

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

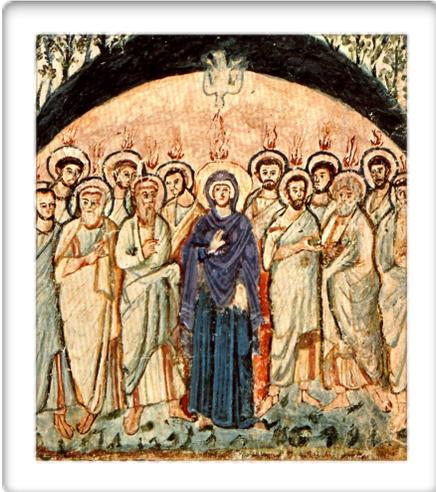
503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

February 2, 2020

Commemoration of the Priests



Next Sunday

Commemoration of the Righteous and the Just

Heb 12:18-24 (Penalties of Disobedience)

Mt 25:31-46 (The Judgement of the Nations)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, February 2nd 10:30 am

+Fozie Ghoson

Monday, February 3rd

Mary Claire Curran

Tuesday, February 4th

Available

Wednesday, February 5th

Available

Thursday, February 6th

Available

Friday, February 7th

Available

Saturday, February 8th

Available

Sunday, February 9th

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 19th - 25th

Online.....\$1,305.00

Collection.....\$1,223.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,528.00

YTD Total.....\$6,570.00

YTD Goal.....\$5,538.00

YTD Difference.....**\$1,032.00**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, February 2nd

Available

Sunday, February 2nd

Available

Parish / Community Events

St. Sharbel MYA (Maronite Young Adults) Group

The group for ages 18+ is restarting monthly meetings at the Parish. They will meet the first Sunday of the Month.

Meetings will take place after mass in the Upper room of the church at 12pm.

The Cedars of Saint Sharbel Youth Group Discussion Schedule:

All meetings held in upstairs classroom immediately following Sunday Mass.

- FEB:** **9th** - Youth and Young Adult Saints
 23rd - Mary : Her Motherhood, her Apparitions, the Rosary
- MAR:** **8th** - Sacraments and Mysteries : Their meaning, Grace
 22nd - What does it mean to be a man?...a woman?...a family?
- APR:** **19th** - The Truth About God and Human Sexuality
- MAY:** **17th** - Social Event: TBA



Presented by:

Colleen and Werner Nistler



FEBRUARY 29, 2020 | 6PM
777 NE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD
PORTLAND, OR 97232

Celebration of Hope is a festive evening to benefit Catholic Charities of Oregon. Each year, the organization serves more than 20,000 individuals and families, regardless of faith, through programs aimed at meeting their immediate needs and building self-sufficiency.

Enjoy inspiring stories, dinner, a paddle raise, keynote speech from Executive Director Rick Birkel, and live music.

Reserve tickets and sponsorships at catholiccharitiesoregon.org/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

Reflection

Commemoration of Priests

In the words of St. Paul, “Where is your sting, oh death? Where is your victory, oh Sheol?” (1 Cor. 15:55, Syriac Peshitta). Because of Christ’s saving Incarnation, which we have celebrated in many different aspects already this liturgical year, we Christians can say death has lost its power, and Sheol, where the righteous dead were stuck before Christ descended to them, has had its bars ripped open. It is a strange thing to hear in a world that seems to be encompassed by death. But as Christians we know the bodily death is temporary for the world to come is greater than the world here that will pass away. The Syriac tradition understands this well, as we have historically dedicated Saturday to praying for the dead, as well as the last verse of most hymns. But praying for the dead was revealed long before Christ came – both praying for the forgiveness of the dead (2 Mac. 12:43-46) and asking the dead we know to be holy for their intercession with God (Ex. 13:19) were already done among the prophets, patriarchs, and Israel. This Sunday of the Commemoration of the Priests is the first of three Sundays before the beginning of Great Lent where we both venerate the holy departed priests and pray for those not yet in heaven. These weeks of commemoration are placed before Great Lent, which is a preparation for Easter, for both those in this world and the next have the opportunity for eternal life granted by Christ after He destroyed death and Sheol by His resurrection.

When Christians depart from this world they do not cease to be part of the Church, the Body of Christ, and so we continue to be in union with them. Priests are important to Christ’s Church in particular, for “[He] chose for Himself earthly priests, gave them authority over the treasury of His kingdom, and placed in their hands the keys to His treasury to distribute His wealth to the needy” (Trans. from Syriac Maronite Breviary). The treasury of God is the abundant and infinite mercy He has for us, and has made available to us through the priests, to whom He has given the keys – the sacraments. Each of the sacraments relates to the reality of the salvific

acts of Christ Himself, such as baptism with the Baptism of our Lord at the Jordan or the Body and Blood, the Eucharist, with our Lord’s sacrifice on the cross. In fact, we even sing in one hymn to the priests, “Come in peace, our father who carries the mysteries of his Lord, and distributes life to the sons of men by his right hand.” God has permitted in His mercy that mere men should be consecrated as priests to distribute His mercy of eternal life and forgiveness of sin. Today, we recall the priests who have passed away laboring in the Lord’s vineyard, and ask those who are already in heaven to intercede for our needs before God.

As the Syriac Father Narsai points out, what is more amazing about God’s mercy is that the ability of the priest to bring the sacraments is not dependent on his own holiness but the Holy Spirit sanctifying the sacraments. As such, priests are still men, and as any man they have sinned. Today, we pray for those who distributed the riches of the treasury of God on earth – His mercy, forgiveness of sin, His Body and Blood – who have died, and are now in need of our assistance to arrive at the banquet of the kingdom in heaven, which we hope to join one day. In the words of the Ginaaz, the rite of the dead, for priests let us pray to our God, Lover of Mankind:

Cast down and humble, Lord, the dark armies who lie in wait in the air, these evil spirits who fly in the noontime before the soul of these, Your passed and grieved servants. Bring them near to You. May Your power come to their assistance, Your right hand to their salvation, and Your victorious cross to their rescue. May Your Body and Blood be for their forgiveness, Your rising and resurrection to their renewal, and Your banquet and kingdom be for their delight: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to You be glory forever. Amen.



Gibran N Zogbi

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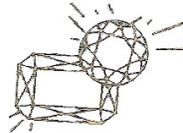
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