



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

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[stsharbelpdx@gmail.com](mailto:stsharbelpdx@gmail.com)

[www.stsharbel.org](http://www.stsharbel.org)

## September 20, 2020

### First Sunday After the Holy Cross



### Next Sunday

#### Second Sunday After the Holy Cross

**1Cor 15:19-34** (Christ The Firstfruits/Practical Arguments)

**Mt 24:1-14** (The Destruction of the Temple Foretold/ Beginning of Calamities)

## Your Gifts To God

### Offering Report for Sept 6th - Sept 12th

Online.....\$1,375.00

Collection.....\$836.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,211.00

YTD Total.....\$62,077.76

YTD Goal.....\$66,456.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$4,378.24**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, September 20th 10:30 am

*Available*

Monday, September 21st

*Available*

Tuesday, September 22nd

*Available*

Wednesday, September 23rd

*Available*

Thursday, September 24th

*Available*

Friday, September 25th

*Available*

Saturday, September 26th

*Available*

Sunday, September 27th

*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 20th**

*Redmond Family*

**Sunday, September 27th**

*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 20, 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](mailto: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

Symbols and signs have a great power. Whether it be a company logo, that identifies for us a brand, or a signature, which communicates a person's approval of to whatever it is attached, an identity is communicated. Along with that identity, the personal credibility of the person or thing to whom the sign belongs is accessed by it. The cross is both sign and signature of Christ, accessible to us at every hour.

In former times, especially when most people could not read, a king's sign was extremely important. If an order was issued by the king, it came into force when he added his seal. Similarly, when his soldiers would go to war they would carry his sign on a banner to show the soldiers acted on his behalf. So the King of Kings, Jesus Christ, has likewise given us His symbol – the cross. At our baptisms, the priest drew the sign of the cross over us, which claimed us for Christ, as he said, "May he/she be signed a simple lamb of Your flock; by Your sign, may he/she be numbered among Your spiritual herd and enter Your sheepfold. May he/ she be mixed with Your sheep and become Yours..." By the sign of the cross, we become Christ's – as His followers and His siblings, heirs of the Father. Just like a royal person has a crest, we have taken the sign of the cross as our family crest, and we become divine sons and daughters of God.

The same baptism prayers continues and expresses a second reason why we are given the sign of the cross, "...May he/she be protected from all evils. By the sign of the glorious Trinity, may You sanctify him/her and may he/she come to a second birth, singing glory and offering thanks to You..." The sign of the cross acts like the banner soldiers would carry into war, to protect us from harm and give us the help of our King. It is our "Armor of Righteousness and Helpful Companion" as we call it on the Feast because it is the sign by which Christ chose to save the world. When we sign ourselves with it and invoke the Trinity, we receive an overflowing of invisible assistance. As expressed by a Syriac hymn:

In the evening I sign my limbs with the cross and You have made it my guard night and day. In the middle of the night when the Evil One comes he sees the cross. He flees from it and hides himself in the dark place and in the morning I rise to sing You praise, O Lord  
(Trans. from Syriac Maronite Thursday Vespers)

We carry with us every day the sign of the cross the Church marked us with on our baptism. As St. Paul says, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20) for "all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Gal. 3:27). The whole almighty power of Christ, Who conquered death and Satan by the cross, we have put on in baptism. Each time we sign ourselves with His cross, we obtain all the assistance of that power.



**Gibran N Zogbi**

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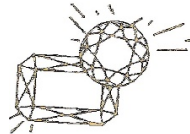
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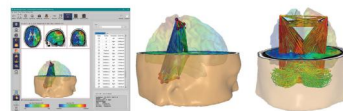
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