

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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

May 5, 2024

6th Sunday of the Resurrection



Next Sunday

7th Sunday of the Resurrection

Eph 1:15-23 (The Church as Christ's Body)

Jn 13:31-35 (The New Commandment)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for April 21st - 27th

Online	\$763.00
Collection	\$391.00
Weekly Total	\$1,154.00

YTD Total	\$24,274.48
YTD Goal	\$39,236,00

YTD Difference.....-\$14,961.52

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, May 5th, 11:00am

Available

Monday, May 6th

Jacob Garwood

Tuesday, May 7th

Available

Wednesday, May 8th

Genevieve Cronk

Thursday, May 9th

Available

Friday, May 10th

Available

Saturday, May 11th

Available

Sunday, May 12th

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, May 5th

Available

Sunday, May 12th

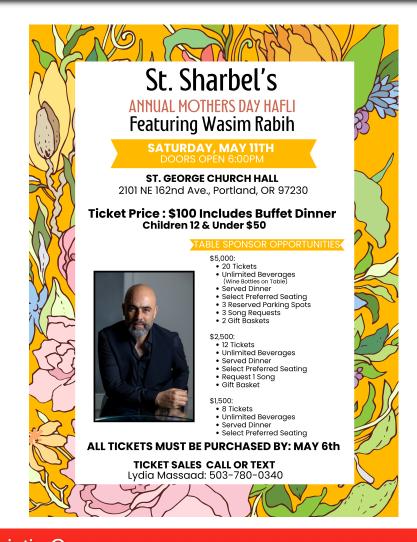
Available

Parish Council

Chair: Lydia Massaad

Sara Ashou
Eva Bekahi
Ben El Hajj
Adib 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 MORE INFO HERE

FIRST COMMUNION

On the first Sunday of May, we have 5 children who will receive the Eucharist for the first time in their life - aka "First Holy Communion". This is a very special moment for the children, their families but also everyone in the parish. Let us pray and ask our Lord, Jesus Christ, to bless our children who are preparing to receive His Body and Blood for their first holy Communion.

The first communicants will also help Abouna to crown our beautiful statue of Mary for the Feast of Our Lady of Lebanon - the first Sunday in May.



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:

https://namnews.org/?Scholarships1

59th Annual NAM Convention will be in Detroit, Michigan, July 4-7, 2024. To register see website for details: https://namnews.org/?nam2024

Wanted ONE Holy Hour per Week!



Contact Nadia Redmond 503-671-0440

-or-

Email: n.redmond@comcast.net

More info at:

https://sevensistersapostolate.org/

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

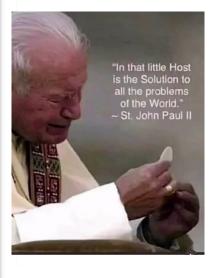
SUNDAYS 10:30AM



Cedars of St. Sharbel
Youth Catechesis
Ages 12-17

To sign up, contact Gennifer Karam jmkaram3@gmail.com

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:

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, n.redmond@comcast.net

Please continue to pray for our parish and ministries.

Reflection

"Who amongst kings would have a crown of thorns placed upon himself? When and where have you heard of such a king who would wear this kind of crown?" scoffed the wicked thief at the crucifixion of our Lord on Good Friday (according to our Syriac tradition of dialogue hymns). In the eyes of the world, Jesus, Who saved so many and worked such great miracles, was a failure on Good Friday – He was hanged upon a cross and crowned with a crown of thorns in mockery. But the Good Thief retorts with wisdom that surpasses even the Apostles at that time, "A man is unable to do this, but Jesus is imperishable. He has uprooted the thorns of the earth by His thorns in order to free Adam from the curse." A human king, which is what the wicked thief thought Jesus claimed to be, would wear a gold crown and struggle to exert his rule over those who defy him. Jesus, our God, is a king without question, Who assumed the lowest parts of our humanity to elevate us in our fallen state to His divine nature. Jesus is the Immortal and Almighty God, but as the priest prays in our liturgy, "You have assumed what is ours and You have given us what is Yours." In today's Gospel reading, Christ assures His Apostles by His own appearance in a real body that His true bodily and human death was to offer immortal life to us.

"It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have" (Luke 24:39) said our Lord in appearing to His disciples once again. Having seen Christ in the flesh and as a man, many of the disciples believed Jesus was dead after His crucifixion. And He did truly die – He was not a ghost, but He had actual hands and feet that were nailed, as well as His side that was pierced, blood that was spilled and breath that left Him. Christ died in His humanity, but He is the Immortal Lord and so He rose again from the dead three days later with the same human body. If Christ had not truly been human, He would not have assumed all our human frailties and raised them up to participate in His divine nature redeeming us from the fall of Adam. If Christ had not truly been divine, He would have simply died, not been raised and all we do would be in vain as St. Paul says (1 Cor. 15:14) because a mere man would not have had power to save us from sin and death. But God, Who does not have hands or feet, assumed them in His human birth so that He might be near us as another human being, and ultimately die as a human. But, being God, He descended to the place of the dead, Sheol, and destroyed death and sin for all Who follow Him – this is why He says elsewhere that, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Christ has already seen death and conquered it for those who follow Him for "the one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25). They will live not only in memory but in the Kingdom of Heaven and will rise from the dead, as Christ did, sharing in His divine reality if they only follow Him through the trials He has already faced before us.

Assuring His Apostles, Luke records Jesus as having said, "Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me... This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:44,46-47). Death seems to be a hopeless reality if we face it as humans. Those who thought Christ was only man thought He was destroyed at His death. A crown of thorns was the perfect mockery as all His suffering would have been pointless had He only been a man dying for Himself. But Christ is God and life itself Who destroyed death by His death, and gave to humanity His divinity in eternal life by His rising. We need only to repent from our sins, which bring death upon us like Adam, and turn back to Him Who patiently waits for us to respond to His appearing.

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