

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



November 22, 2020

The Announcement to the Virgin Mary



Next Sunday

The Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth

Eph 1:1-14 (Salutation/The Father's Plan of Salvation)

Lk 1:39-45 (Mary Visits Elizabeth)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for Nov 8th -14th

Online.....\$1,160.00

Collection.....\$954.26

Weekly Total.....\$2,114.26

YTD Total.....\$78,244.92

YTD Goal.....\$83,070.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$4,825.08**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 22nd, 10:30am

+*Georgette Youness Ibrahim*

Monday, November 23rd

Available

Tuesday, November 24th

Available

Wednesday, November 25th

Available

Thursday, November 26th

Available

Friday, November 27th

Andrew & Francesca

Saturday, November 28th

Available

Sunday, November 29th

+*Georgette and Antoine Zogbi*

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, November 22nd

Redmond Family

Sunday, November 29th

Available

Parish | Community Events

Sunday, November 22nd, 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.

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

FUNERAL MASS FOR MARIA GASCON

Saturday, November 21, 2020 11:00am

This Saturday we will be honoring Maria Gascon with a funeral mass at the parish. With current restrictions what they are, we are inviting you all to take part virtually.

Please use the link below to go to the St. Sharbel youtube channel on Saturday and a livestream will be available on the channel to watch the funeral from home. You can also subscribe to the channel and receive an alert for when the livestream is posted.

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

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>



THE FEAST DAY OF ST. BARBARA

Friday, December 4th

**DUE TO THE NEW
RESTRICTIONS WE ARE
CANCELING THE ST. BARBARA
FEAST DAY CELEBRATION THAT
WAS SCHEDULED FOR NOV 29th**



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.

STAY TUNED FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

This Second Sunday of the Season of Announcements commemorates the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary by the angel Gabriel, in which he tells her that she will be the Mother of God. This feast is so important in the Syriac tradition that we celebrate it twice a year – on this Sunday and on March 25 – nine months before the celebration of Christ’s birth. Our Syriac tradition is known for defending her title as ‘Mother of God’ against the heretics of the early century who denied her of it. Particularly, the Bishop of Constantinople Nestorius denied Mary bore God in her womb – but the Gospel today is clear, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35). God became man in His goodness that we might share in His divine nature – to deny that is to deny the goodness and generosity of God! So today we celebrate God the Son’s humility, for He chose to become a child born of the Virgin Mary as Isaiah foretold (Is. 7:14). When Mary received the word of the angel Gabriel, the Word God was conceived in her by the power of God.

The Syriac tradition holds Mary in such high esteem because she, as the human mother of Jesus Christ, she is physically and figuratively the closest person to God. All Christians seek proximity to God, because in love of Him we seek to be near Him. No one is closer than the immaculate, holy Mother of God. St. Ephrem and the other Syriac Fathers show this by comparing Mary’s closeness to Jesus as opposed to His appearances in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, those unworthy who dared to touch the Ark of the Covenant, which God gave to Israel as a sign of His love of them, died because they sought something they were not due (2 Sam 6:6-7). Yet Mary became the perfect Ark of the New Covenant at the Annunciation when she became the temple of God and bore Christ, the sacrifice of the New Covenant Who would die for us. Likewise, even the angels of fire, called seraphim, in the highest part of heaven that stand around the throne of God described by the Prophet Daniel cover their faces lest they look upon God’s blazing face. The legions of fiery seraphim fear to be burned by the fire of God, yet Mary sat Him upon her lap and kissed His face. Mary held in her lap a wriggling child, the Ancient of Days Who governs the stars, as she suckled Him Who sends rain upon the earth.

These images the Fathers teach us illustrate many aspects of our belief about Christ’s birth, but two obvious ones are the humility of God and the worthiness of Mary. Our omnipotent Lord and God, Who showed His absolute might in ages past, now takes the form of a meek and small child at the Annunciation to be near humanity. Why should the King of All trade His throne in heaven for the womb of the Virgin? Because He loves creation He comes to save, and to raise up our fallen nature He has lowered Himself. In raising up our nature, He has sanctified and designated the Holy Virgin Mary as His temple. Mary lived and served in the Temple of Jerusalem as a virgin since her childhood, always close to holy things and living a righteous life. Set apart from birth, she was a holy woman set apart for a holy purpose, as this prayer emphasizes:

O Holy Virgin, You holily received the holy Annunciation from the holy angel and holily carried in Your holy womb the Lord of Holies and Hallower of Holy Things. In the holiness of your holy conception you hallowed children and babes. Therefore, hallow us, O Holy Virgin, by the holiness of your holy prayers so that we may holily glorify Your holy Hallower, Whom you holily conceived and holily carried in the holy Holy of Holies. May we hallow Him with His Father, and living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times forever. Amen. (Prayer from Syriac Maronite Vespers for Annunciation)

The prayer mentions the word ‘holy’ a lot. The degree to the holiness of Mary is ineffable because she became the human vessel of Christ, from whom He took a body. In her great proximity to God, she provides us access ourselves. The Holy Virgin still stands closer to His throne than the ranks of seraphim and remains the greatest intercessor of the Church. She provides us both an example to aspire for closeness to God’s holiness, and a means to do so through her. Let us glorify God Who has become man in His humility, and given us this great assistance on Earth. May her prayers be a rampart for us.

— Article Credit: St Rafka Parish



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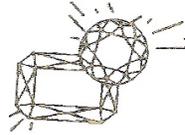
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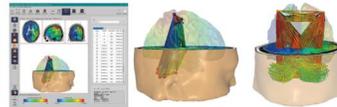
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