

# SAINT SHARBEL MISSION

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2019-50  
[December 15, 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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**READINGS****November-December/ 2019****December 15****Revelation to Joseph****Epistle****Gospel**

Eph 3:1-13

Mt 1:18-25

**December 22****Genealogy Sunday****Epistle****Gospel**

Rom 1:1-12

Mt 1:1-17

**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. 15

11:00 AM

Rose Isaac El-Khoury

Marsha El-Khoury Shiver

Dec. 22

11:00 AM

Personal Intentions

Dec. 29

11:00 AM

Personal Intentions

**HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2019**

Dec. 15

Ghada Aoun and Marie Ghanimeh Guorgui

Dec. 22

Dolly Matar, Laure Chemali, and Layal Sassine

Dec. 29

Cover Dish

*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**\$702.00**Donation**\$2,000.00**Coffee Hour**\$88.00***Total Income****\$2,790.00***Thank You for your generosity and  
your support***Important Messages****The Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Its December 8 and it is a Holy Day of Obligation. It is a mortal sin if you miss a Holy Day of Obligation. To fulfill your obligation you must go to Mass and receive the Eucharist. Because it falls on a Sunday this year, your Sunday Mass fulfills the obligation



**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**

## **Christmas Novena**

All major feast days were preceded by a period of Fasting in order to prepare the faithful spiritually for the celebration of the feast. Through the years, fasting was reduced the great lent that precedes Easter. Since we are no longer obligated to the fast before Christmas, let us prepare ourselves spiritually for the Glorious Birth of Our Lord by going to confession, receiving the Eucharist and attending the Christmas Novena which runs from the 15th through the 23rd of December.

**Please note that the Novena is always celebrated with and after the Masses: On weekdays at 6:30 PM, and on weekends after the Saturday & Sunday Masses.**

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## **Car Raffle**

We had planned to have the reverse drawing car Raffle at our Annual Christmas Party on Saturday December 14, 2019, but we have decided to postpone this event to a later date to have it stand on its own merit. We have quite a few plans for the Christmas party and a lot of music and dancing, and we want the drawing to be done in front of everyone and with enough time allocated to various activities. The date is set tentatively for March, 2020. We will keep everyone updated as we lock in the date.

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

<b>Dec. 15 - 23</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Christmas Novena at Church</b>
<b>December 21</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Children's Christmas Party at the Hardini Center</b>
<b>December 25</b>	<b>12:00 AM</b>	<b>Midnight Liturgy</b>



## **Joseph..., be not afraid to take Mary as your wife (Matthew 1:18-25)**

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and told him, "Joseph, Son of David, be not afraid to take Mary as your wife, the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

This Sunday takes us back to the Mystery of the Virgin who is expecting the incarnate Son of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. God revealed this Mystery to Joseph her spouse and gave him the responsibility to foster her child so that God's promise is fulfilled in the prophesy of Isaiah about the Virgin Mother and in the prophesy of Nathan about the coming of the Messiah through the lineage of King David.

Joseph is a just and righteous man in the eyes of the Church. Even though Mary was with child, he listened to the word of the Angel and protected Mary and the unborn child by making her his wife. Outwardly he appeared patient and kind. But he was in a state of total and complete confusion about what he should do. He felt peer pressure, and his human pride and male ego were surely bruised. However, he accepted God's Plan, and obeyed the Angel's command. That is why it was credited to him to being a JUST AND RIGHTEOUS figure. Thus, he put the words of the Angel into action.

He was a carpenter and practical man; a man of detail to insure quality work; a prudent man, knowing that he must work within the limits of the wood or poor workmanship or wasted materials were the results. These qualities made him a good carpenter. In the quiet trust that Joseph exhibits, he realized that he himself was a piece of wood in the hands of God, the Loving Artist, who carved him to do as the angel commanded.

Is it possible in the midst of this fear-provoking world to live in the house of love and listen to the questions raised by the Lord of Love? Or are we so accustomed to living in fear that we have become deaf to the voice that says, "Do not be afraid"? This reassuring voice, which repeats over and over again: "Do not be afraid, have no fear" is the voice we most need to hear. This voice was heard by Zechariah when Gabriel, the Angel of the Lord, appeared to him in the temple and told him that his wife, Elizabeth, would bear him a son. This voice was heard by Mary when the same Angel entered her house in Nazareth and announced that she would conceive, bear a child and name him Jesus. This voice was also heard by the women who saw that the stone was rolled away. "Do not be afraid, do not be afraid, do not be afraid." The voice uttering these words sounds all through history as the voice of God's holy messengers, be they angels or saints. It is the voice that announces a whole new way of being in the house of love, the house of the Lord.

### **A Special prayer to St. Joseph**

"Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, so that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving to the most loving of Fathers. Oh St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departed souls - Pray for me."