

# SAINT SHARBEL MISSION

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2019-48  
[December 1, 2019]

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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](mailto:abouna@saintsharbelchurch.org)

**website:** [www.saintsharbelchurch.org](http://www.saintsharbelchurch.org)

**Administrator:** Rev. Robert Youssef Farah

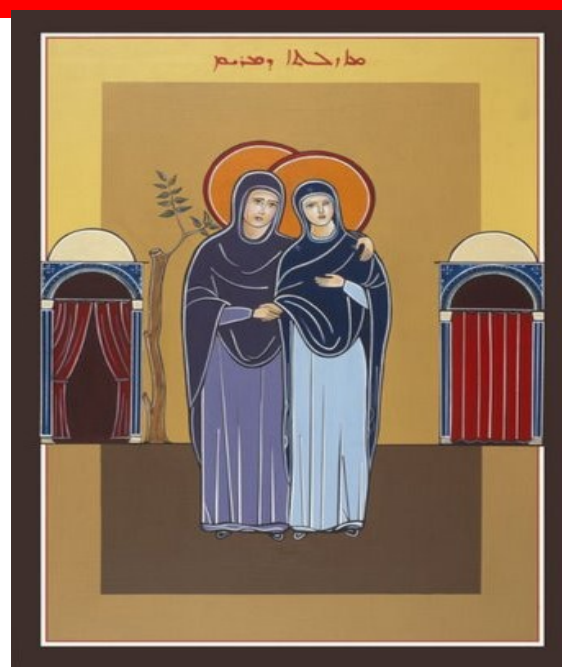
**Subdeacon:** Claude Shiver

**Sunday Liturgy:** 11:00 AM

**Saturday Liturgy:** 5:00 PM

**Monday, Thursday & Friday:** 6:30 PM

**Holy Days of Obligation:** 6:30 PM



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

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# READINGS

November-December/ 2019

December 1

Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth

Epistle

Gospel

Eph 1:1-14

Lk 1:39-45

December 8

Birth of John the Baptist

Epistle

Gospel

Gal 4:21 - 5:1

Lk 1:57-66



DATE

TIME

\* L I T U R G Y I N T E N T I O N S \*

FROM



Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions

Dec. 1

11:00 AM

Personal Intentions

Dec. 8

11:00 AM

Personal Intentions

Dec. 15

11:00 AM

Personal Intentions

## HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2019

Dec. 1

Gloria Salim-Brown & Widdad Jabbour

Dec. 8

Available

Dec. 15

Available



To sponsor a coffee hour pls. contact Mrs. Ana Franca Abi-Aad

Tel:(954) 806-9909 Or Email: [abetriz@yahoo.com](mailto:abetriz@yahoo.com) /Donation for coffee hour is appreciated



## PARISH OFFERING

November 3, 2019

Weekly offering

\$917.00

Total Income

\$917.00

Thank You for your generosity and your support

## Important Messages

**You are created out of love for love!!**

You are not created in a vacuum designed to live in isolation on your own. You are created to live in communion with others. You are meant to receive and share love with them.

The Trinity is our perfect example of communion of persons, the exchange of perfect love. Married love is designed to imitate the love of the Trinity. To learn more about married love, please check our family life ministry page [here](#).



**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 officially consecrated it with a beautiful and blessed ritual.**

**May God bless you all**

### **Have A Blessed Thanksgiving Weekend**

May this season of giving thanks be a blessing to you and your loved ones. The Good Lord has blessed us in so many ways and has bestowed upon us very many gifts, talents and graces. It is quite appropriate to appreciate his generosity to us. Let us reciprocate God's favor and help our brothers and sisters who need our assistance, for he said: "every time you do this to the least of my little brothers you do it to me."

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Car raffle tickets are now on sale for the 2020 Honda CR-V. Tickets are \$100 each and only 500 will be sold. Odds of winning will be 1/500 minimum. Drawing will be 14-Dec-2019 at our Christmas Party.

Tickets can be purchased online on our website <http://saintsharbelchurch.org/>, or by contacting either Mounir Saleh or George Harb.

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Our Annual Christmas Party will take place Saturday December 14, 2019. Seats are limited, so please reserve your tickets early and come join our family of St. Sharbel to celebrate the Spirit of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord.

Doris Farhat will be the Featured Singer. I have listened to her before and I highly recommend you come and enjoy her performance.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2019**

<b>December 14</b>	<b>6:00 - 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Christmas Party and Car Raffle</b>
<b>Dec. 15 - 23</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Christmas Novena at Church</b>
<b>December 25</b>	<b>12:00 AM</b>	<b>Midnight Liturgy</b>



## Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth

(Luke 1:39-56)

“Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb”

The Sunday of the visitation commemorates the event of the encounter between two mothers, Mary and Elizabeth; between two sons, Jesus and John, while they still are in their mother's wombs; and between two Testaments: the New and the Old. This Sunday reminds us of God's visit to his people throughout their salvific history and announces his visit to us through the mystery of his Son's incarnation and his miraculous birth.

Of all women you are most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb...How strange the words of the angel. It would seem that Mary was anything but blessed. In fact, her marriage to Joseph was in jeopardy. She was on the verge of becoming an object of scorn and moral condemnation. Yet these words stand and have been preserved for all generations. Mary's blessedness is to be found in the Child she carried. What appears to the natural eye as a source of rejection is to the eye of faith the dawn of the age of grace and healing. Yes Mary's blessedness comes from God. Because she was obedient and because she accepted God's will, in spite of the fact that it put her life in jeopardy, Mary was rewarded by becoming the Mother of God's only Son, “the Mother of God.” The sign of God's assurance to her was that she learned, before anyone, that her cousin Elizabeth is expecting a child. Mary's Visit to Elizabeth is not to question God's announcement to her, but she went to help her expecting aged cousin as she prepares for the birth of John.

A simple, yet a very powerful, message is handed to us through the spiritual meaning of the visitation. The barren Elizabeth symbolizes the old humanity as it relates to the new humanity, which is symbolized by Mary. The New Testament gives the Old Testament its fullest meaning. Thus, the Holy Spirit is the acting power in both Mary and Elizabeth. That is why Elizabeth cried out: “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” It is the work of the Holy Spirit, which transformed the human encounter between Elizabeth and Mary to praise and thanksgiving and led them both to the surrendering of self to the salvific plan of God. That is why the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth precedes the visit of the Son of God who is dwelling in her so that God visits our world and renews our creation through the salvific mystery of his birth.

Hunger has many faces. It touches the rich who need to become poor in spirit so that God can fill their hearts with love, tenderness and truth. The poor are touched by their need for daily bread for their stomachs and by human indifference. Both needs are addressed by these words of the Magnificat. So it is with us. We are blessed through the gift of faith and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The source of all good things has its origin in Divine Mercy. There are times when we are more aware of reproach. We feel anything but blessed. We feel our hunger. During such times we must be ever more open to grace. We must be receptive to that grace which gives us the wisdom to accept our blessedness. In the midst of our challenges and trials, we are reassured of a great blessing from Jesus, the Fruit of Mary's womb.

Dear Lord, help me understand Your ways just like Mary did. Give me the faith, the courage and the grace of obedience you gave to Mary. Too often the world is too much with me and within me. Your Word is drowned by the noise of my life. Your presence in the poor is hidden. Help me appreciate everything I have. Help me accept the fact that all I am and everything I have comes from Your generosity. Help me become more grateful for all the good with which you surround me. Help me become a messenger to spread your goodness around me. Amen.