



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

September 13, 2020

**Prayer, The Fruit of the Word/The
Feast of the Holy Cross**



Next Sunday

First Sunday After the Holy Cross

2Tim 2:1-10 (Timothy's Conduct)

Mk 10:35-45 (Ambition of James and John)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for Aug 30th - Sept 5th

Online.....\$245.00

Collection.....\$3,579.00

Weekly Total.....\$3,824.00

YTD Total.....\$59,866.76

YTD Goal.....\$64,610.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$4,743.24**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, September 13th 10:30 am

Available

Monday, September 14th

Available

Tuesday, September 15th

Available

Wednesday, September 16th

Available

Thursday, September 17th

Available

Friday, September 18th

Available

Saturday, September 19th

Available

Sunday, September 20th

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.***

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, September 13th

Available

Sunday, September 20th

Redmond Family

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 13, 2020, 10:30am

Youtube 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. Once there click on the appropriate date for mass.

In-Person Mass Sign Ups

We are switching over to using Sign-Up Genius for our weekly in person sign ups. The system will allow you to access at any time and register or alter a reservation. It is able to update in real-time, where as I am not.

Here is the link in case you need to check or alter your reservation.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EA9AF23A4FC1-inperson>

YOUTH GROUP

Calling all Youth ages 13-18!!

The Cedars of Saint Sharbel is a "family" of young people who will meet in virtual meetings to discuss real life and how it relates to our faith in God and His tremendous love for humankind. We'll dig deep to answer some of life's greatest questions while developing friendships and having fun at the same time.

Save the date and time!

First meeting will be on Saturday, October 10

1:00-2:30 pm

[Zoom invitation soon to come](#)

Please email Gennifer Karam for questions or to sign up for the email list: jmjkaram3@gmail.com

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

September 14th is one of the major feasts in the Syriac tradition – the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. St. Helena, the mother of St. Constantine, the Emperor of Rome, established the day as the Feast of the Cross, as she found the cross of Jesus Christ by Golgotha in Jerusalem on this day. It was found while St. Helena was overseeing the construction of a church over the place where Christ was crucified and was buried. Having found the true cross, Constantine proclaimed a holy day to venerate it throughout the Empire.

But why do we venerate the cross? It would seem a bit odd to venerate the instrument of torture used against our Lord and God if He had not risen from the dead. However, we know that Christ rose from the dead, and so He made a mockery out of death and its instruments. Jesus showed in His crucifixion that He has the power to make even an instrument of death a means of life. He transformed His cross, which was used to sentence Him to death, into an instrument that brings life to all those who believe in it, “an armor of righteousness, a companion of assistances, and a fount of immortality” (as our prayers call it). But why does the cross receive such lofty titles? When Jesus, our immortal God died, He descended to the place of the dead and defeated death, rising again and promising His believers the same. So what others see as a way to death, Christians see it as the key that brought eternal life. God is so great He can make a symbol of death one of life – hence why the Syriac tradition often contrasts the cross to the tree that Adam ate from and died: “The fruit from the tree killed Adam, and the Fruit from heaven redeemed him.” Christ is the Fruit of Life Who has given Himself to us for life, and the cross is the tree that has borne Him for us. It was the foolishness of Adam that caused his fall, but it was the mercy of Christ that returned him to Eden – this is what the cross represents.

But the cross does not simply represent the suffering of Christ. On Sunday morning we lift up the cross in glorious victory because it is empty along with the tomb. The cross is a sign of the Resurrection, for by it Christ descended to Sheol and raised the dead who served Him in their lives to heaven. We exalt the cross again on the Holy Cross and bless the four corners of the world for it continues to be the very pillar of the world. Creation itself and its continuance rely solely on the merciful salvation of God – the cross is the very pinnacle of this sustaining mercy. In mercy, Christ exorcised demons and healed the sick, worked miracles and showed His divinity. This mercy pervades every aspect of our life and remains with the baptized at all times, for we have put on Christ through the waters of baptism.

The cross is the sign of salvation, and it is the banner of our King. We have easy access to this mighty power. Our enemies, the demons and devils, flee at the very sight of the Lord's sign. By the sign of the cross and invocation of the Persons of the Trinity we obtain the assistance of the mercy of God. The sign of the cross is so commonly made that it is overlooked, but each and every time we make the sign of the cross we recalled and call upon the help and hope of God's entire plan of salvation. When we are in need, let us trace this powerful sign upon ourselves as we pray:

We trace the living sign of the cross between our eyes and by its power we are protected from harm and injury. Demons flee before whomever signs himself with the cross – the [same] cross that restore the House of Adam from error.

(Trans. from the Prayers for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross)

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish

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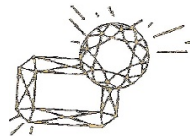
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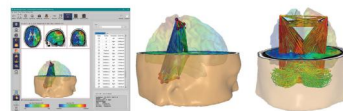
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