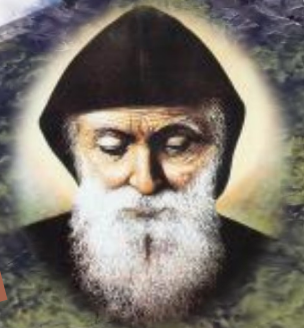


SAINT SHARBEL MISSION

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2019-36
[September 8, 2019]

S

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PARISH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY LITURGY | at 11:00 AM

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

600 Mount Vernon Church Road
Raleigh, NC 27614

Tel: (919)917-7597

Email: abouna@saintsharbelchurch.org

website: www.saintsharbelchurch.org

Administrator: Rev. Robert Youssef Farah

Subdeacon: Claude Shiver

Sunday Liturgy: 11:00 AM



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Please remember our Mission by maintaining your donation through our Online Service by visiting our Website and clicking on the following link:

<http://saintsharbelchurch.org/donate/>

Your weekly donation will maintain our mission in her journey and keep our doors open.

Thank you in advance for your generosity

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READINGS

September / 2019

September 8	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	
	Epistle	Gospel
	1Cor 1:18-25	Jn 12:20-32
September 15	First Sunday after Holy Cross	
	Epistle	Gospel
	2Tim 2:1-10	Mk 10:35-45



DATE	TIME	* LITURGY INTENTIONS *	FROM
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Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions

Sep 8	11:00 AM	Personal Intentions	
Sep 15	11:00 AM	Personal Intentions	
Sep 22	11:00 AM	Personal Intentions	

HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2019

Sep 8	St. Sharbel Ladies Auxiliary
Sep 15	St. Sharbel Ladies Auxiliary
Sep 22	Available



*To sponsor a coffee hour pls. contact Mrs. Anna Franca Abi-Aad
Tel:(954) 806-9909 Or Email: abetriz@yahoo.com /Donation for coffee hour is appreciated*



PARISH OFFERING

September 1, 2019

<i>Weekly offering</i>	<i>\$556.00</i>
Total Income	\$556.00

Thank You for your generosity and your support

Important Messages

Second Collection September 8, 2019

Catholic University of America provides funding for academic scholarships at Catholic University School. Our own seminarians receive a 50% discount on tuition at CUS.



The dream has come true.

Celebrating our First Divine Liturgy in the new Church on Hosanna Sunday was very moving, a real Home Coming. Now, our Bishop Gregory Mansour will be officially consecrating it on October 13, 2019. Please join us.

May God bless all Donors

Taste of Lebanon at St. Sharbel Church

Words cannot express my gratitude to those who worked, donated and sponsored our festival which was a success. May the Lord continue to bless you as you support your spiritual home. A special thanks to Gloria Salim-Brown who chaired the event and organized it with extreme professionalism.

Despite the rainy weather (7 out of 8 hours), we had a great success in both material and fellowship. Everyone had a great time, worked hard, and had the best fun.

Gross Income: \$9,343.00
 Expenses: \$2,260.60

We are happy to announce that registration is now ready and open for our 2019 MYA National Conference in San Antonio, TX.

Please use the link and form to register for this year's MYA Conference.

<https://www.maroniteyoungadults.org/nationalconferenceregistration/>

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2019

September 28	Noon - 7:00pm	Golf Tournament
October 12	6:00 - 10:30pm	Dinner with Bishop Gregory Mansour
October 13	11:00am	Dedication of Our Church
December 14	6:00 - 11:00pm	Christmas Party and Car Raffle

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY LIFE-GIVING CROSS (John 12:20-32)

This feast is not directly connected to the earthly life of Jesus and Passion Week. It is rather about the commemoration of the finding of the wooden Cross of Jesus by Queen Helen in Jerusalem. It is also about the recovering and return of the Holy Cross, by King Heraclius from Persia (Iran Today) to Jerusalem, planting it again on Golgotha, and honoring it as a sign of glory, power, triumph and salvation.

Some of the Greeks had begun at a certain time to worship the one true God and shared the Passover with the Jews. Their presence in Jerusalem and their acceptance of Jesus, is an indication that the mission of Jesus went beyond the Jewish world and reached the pagan world. Jesus compares his death to that of the grain of wheat. The death of Jesus is the door of a new resurrection and the gathering of all nations into one. Although the evangelist John may have skipped the prayer of Jesus, the night of his passion, in Gethsemane, but we hear echo of that prayer in this gospel passage such the anguish over death, the entreating of the Father, the acceptance of the Father's will, and the Father's encouragement to him. Jesus has glorified the Father and the Father has glorified Jesus and has given the Holy Spirit to his apostles and to the Church as he glorified him in his life, his miracles and his salvific mission. Here, for the third time in the fourth Gospel, Jesus announces that he was going to be lifted up, referring to his crucifixion, resurrection and ascension, so that he will draw everyone to have faith in him. This also can be Jesus' answer to those Greeks who are willing to come see him.

With the exaltation of the Cross we begin a new liturgical season. This season concludes the Liturgical Year, which actually ends on the last Sunday of October. The exaltation of the Cross is one of the most solemn feasts in the Maronite Liturgical calendar and principally commemorates the finding of the relics of the Cross and the dedication of the Basilica of Constantine at Calvary and the Holy Sepulcher. There is a lengthy account of the observance of this feast by the bishops who were attending the Council of Tyre (Lebanon) in 335 AD. The recovery of the relics of the Cross by Heraclius after their loss to the Persians in 614 pertains more to the observance of this feast by the Western Church than it does to the Eastern Church. This feast inaugurates the concluding cycle of the Maronite Liturgical Year and commemorates not the passion of the Lord, but the triumph of the Cross and the eschatological action initiated by the saving event of the Cross of Christ. As this cycle concludes the Maronite Liturgical Year, it points out to the ultimate fulfillment of all things in Christ as He makes "all things new."

Rite of the Blessing of the Water. The original structure of the whole rite has been conserved. Only the number of blessings has been reduced to four, one on each side of the altar, with the invocation and hymn proper to each group of blessings. In this celebration, the emphasis is on the spiritual power acquired by the glorified cross. Unlike the Rite of Peace on Resurrection Sunday, the focus here is on the cross, "standard of our salvation," rather than on the risen Lord Himself.

In the Resurrection rite, we adore Christ through His "empty" cross. The precious white cloth, which drapes it, symbolizes the exaltation of the risen One. In today's rite, we worship the cross because of Christ's power given to it. The precious white cloth around it symbolizes, rather, the exaltation of the cross itself. Hence, the impressive number of blessings and solemn invocations during the celebration; hence, also, the immersion of the cross in the water. In the Epiphany rite, it is the lighted charcoal that enters the water (God-Fire entering creation and changing its nature); in today's rite, it is the cross that plunges into the water and makes the change.

"Christ, our Savior, may your cross be our powerful weapon and our supreme honor; through it we shall drive away our enemies, and by it our weakness will become strength. May it be our companion in this life and we shall follow you in carrying the sign of your shame, so as to merit being numbered among your disciples. We shall glorify you, now and for ever. Amen"