

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

September 27, 2020

Second Sunday After the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

Third Sunday After the Holy Cross

Phil 3:17-4:1 (Wrong Conduct and Our Goal/Live in Concord)

Mt 24:23-31 (The Great Tribulation/The Coming of the Son of Man)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, September 27th 10:30 am

Available

Monday, September 28th

Francesca Rooney

Tuesday, September 29th

Available

Wednesday, September 30th

Available

Thursday, October 1st

Mary Claire Curran

Friday, October 2nd

Available

Saturday, October 3rd

Available

Sunday, October 4th

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 Sept 13th - 19th

Online.....\$450.00

Collection.....\$836.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,286.00

YTD Total.....\$63,363.76

YTD Goal.....\$68,302.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$4,938.24**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, September 27th

Available

Sunday, October 4th

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 27, 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

So great is the faith of the Thief whose Lord was crucified upon the Tree and Whose forgiveness he requested. With nails in His hands and feet, he said to Him, "Forgive me my transgression!" Behold, Simon who had seen denied [Him], John stood afar, and the Thief cried out, "Remember me when You come!" (From the prayers of the Feast of the Holy Cross)

In mostly every other situation, it would be odd to hold up a thief as an example of how we should behave. But throughout the Syriac tradition, the Fathers constantly call our attention to how exemplary the Thief crucified next to Christ is (Luke 23:39-43). Simon Peter, who only shortly before the Passion professed that he would never abandon Christ, denied him and ran away. John, known as the Beloved Disciple and who laid his head on Jesus' chest at the Last Supper, now stands afar. But it was a thief, who admitted his execution was deserved, is raised up as our saintly example even above the first Bishop of Rome and an apostle. From the Thief, we learn three salient lessons.

The Thief sees with what the Syriac Fathers call the "Eye of the Spirit." Christ was beaten and about to die, yet to the Thief He was clearly the Lord of All. While others taunted Him to save Himself, the Thief understood that He was the One without Whom His persecutors would cease to exist. Peter, though he had seen Christ manifest His godly glory at the Transfiguration, still did not understand. But the Thief in his heart understood well when Christ said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25). That day, the Thief gained eternal life in heaven by dying in faith, but Peter died by denouncing God until he would repent.

The Thief's plea for mercy from God reminds us that we should and must call out to God to save us from our sin. Even in the day of his death, the Thief still had hope because Jesus is the Hope of the Hopeless. Whereas an external observer would say the Thief died and Peter lived by fleeing, we know that the Thief gained eternal life and Peter had rejected the Lord of Life at that moment. The Thief knew that no sin, even one that brought him to death, was larger than the mercy of God – his name is a reminder, in that we remember him by his crime but laud him for his faith. God is the judge of heart and mind, and not restricted to human concepts of justice. He is always eager to have mercy – and when Peter repented from his denunciation of Jesus, he too was forgiven and became the highest bishop of the Church.

The last lesson from the Thief is that we are reminded God is the Judge of Judges – not us. It can be difficult not to judge people by their pasts and appearances, but we must remember we not determine who is worthy of the forgiveness or blessing of the Most High God! After all, it was Sts. Peter and John, apostles and bishops, who ran or stood afar. It was the Thief who was pleasing to God in that moment. But the temporary lapse of Peter also did not define the rest of his life – with sincere repentance came perfect reconciliation!

Like the Thief, let us seek God with spiritual eyes instead of the judgment of man. Like the Thief, let us call out to God at all hours, in spite of how hopeless our situations may look. Like the Thief, let us not try to replace the judgment of God with our own but be confident in His steadfastness! May prayers of the Thief be a rampart to us!



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

September 22, 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all doing well and that you are all healthy and happy.

In this past year, there have been many changes in our lives. We have tried our best to stay connected despite the difficulties and challenges.

Now, the United States of America is preparing itself for the upcoming general election in November. As Catholic Citizens of this country, we have a sacred role and obligation to make informed decisions when we vote. This is not about partisanship, affiliations, or choosing one candidate over another but simply about choosing our elected officials and voting on issues by following our conscience and Church teachings.

There are many key issues up for vote in November and there are things we must remember when we determine our choice. As Catholics we have a duty to be true to our faith and to the teachings of the Church. We must respect and value the dignity of every person as our faith teaches us. Our choices should focus on the common good of all people and not just personal or political interests.

When you vote this November, I ask you to stay informed, pray, and reflect on your choices. As both Catholics and citizens of this country, we have a responsibility to participate in the civil life of the United States, but we must follow Christ's teachings when making these decisions.

If anyone would like to know more, please reference the United States Conference for Catholic Bishops page Forming Consciousness for Faithful Citizenship
<https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship>.

With my sincere best wishes and prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ,

+A. Elias Zaidan

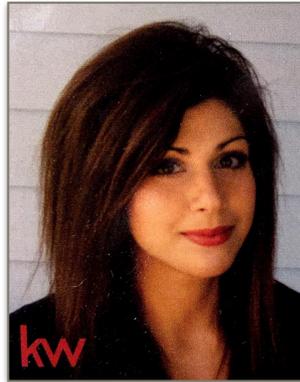
Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles



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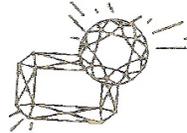
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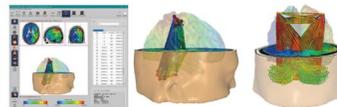
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*Board Registered EEG Technologist
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