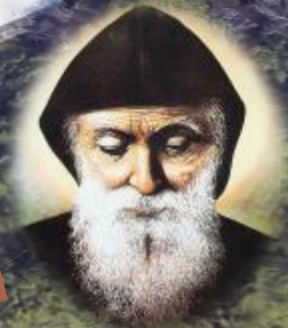


SAINT SHARBEL MISSION

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2019-38
[September 22, 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 22 | Second Sunday after Holy Cross | |
| | Epistle | Gospel |
| | 1CT 15:19-34 | Mt 24:1-14 |
| September 29 | Third Sunday after Holy Cross | |
| | Epistle | Gospel |
| | 1Ph 3:17-4:1 | Mt 24:23-31 |



| DATE | TIME | * LITURGY INTENTIONS * | FROM |
|------|------|------------------------|------|
|------|------|------------------------|------|



Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions

| | | | |
|--------|----------|---|--------------------------|
| Sep 22 | 11:00 AM | Personal Intentions | |
| Sep 29 | 11:00 AM | 40 Day memorial for Nazha Fares Chamoun (Mother of Roukoz and Joseph Ishak) | Requested by the family. |
| Oct 6 | 11:00 AM | Personal Intentions | |

HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2019

| | |
|--------|------------------------------|
| Sep 22 | St. Sharbel Ladies Auxiliary |
| Sep 29 | Available |
| Oct 6 | 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 15, 2019 | |
|---|-----------------|
| Weekly offering | \$616.00 |
| Coffee Hour | \$34.00 |
| Total Income | \$650.00 |
| <p><i>Thank You for your generosity and your support</i></p> | |

Important Messages

Golf Tournament
September 28, 2019

Join us for our 13th annual golf tournament to support the expansion of our new church property on Mount Vernon Church Rd in North Raleigh.

<http://saintsharbelchurch.org/eventcalendar/2019-golf-tournament/>



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

Church Dedication Banquet & Ad Book

We look forward to a beautiful evening as we welcome Sayedna Bishop Gregory Mansour and our previous parish priests to enjoy a cocktail hour and Lebanese buffet dinner Saturday evening, October 12, 2019. Seating is limited. Please purchase your tickets by October 6. Please purchase your tickets online at the link below.

<http://saintsharbelchurch.org/eventcalendar/church-dedication-banquet/>

With the official consecration of our Church that you have waited and persevered to have your own, we are preparing a Commemorative Book for that historical day on October 13th, 2019. We ask for your support by placing an Ad that will commemorate your business, family, or individual messages. Ads come in various sizes and prices. To place an ad, please contact Mrs. Lisa Saleh at lisasaleh@gmail.com. Please see this ad form for more details.

<http://saintsharbelchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/DedicationChurchAdBook.pdf>

MYA Conference

We are happy to announce that registration is now ready and open for our 2019 MYA National Conference October 4 to 6 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 |

Second Sunday After Holy Cross (Matthew 24:1-14)

The Liturgical year concludes with the season of the Holy Cross which extends seven weeks, and begins again with the first Sunday of November. It is the season of venerating the cross, which was a sign of defeat and death. Through the Crucified One who is living and who is risen from the dead, the cross became a sign of life, of triumph and of light. It is the sign of the Son of Man who is coming in great glory to judge the living and the dead and to whose reign there will be no end. After three centuries of continuous persecution and the attempt to subjugate Christians to the emperor-god of Rome and to his idols, the emperor himself became a worshiper of the triumphant cross.

This Sunday proclaims the coming of our Lord and his signs as they were narrated in the Sermon of The End of Time, which is the fifth and final sermon in the gospel of Saint Matthew. In it the Lord Jesus discusses two important facts: the destruction of Jerusalem which took place in the year 70 A.D., and the end of the world at the coming of Jesus as a judge. Our faith teaches that Jesus Christ, the living one who rose from the dead, is ever present in his church wherein he established his heavenly kingdom on the rubble of an earthly kingdom.

Jesus warns us: “See that no one deceives you” because the efforts of the deceivers had done irreparable damage to the Church. Wars, famine, earthquakes were prophetic pictures and quite common in the literature of revelation during the time of Jesus and the apostles. However, Jesus refused to see those pictures as direct signs for the end of the world. Persecutions for the name of Jesus and the commonality of deception are not signs for the end, but they are necessary pains preceding the birth of a new world. They are spiritual solutions to replace the earthly Jewish kingdom. Jesus here concludes his words in a positive way saying that the Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached throughout the entire world. The spreading of the Gospel in the pagan world is not a condition to end history and to end the world, but it is the End and it is the whole History—the History of God’s salvific plan to all nations.

All imagery and descriptions of the evangelists which discussed the Day of the Lord were basically applied to the Second Coming. They are prophetic pictures and visions put in words so that humans can relate to them and understand them. From these prophetic visions many truths have emerged. Firstly, they tell us that in spite of our sinfulness and wickedness, in spite of the fact that the world had turned away from God, we are still his children. God does not contemplate to destroy the world but intervene to save it. Secondly, the build up of fear, earthquakes, famine and destruction should not discourage us. All of these breakdowns and apparent disintegrations must precede the Day of the Lord. This is not the end of the world, but rather a prelude to the inauguration of the newer world, or God’s Kingdom on earth. Finally, they make certain that judgment and a new creation are imminent. They assure us that God judges the world with kindness, mercy and justice. God is not going to destroy the work of his hand. He is not going to obliterate the world but he is going to reinstate his kingdom, here on earth, within the Church that his Son has already established.

Yes, through this ordeal of false prophets, fear and chaos there will be persecution, killing, betrayal, and despair. Many will hate each other and abandon their loved ones. But those who persevere, those who hold fast and remain faithful, they will be saved. What is comforting is that in the end Christ will triumph and will save those who were faithful to him. Further, this teaches us that the end of the world is not dissolution, chaos, destruction, deluge or eternal fire, but the establishment of a new kingdom based on the love of God and his eternal rule of fairness, kindness and justice.