



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

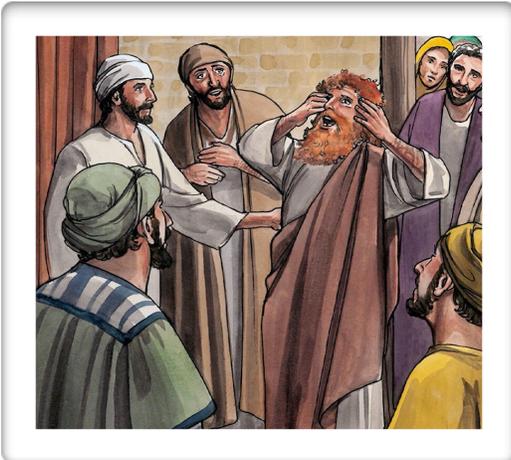
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[stsharbelpdx@gmail.com](mailto:stsharbelpdx@gmail.com)

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

## July 25, 2021

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)

## Your Gifts To God

*Offering Report for July 11th - 17th*

Online.....\$1066.00

Collection.....\$377.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,443.00

YTD Total.....\$52,766.47

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

YTD Difference.....**-\$767.53**

## Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, July 25th, 11:00am

*Available*

Monday, July 26th

*In Honor of Saint Anne and Saint Joachim*

Tuesday, July 27th

*Available*

Wednesday, July 28th

*+Dr Lawrence Montrose*

Thursday, July 29th

*Available*

Friday, July 30th

*Available*

Saturday, July 31st

*Available*

Sunday, August 1st

*Available*

*Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 10:00 am before the morning Liturgy.*

*Confession every Sunday 10:35-10:50am before the morning Liturgy.*

*Also join us to pray the Rosary on Sundays at 10:30 am before the Liturgy begins.*

## Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, July 25th

*Available*

Sunday, August 1st

*Available*

# Parish | Community Events



**\*\*SUNDAY MASS TIME\*\***

11:00am

Confessions: 10:35-10:50am

## Parish Council

Bruce Ashford

Charlie Ashou

Gus Bekahi

Nick El Hajj

Agopos Ghossein

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Anne Marentette  
(Secretary)

+Doug Raab

+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Mitch Siekmann

Ex Officio

+Deacon Tony

+Deacon Wadih

+Finance  
Committee



## Seek Things Above

### MONASTIC DISCERNMENT RETREAT OCTOBER 15 - 17

*at Mount Angel Abbey & Online*

For information or to register, contact  
Fr. Odo Recker, OSB, Vocation Director  
503.881.8919 | [vocation@mtangel.edu](mailto:vocation@mtangel.edu)

[MOUNTANGELABBEY.ORG](http://MOUNTANGELABBEY.ORG)



## HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CLINIC

### Natural Family Planning Awareness Week July 25 - 31

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is the general title for the scientific, natural and moral methods of family planning that can help married couples **either achieve or postpone pregnancies.**

"NFP reflects the dignity of the human person within the context of marriage and family life, promotes openness to life, and recognizes the value of the child. By respecting the love-giving and life-giving natures of marriage, NFP can enrich the bond between husband and wife." [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/diocesan-ministry/standards-full-text](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/diocesan-ministry/standards-full-text)

We are blessed to have a local resource for NFP. Contact Holy Family Catholic Clinic at 503-994-4353 or go to their webpage at [www.holyfamilyclinic.com](http://www.holyfamilyclinic.com).

# Reflection

Mt 12:22-32

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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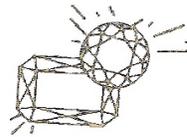
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