



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

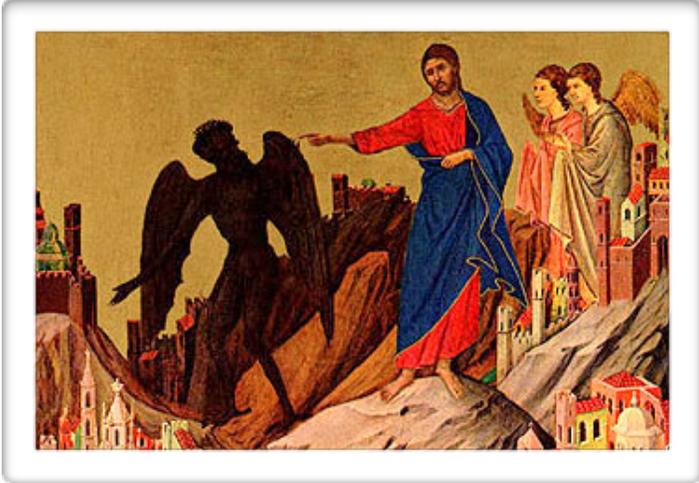
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stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

Aug 2, 2020

The Apostles Proclaim the Kingdom



Next Sunday

The Fruit of the Message to the Jews

Eph 2:17-22 (Commission to Preach God's Plan)

Lk 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus the Tax Collector)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, August 2nd 10:30 am

Available

Monday, August 3rd

Available

Tuesday, August 4th

Available

Wednesday, August 5th

Available

Thursday, August 6th

Available

Friday, August 7th

Available

Saturday, August 8th

Available

Sunday, August 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 July 19th - 25th

Online.....\$1,355.00

Collection.....\$540.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,895.00

YTD Total.....\$49,246.29

YTD Goal.....\$53,534.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$4,287.71**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, August 2nd

Available

Sunday, August 9th

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

Sunday, August 2, 2020, 10:30am

We're doing things a little differently this Sunday. Rather than sending out a link to a specific video, we'll be sending out the link to the Youtube Channel itself. Then Parishioners will just have to click on the video with the corresponding Mass date.

Channel Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi8CEQIEnX-VeERKBMqhKRA>

We'll be using this same link every week since it connects to St. Sharbel's Youtube Channel. The only thing that will change is that each week new videos will be added to that channel. Some changes are being made to the streaming process this Sunday so we've had to adjust for the changes.

NEW: How Many Worshipers can Gather at Church? WE CAN NOW ALLOW 50 PER MASS!

Phase 1 counties are now allowed to accommodate up to 50 persons total indoors for Mass. Outdoor church gatherings in Phase 1 can also have up to 50 people.

NEW: Face Covering Requirements

Face coverings are legally required at indoor gatherings, including in churches, per statewide directive. All who are 5 years and up must wear face coverings in church in Phases 1 and 2 of reopening. Those are excepted who perform activity that makes wearing a mask "not feasible," like the presider (throughout Mass) and the lectors/cantors (while reading/singing). Exceptions are also made for people with disabilities or diagnosed medical conditions that preclude them from wearing masks. In these few cases, special seating accommodations should be made so those unable to wear masks have seating in a cry room or choir loft away from the rest gathered. Children 2 and under should not wear masks. **Wearing a face covering at church is not optional. Churchgoers cannot be allowed entrance without a mask.** The pastor and door monitor must strictly enforce this requirement. **By archdiocesan requirement, masks must still be used by ministers when distributing Holy Communion.** Cantors must remain at least 6 feet away from the nearest person when singing. **A presider may wear a mask throughout Mass.**

COVID MASS POLICIES

- You will need to come with a mask. Mask may be removed to receive Communion obviously. We don't have masks to give you so please bring one.
- I cannot give Communion outside of Mass – this means in your cars, on the sidewalk, etc. Communion for the homebound is suppressed also at this time.
- Sit only in spot marked on pews. Remain physically distant as you enter and exit the church through the basement entrance only.
- No lingering after Mass, you will need to leave directly.
- If your name is not of the sign up list the ushers cannot allow you to come in. We will need to be strict about this and apologize in advance for problems that might arise.
- I request you only use the downstairs entrance, below the main stairs, the other doors will be closed, this will help us to be able to clean commonly touched surfaces.
- We will not allow use of missals, or other books in the pews. Do your best with the responses.
- Only people who are members of the parish are eligible at this point to attend our limited Masses. If you have been coming regularly, and are not registered elsewhere but have not registered with us, now is the time to do this. Archbishop has asked that we keep people going to the parishes they are registered as a way to respect fair and equitable access to all.

Reflection

Each year we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Mother of God. For Maronites it is celebrated with particular fervor for our piety for Mary, and in the United States we have even developed our own august celebration. Every year, Maronites from all over the United States gather in Youngstown at our National Basilica to feast her Assumption. But the annual import of the feast evokes two questions – what exactly are we celebrating and why.

As the name of the feast indicates, the Assumption is about Mary being assumed into heaven, beautifully described by this hymn verse in the feast's prayers:

The cup, which ancient Adam mixed in Paradise, Moses drank with all the prophets. The just men and fathers tasted it in their generations – Abraham and Isaac, Joshua Bar Nun and Samuel. The time arrived for the Blessed Mother to drink from it and flee from this life to the other world without end. The angels descended and shrouded her body in glory while singing praise before her until she arrived at the Bridal Chamber.

(From the Syriac Maronite Morning Prayer of the Feast of the Assumption of the Mother of God)

Like her great, saintly ancestors and even her divine Son, we believe in the East that Mary died at the end of her earthly life. As the verse mentions, just as St. Paul writes, death entered the world through the sin of one man (Rom. 5:12). But we do not celebrate the triumph of death – for all St. Paul also writes, after the Resurrection of Christ we ask, “Death, where is your sting?” (1 Cor. 15:55). Instead, in the Assumption of Mary, we celebrate the honor of the Mother of God, who remained pure from sin her entire life. Just as death entered the world through the sin of Adam in Eden, so too did eternal life enter through the merit of Christ (Rom. 5:12-21). When Virgin Mary died, God would not see His pure mother, the temple through which He chose to enter the world, fall into decay. He sent His angels to shroud her in glory and bring her into heaven.

We celebrate the earthly death of the Virgin Mary because in her departure from this world, she is more alive than we are now. When she entered into heaven, she obtained the eternal life of the resurrection won by Jesus Christ her Son. We celebrate her entrance into what the Syriac Fathers constantly call the Bridal Chamber – the eternal delight of heaven, far from suffering, pain and death. The Bridal Chamber is the feast of Christ, the Bridegroom, in which all those of His Church, His Bride, celebrate for all eternity. Though Mary died a physical death, she lives forever on the right hand of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There, what she asks of God provides us protection and strength on Earth.

Just as Christ rose from the dead after His crucifixion and burial, we look to Mary as a prototype of Christian life and celebrate her Assumption as what awaits us as followers of Christ. She was honored in a particular way by her Assumption, but those who follow Christ will also enter into the Bridal Chamber to delight with God and His Church. Likewise, all shall be raised bodily on the day and those who reside in Life, Who is God Himself, will be preserved from every harm and pain. Mary is the most highly honored saint because, though human, perfectly followed the will of God from her youth until her death. We celebrate her Assumption as a precursor to our own – for those who follow the will of God will delight body and soul in the Bridal Chamber. Until that time, we rely on the Mary's great proximity to our loving God, Who has shown His reward through Mary, to obtain His mercy on our behalf: Glory be to You, O Only-Begotten Son and Eternal Being, for by Your own will You became incarnate of Blessed Mary. When she was exalted to the highest from where she shall not depart, Your beckon commanded that the Pure Virgin should taste death like every man and she was honored by a procession of watchers and angels. Through her prayers, O Lover of Mankind, forgive and have mercy on the Church and all her children who honor the day of her departure. Our Lord and our God, to You be glory, forever. Amen.

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish



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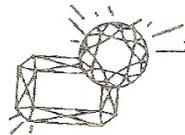
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