confused by this – but why is she not punished like Zechariah was for questioning Gabriel when she responds, “How can this be? (Luke 1:34). Like Zechariah, she was a devout Jew, and would have heard the entirety of the Scriptures read every year in the Temple. But precisely because she was familiar with the Scriptures she was confused by this greeting – as the Church Father Origen tells us, nowhere before was anyone addressed by the title “Full of Grace” in the Bible. Mary is confused because this new greeting addressed to her indicates a radically new plan of action on the part of God, Whose messenger Gabriel is. After all, Mary is a virgin and never before has a virgin given birth to a son, but exactly because God set aside this great work to indicate His coming, perhaps most clearly foreshadowing it when He said spoke through the prophet Isaiah, “A virgin will conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel [God is with us]” (Isaiah 7:14). Gabriel references this in his greeting when he says “the Lord is with you” and perhaps that might add to the shock of her unique title.

But whom exactly is Mary told she will conceive? We imagine Gabriel to say, “Upon your knees you will carry Him Whom the angels of dreadful fire on high fear to look upon,” (Morning Prayer for the Annunciation) and “Do not fear – the One Whose palm holds the width of the heavens has come and dwells in your pure womb” (Diaconal Proclamation for the Annunciation). It is a great and incomprehensible thing indeed! God the Ancient of Days and Creator of All has chosen this young girl, Mary, from before all ages to dwell within her and take flesh to become man. But why did God choose Mary?

God chose Mary from amongst all women because she is the holiest amongst every generation. And this holiness is from two means, ultimately both from God. The first means of her holiness is that which is purely gifted to her by God. Holiness is being set aside for the sake of God, and God sanctified Mary from the very beginning of her life. Our Tradition teaches us that she was consecrated a Temple Virgin from the beginning of her life, which meant she lived in the sanctuary and dedicated her life to prayer. But the second means of her holiness was her cooperation with God’s plan – in fact, we often depict the Annunciation occurring while she is praying in the Temple. Her sanctification did not take away her free will, but she was chosen because she persisted perfectly in a life of holiness and dedication to God. And when Gabriel revealed to her the seemingly impossible plan of God, that He would become man, that He Who is fire would dwell in flesh or the One Who governs legions of angels would lower Himself to become a child, what is her response? “Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). Mary is the perfect example of a Christian, because in the face of what seems to be absurdity, she trusts that God knows what He is about. And because of her trust we say to her “You are the mediator between divinity and humanity, and in you both sides were reconciled” (Diaconal Proclamation). The rift caused by the offenses of Adam were repaired quite literally in Mary, and she became the very meeting point of God and man. As such, let us ask our greatest intercessor to beseech her Son on our behalf all the days of our lives, for no man knows Him better.



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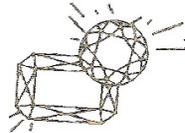
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