

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214 503.231.3853 <u>stsharbelpdx@gmail.com</u> <u>www.stsharbel.org</u>

May 12, 2024

7th Sunday of the Resurrection



Next Sunday

Pentecost Sunday Acts 2:1-21 (The Coming of the Spirit/Peter's Speech at Pentecost) Jn 14:15-20 (The Advocate)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for April 28th - May 4th

Online	\$133.00
Collection	\$446.00
Weekly Total	\$579.00

YTD Total	\$24,853.48
YTD Goal	\$41,544.00

YTD Difference......**\$16,690.52**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, May 12th, 11:00am Available

<u>Monday, May 13th</u> *George Bachour*

Tuesday, May 14th Available

Wednesday, May 15th Aboud Adam Bachour

Thursday, May 16th Available

Friday, May 17th Available

Saturday, May 18th Available

Sunday, May 19th +Manuel Nemr

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, May 12th Available Sunday, May 19th Redmond Family

News Events

Parish Council

Chair: Lydia Massaad

Sara Ashou

Eva Bekahi

Ben El Hajj

Husn Karam

+Claude Karam

Michael Layoun

+Doug Raab

+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Peter Rizk

Mitch Siekmann

Gibran Zogbi

+Finance Committee



Eucharistic Congress — The First National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years July 17-21, 2024 Indianapolis, Indiana <u>MORE INFO HERE</u>



National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) 2024-2025 Scholarships are now available for high school and college students. Scholarships range from \$1000 to \$2000 and opportunities to study abroad in Lebanon. The deadline is May 31, 2024. See website for forms and details: <u>https://namnews.org/?Scholarships1</u>

59th Annual NAM Convention will be in Detroit, Michigan, July 4-7, 2024. To register see website for details:

https://namnews.org/?nam2024

Parish Programs

Wanted ONE Holy Hour per Week!



Contact Nadia Redmond 503-671-0440 -or-

Email: <u>n.redmond@comcast.net</u> More info at: <u>https://sevensistersapostolate.org/</u>

MYO EVENTS TBA

All Youth ages 13–18 are welcome!

PRAY THE ROSARY



EVERY SUNDAY BEFORE MASS WE PRAY THE ROSARY AT 10:30AM.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PERSON OR WITHIN YOUR OWN FAMILY TO PRAY THE ROSARY TOGETHER.

SUND入YS 10:30入M



Cedars of St. Sharbel Youth Catechesis Ages 12-17 To sign up, contact Gennifer Karam <u>imkaram3@gmail.com</u>

May 19 — The Theology of the Body





Maronite Young Adults (MYA)

MYA is a local chapter of a national Maronite organization for single and married men and women ages 19+

NEXT MEETING: MAY 19 — Continued studies and discussion on the gift of the Eucharistic

For more info on the MYA, contact Claude@trazzafoods.com





Religious Education

To ALL Families with children between Ages 6-11

For Information about family catechesis and sacrament preparation Contact Nadia Redmond, Coordinator of Religious Education, <u>n.redmond@comcast.net</u>

Please continue to pray for our parish and ministries.



How often do we trace the sign of the cross upon ourselves? Likely we do so every time we begin to pray and at the end, and perhaps during our prayer as well and throughout the day. The sign of the cross is integral to our faith because Christ by His cross made a fool of death and destroyed sin by His death. But the sign of the cross does not only recall the death of Christ – for if Christ only died and nothing else, our faith would be in vain (1 Cor. 15:14). We do not worship a dead god, but the God of Life. When we sign ourselves with the cross we recall the entirety of Christ's mercy towards us on Earth from His conception at the Annunciation to the Ascension after His Resurrection into heaven, which we just celebrated this past Thursday. By Christ's life we have life. But when we sign ourselves with the cross, we do not simply say "In the name of the Son" but "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" to which we add in the Syriac tradition "the one true God. Amen." Though Christ was the only Person of the Trinity to become man, He was never separated from His Father or Spirit, and though there are three Persons in the Trinity, He is one true God without division.

We often hear and know the mention of the relationship between the Father and the Son, but our tradition brings particular light to the Spirit. The "St. Thomas" Cross of the Syriac tradition presents the truth of the Spirit clearly – this St. Thomas Cross is a cross with a dove, the Holy Spirit, perched on the top. The Holy Spirit, equal in being and majesty as the Father and Son, never left the Son since the Trinity is one, and the Trinity together completed every act of salvation on our behalf. Never was Christ separated or abandoned by the Father or Spirit in His entire life. From the beginning of the world, what the Father and Son began the Spirit also completed – just as we see in Genesis, the Spirit hovered over the waters (Gen. 1:2). Likewise, the Spirit hovers over our sacrifice to God upon the altar, depicted by the priest waving his hands at the epiclesis, just as He hovered over Mary at the Annunciation (Luke 1:35), over the Jordan at Christ's baptism (Matt. 3:16), and over the cross at the Christ's crucifixion. But just as the Father and Spirit never abandoned Christ in their unity of being and love, Christ did not abandon us when He physically ascended back to heaven.

As Christ promised His Apostles before His death, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth...I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:16,18). The same Spirit that completes, nourishes, consoles and perfects was poured upon the Apostles at Pentecost that, in union with the Spirit, they would be in union with the Son and Father. Just as the Apostles received the Spirit at Pentecost, we have been given participation in the divine nature by our baptism and confirmation, when the Spirit clothed us between the waters. Christ did not leave us by His Ascension, but incorporated us into the divine life by His Spirit. This is why we eagerly look forward to this great Feast of Pentecost next week – the great completion when the Spirit poured forth upon creation.

The St. Thomas Cross shows us that even at Christ's moment on the cross He was not abandoned by the Spirit, Who has been with Him since before all time. In Christ's love and mercy for us, He has given us, His baptized believers, the same Spirit that we may be united to Him, and His Father, and His Holy Spirit. With this in mind, let us pray in preparation for next week's great feast:

Make us worthy, O Lord God, Lover of Men, that we may sate our souls and fill our hearts with the rational drink of the new wine of the Spirit, the Paraclete, that, while made pure and holy, we may sing pure praises with pure and holy tongues to Your adorable and holy name, and that of Your Only-Begotten Son, and Your Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen. (From the Maronite Kneeling Rite for the Feast of Pentecost)

-Article Credit St. Rafka Parish

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