



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 5, 2021

16th Sunday of Pentecost
Prayer, the Fruit of the Word



Next Sunday

Feast of the Holy Cross

1 Cor 1:18-25 (Paradox of the Cross)

Jn 12:20-32 (The Coming of Jesus' Hour)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for August 22nd - 28th

Online.....\$1,195.00

Collection.....\$610.00

Weekly Total.....\$1,805.00

YTD Total.....\$63,258.47

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

YTD Difference.....**-\$1,351.53**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, September 5th, 11:00am

+Carolee Gavigan

Monday, September 6th

Available

Tuesday, September 7th

Available

Wednesday, September 8th

*In Honor of Our Blessed Mother's
Birthday*

Thursday, September 9th

Available

Friday, September 10th

+Naji Semaan

Saturday, September 11th

Available

Sunday, September 12th

+May Haddad

*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

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, September 5th

Available

Sunday, September 12th

Available

Parish / Community Events

Mass Updates:

Currently masks, face coverings or face shields are required in all indoor spaces — regardless of vaccination status— by an Oregon State Mandate. Masks will need to be worn for mass for those 5 years and older.

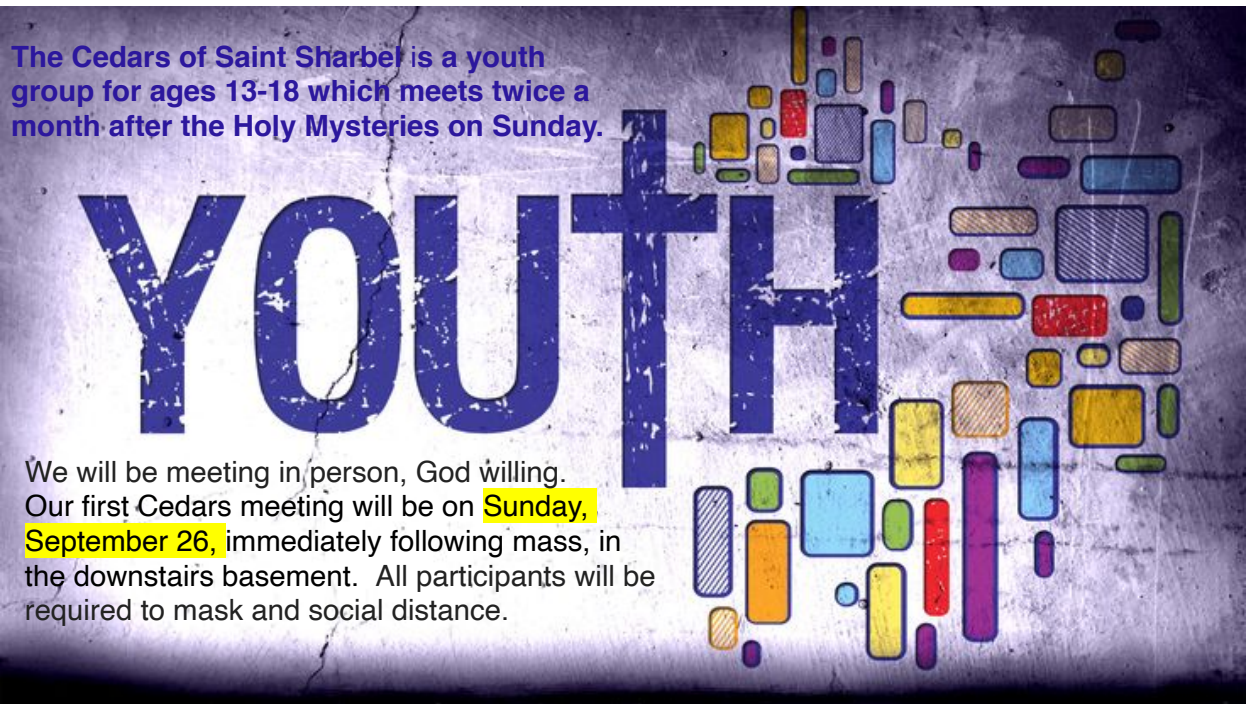
Thank you for your Cooperation!

Parish Council

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Gus Bekahi
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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



Meeting dates are posted here and sent out in email. For more information, contact Gennifer Karam: jmjkaram3@gmail.com

To answer any questions or address concerns of parents prior to our first meeting, Abouna Christopher will join us for a Zoom parent meeting on **Wednesday, September 15 at 7pm.** Nadia Redmond will also fill us in on the Eparchy's new Safe Environment requirements for the children of our parish, which all parents will need to be aware of. This meeting is for parents of all children in K-12.

Please contact Gennifer at the above stated email address to receive the Zoom invite.

A LETTER FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PORTLAND

Covid-19 Statement on Government-Mandated Vaccinations

The COVID-19 virus has surged once again with the rapid spread of the Delta variant, which is dramatically more contagious than the original virus. The pandemic and its effects have impacted the entire globe and laid a heavy burden on all of us, including our families and communities here in western Oregon. We continue to implore the Lord for his mercy and a rapid end to the pandemic.

Now that the Pfizer vaccine is fully approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the State of Oregon is requiring all school teachers, staff, and volunteers, including in private schools, to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by Oct. 18 (see rule **HERE**). It is important to recall that statewide vaccine mandates for other vaccinations already exist for all children who attend schools.

Catholic Church leaders encourage all people who are able to get vaccinated to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Please see this **VIDEO**, which features Pope Francis and the President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Jos  Gomez. Pope Francis, Pope Benedict, and our own Archbishop Sample have all received the vaccine. In recommending the vaccine, the Church relies on the judgement of public health experts regarding its safety and efficacy. No medical intervention is without risks, and these risks must be weighed in light of the benefits of vaccination for the individual and common good.

Receiving any of the currently approved COVID-19 vaccines is morally acceptable for Catholics in light of the pandemic and since ethically irreproachable COVID-19 vaccines are unavailable. Because receiving the vaccine constitutes only remote, passive material cooperation in evil, the Church teaches it is morally licit to do so (**CDF 2 & 3**). A Catholic, in good conscience, can receive any of the three currently available COVID-19 vaccines. Since this position that one can in good conscience receive the vaccination has been confirmed by recent statements by the Holy Father and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, this is to be considered an authoritative application of the Church's moral norms in this particular case and constitutes a part of the Magisterial teaching of the Church.

The Church recognizes that in principle, vaccination is not a moral obligation and must be voluntary (**CDF, 5**). However, because the State is requiring vaccination for some sectors of society, (including Catholic school teachers, staff, and volunteers) due to the pandemic and for the stated purpose of protecting the public health, Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Portland are therefore obligated to comply with the State's vaccine mandate. The Church recognizes and understands there are legitimate medical and other reasons why individuals may not be able or willing to take the vaccines. For example, the Church supports individuals who, not accepting the Church's official moral guidance, are disturbed in conscience about taking the vaccines due to their remote connection with aborted fetal cell lines. Individuals not able or unwilling to be vaccinated must take concrete, practical steps to avoid exposing those who are vulnerable and at risk. In cases where accommodations cannot be made by an employer, the individual may need to seek employment elsewhere to protect the common good and minimize risks to vulnerable populations.

In the case of Catholic school teachers, staff and volunteers, there may be circumstances when accommodations can be made for an individual seeking an exemption of conscience. Each request for such an accommodation will be carefully and sincerely considered on its merits and on an individual basis. Minimizing risk for our children and keeping them safe is paramount. The Oregon Health Authority form must be used to request a religious exception.

No letters can be written by priests or other Church officials to support an individual's request for religious exemption. This is because the matter is strictly between the employee and the employer. Also, no Church official can state that receiving the vaccination is contrary to the moral teachings of the Church, given the moral guidance provided by the Church as referenced above. Individuals can be directed to use National Catholic Bioethics Center materials as a reference to craft their own letters of conscientious objection.

<https://archdpdx.org/news/statement-on-oregon-mandates-210830>

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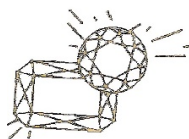
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