

# SAINT SHARBEL MISSION

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2020-59  
[February 16, 2020]



## PARISH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY LITURGY | at 11:00 AM

**St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church**

600 Mount Vernon Church Road  
Raleigh, NC 27614

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**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

**Wednesday, 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

## February/2020

<b>February 16</b>	<b>Sunday of the Faithful Departed</b>	
	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
	1Thes 5:1-11	Lk 16:19-31
<b>February 23</b>	<b>Sunday of the Entrance into Lent</b>	
	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
	Rom 14:14-23	Jn 2:1-11



DATE	TIME	* LITURGY INTENTIONS *	FROM
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	<h3>Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions</h3>
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Feb. 16	11:00 AM	Personal Intentions	
Feb. 23	11:00 AM	Personal Intentions	
Mar. 1	11:00 AM	Personal Intentions	

## HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2020

Feb.16	Betty Saleh and Lamia Ishak
Feb. 23	St. Sharbel Ladies Auxiliary
Mar. 1	Janane Abou Rjeily & Nathalie Daoud



*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*

<h3>PARISH OFFERING</h3> <p>February 9, 2020</p>	<h3>Important Messages</h3>
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Weekly offering	\$808.00
Second Collection	\$239.00
Cover Dish	\$902.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,949.00</b>

**Every Life Matters**

"You are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you" (Isaiah > 43:4) is a powerful message of love and life for all of us. God loves you personally; He knitted you together in your mother's womb (Psalm > 139:13). Don't buy into the lies that say you don't matter. You matter; Your life matters. Every life matters and is precious, whether in the womb or aged. Check our <https://www.familyandsanctityoflife.org/sanctity-of-life.html> Sanctity of Life page to help in creating a world where the beauty and dignity of every human life are valued and protected.

*Thank You for your generosity and your support*



## **THE SANCTUARY LAMP**

Is a vigil light burning 24/7 and kept near the Blessed Sacrament. The light indicates the unfathomable mystery of the Eucharistic presence of Jesus. It reminds us of the reverence due to the Sacrament. The burning light is a pious custom as a way of prolonging our adoration and prayer to honor His presence.

## **Car Raffle**

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 on **Saturday 25-April-2020**.

You may buy your ticket(s) via our website: [saintsharbelchurch.org](http://saintsharbelchurch.org) and click on Donate, or by contacting Mounir Saleh or George Harb.

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## **Remember Me In Your Kingdom**

Praying for our deceased, no matter how long it has been, is a way of remembering them and asking the Lord to grant them repose in His dwelling of light, so they may rejoice with all the saints.

Every last Sunday of the month, the Divine Liturgy will be offered in memory of those who passed in that particular month. If you would like to have your deceased remembered, please send me their names and the month they passed.

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## **Benediction of St. Sharbel**

Every 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month, there will a Benediction of St. Sharbel after the Divine Liturgy.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2020**

<b>February 24</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Ash Monday—A Holy Day of Obligation</b>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>40-Day Memorial for George Khalil Jabbour</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Mother's Day Dinner &amp; Car Raffle</b>
<b>May 31</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>First Communion</b>

## Sunday of the Faithful Departed (Luke 16:19-31)

After the commemoration of the Deceased Priests and the Righteous and the Just, the Church remembers the rest of the faithful who have departed from her and have gone to God accompanied with the Cross, with Baptism and the Eucharist, in the hope of eternal life. The Church reminds us of the basic truths, which are bound to life and death, in the light of her Faith.

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus is well explained by St. Luke when Jesus taught about the danger of wealth, for it can be a second god and a path to everlasting punishment! Jesus does not forbid wealth but warns from it. The sin of the rich man comes from the fact that he does not share his wealth with the poor. There are two basic thoughts: the first is that the decision of man's destiny is made immediately after death; and the second is not through a miracle, whereby a dead person is to come back to warn us, but to have faith in what the prophets and the apostles taught in the Sacred Scripture, which is, in fact, the teaching of the Church. The moral lesson is that our life on earth contradicts that of the world to come, especially when we do not make, in our life today, a clear picture of the life thereafter!

The funeral rites in our tradition cover all the phases through which the soul passes. The traveling soul from here to there, faces all sorts of enemies on the way: "Armies of Darkness," "bands of evil spirits," "pirates," and so on. They await at roadblocks, and in the "aerial spheres" - "dancing in the air" - "anxious to inflict a second death" on the journeying soul. The message of the funeral texts is clear: The departed soul, seized by fear, is unable to take this journey on its own. Hence, the funeral rites develop the concept of "accompaniment." Priests, relatives and friends can escort the departed only as far as the grave. Beyond this point, all they can do is commit the deceased to God to be their "companion on that road which is filled with danger and unpleasant surprises."

More hymns and prayers continually implore: "O brother, may the church, the altar, baptism, the Holy Mysteries and the cross be your companion." "Go in peace, may the Lord be your companion." While the departed soul echoes, on its own, the same supplication: "Pray for me, people of this city, that His grace may be my companion."

The prayers further reflect that the journey is safe only because of this companionship. The road to be taken is no longer a paved road, nor a flight into the "aerial spheres." It is rather, a "sea of fire" raging with flames. It has to be crossed. This "companionship," then, loses its subjective and personalized symbolism, and takes on an objective one. The Lord and the Mysteries are envisioned now as a "bridge" or an "unsinkable ship" enabling the soul to cross over safely: "May the baptism be a ship for her (our sister), that she may reach the haven of life. May she cross over the river of fire, for she took refuge in the cross of light".

To pray for the dead is an ancient custom by which the faithful on earth care for those in purgatory. Tertullian and Augustine, Doctors of the Church from the fourth and fifth centuries respectively, teach that suffering after death might be relieved by the intercession of the living. Through prayers, sacrifices, and especially the practice of offering the Eucharist, the helpless soul is assisted and relieved. In the same vein, Gregory I, in the sixth century, clearly states that prayers of the faithful and especially "offering of the Eucharist," or the sacrifice of the Mass, on earth could aid in obtaining the release of those in purgatory. This is why, we offer the Qurbano for our deceased loved ones.