



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

503.231.3853

stsharelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

November 21, 2021

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 November 7th - 13th

Online.....\$4,475.00

Collection.....\$7,700.00

Weekly Total.....\$12,175.00

YTD Total.....\$91,940.47

YTD Goal.....\$84,916.00

YTD Difference.....\$7,024.47

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 21st, 11:00am

+Isabelle Jabbour

Monday, November 22nd

Available

Tuesday, November 23rd

Available

Wednesday, November 24th

Available

Thursday, November 25th

Thanksgiving

Friday, November 26th

Available

Saturday, November 27th

Available

Sunday, November 28th

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, November 21st

Redmond Family

Sunday, November 28th

Available

Parish | Community Events

St. Sharbel Sunday School Program (Ages 6-12):

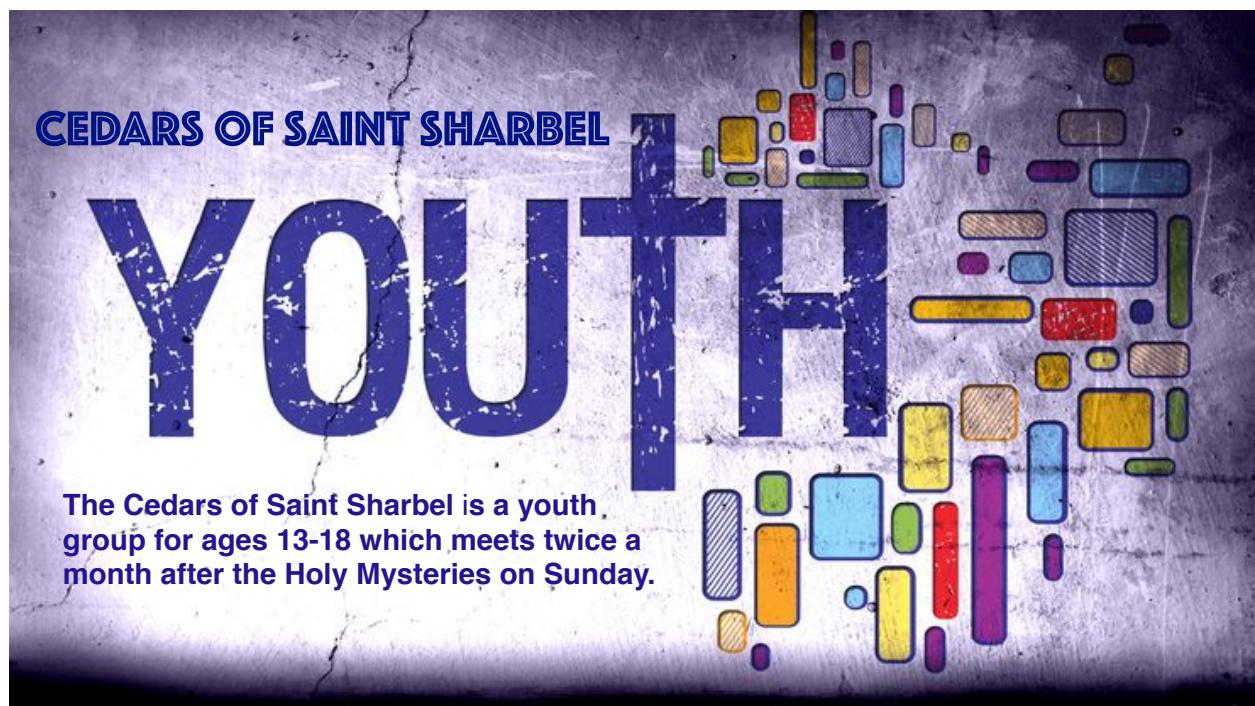
All meetings are held after the Divine Liturgy in the Parish Hall downstairs, unless otherwise noted. All participants will be required to wear a mask and practice physical distance. For more information contact Nadia Redmond at n.redmond@comcast.net.

UPCOMING CLASSES AND EVENTS:

November 21 - Location: Upstairs Classroom

December 12 - *First Christmas Ornament Fundraiser* to benefit Maronite Monks Sunday School Children are busy hand making Christmas ornaments of the fundraiser event.

December 19 - Preparation/rehearsal for *Children's Christmas Eve Pageant*



We will be meeting in person, God willing. Meetings will immediately follow mass, in the downstairs basement. All participants will be required to mask and social distance.

Meeting Dates (Subject to Change)

****November 21** DATE CHANGE**

December 5 — Family Adoration at 10:00am. No additional meeting this month

2022 Meetings

January 9

January 23

February 6

February 20

Meeting dates are posted here and sent out in email. For more information, contact Gennifer Karam: jmkaram3@gmail.com



The MYA is a group of men and women ages 18-40 (ish) which meets once a month for fellowship, prayer, and social activities. If interested, please contact Claude Karam at

claude@trazzafoods.com

Next Meeting Date TBA



Tickets are Going Fast!



NEW VENUE! NEW DATES!

[Click here to order tickets](#)
or call 503-557-8733

Portland's Holiday Spectacular, presented by Portland's Singing Christmas Tree, will be held at Sunset Presbyterian, 14986 NW Cornell Rd, Portland. Same great show and parking is FREE

The performance dates and times are:

Saturday, November 27 at 2:00pm
Saturday, November 27 at 6:00pm
Sunday, November 28 at 2:00pm
Saturday, December 4 at 2:00pm
Saturday, December 4 at 6:00pm
Sunday, December 5 at 2:00pm

**Bringing you the message of
Love, Hope, Peace and Joy this holiday season.**



Portland's Singing Christmas Tree | 503-557-8733

www.singingchristmastree.org

patti@singingchristmastree.org

Reflection

"And he [Gabriel] came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be." (Luke 1:28-9)

This week we celebrate the second visit of the archangel Gabriel to bring news from God to a human. This time he is sent by the Father to announce the conception of Christ to the Holy Mother of God, Virgin Mary. And she is frightened and confused by this – but why is she not punished like Zechariah was for questioning Gabriel when she responds, “How can this be? (Luke 1:34). Like Zechariah, she was a devout Jew, and would have heard the entirety of the Scriptures read every year in the Temple. But precisely because she was familiar with the Scriptures she was confused by this greeting – as the Church Father Origen tells us, nowhere before was anyone addressed by the title “Full of Grace” in the Bible. Mary is confused because this new greeting addressed to her indicates a radically new plan of action on the part of God, Whose messenger Gabriel is. After all, Mary is a virgin and never before has a virgin given birth to a son, but exactly because God set aside this great work to indicate His coming, perhaps most clearly foreshadowing it when He said spoke through the prophet Isaiah, “A virgin will conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel [God is with us]” (Isaiah 7:14). Gabriel references this in his greeting when he says “the Lord is with you” and perhaps that might add to the shock of her unique title.

But whom exactly is Mary told she will conceive? We imagine Gabriel to say, “Upon your knees you will carry Him Whom the angels of dreadful fire on high fear to look upon,” (Morning Prayer for the Annunciation) and “Do not fear – the One Whose palm holds the width of the heavens has come and dwells in your pure womb” (Diaconal Proclamation for the Annunciation). It is a great and incomprehensible thing indeed! God the Ancient of Days and Creator of All has chosen this young girl, Mary, from before all ages to dwell within her and take flesh to become man. But why did God choose Mary?

God chose Mary from amongst all women because she is the holiest amongst every generation. And this holiness is from two means, ultimately both from God. The first means of her holiness is that which is purely gifted to her by God. Holiness is being set aside for the sake of God, and God sanctified Mary from the very beginning of her life. Our Tradition teaches us that she was consecrated a Temple Virgin from the beginning of her life, which meant she lived in the sanctuary and dedicated her life to prayer. But the second means of her holiness was her cooperation with God’s plan – in fact, we often depict the Annunciation occurring while she is praying in the Temple. Her sanctification did not take away her free will, but she was chosen because she persisted perfectly in a life of holiness and dedication to God. And when Gabriel revealed to her the seemingly impossible plan of God, that He would become man, that He Who is fire would dwell in flesh or the One Who governs legions of angels would lower Himself to become a child, what is her response? “Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). Mary is the perfect example of a Christian, because in the face of what seems to be absurdity, she trusts that God knows what He is about. And because of her trust we say to her “You are the mediator between divinity and humanity, and in you both sides were reconciled” (Diaconal Proclamation). The rift caused by the offenses of Adam were repaired quite literally in Mary, and she became the very meeting point of God and man. As such, let us ask our greatest intercessor to beseech her Son on our behalf all the days of our lives, for no man knows Him better.

**Gibran N Zogbi**

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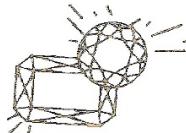
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