



# SAINT SHARBEL PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2023-211  
January 8, 2023

## 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)

**Pastor:** Rev. Robert Youssef Farah

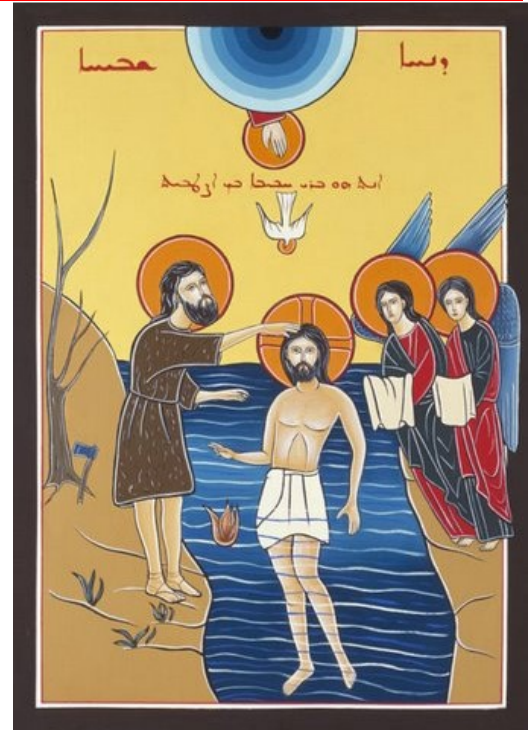
**Subdeacon:** Claude Shiver

**Sunday Liturgy:** 11:00 AM

**Saturday Liturgy:** 5:00 PM

**Wednesday & Friday Liturgy:** 6:30 PM

**Thursday Liturgy & Adoration:** 6:30 PM



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# READINGS

## January / 2023

**January 8**

**1st Sunday after Epiphany**

**Epistle**

2 Cor 10:1-11

**Gospel**

Jn 1:29-34



**January 15**

**2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

**Epistle**

2 Cor 4:5-15

**Gospel**

Jn 1:35-42

**TIME**

**\* LITURGY INTENTIONS \***

**FROM**



**Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions**

Jan. 8

11:00 AM

Available

Jan. 15

11:00 AM

Dalila Saab Lawandos

By: Habib Lawandos

Jan. 22

11:00 AM

Available

## HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2022

January 8

Rita Jajo

January 15

Amale Gebrael

January 22

Available



*To sponsor a coffee hour pls contact Ana Franca Abi-Aad :954.806.9909, [abetriz@yahoo.com](mailto:abetriz@yahoo.com) or Amale Gebrael:919.633.3557, [amal1014@yahoo.com](mailto:amal1014@yahoo.com) Donation for coffee hour is appreciated*

## PARISH OFFERING

**January 1, 2023**



*Weekly offering*

**\$743.00**

*Donations*

**\$1,730.00**

**Total Income**

**\$2,473.00**

*Thank You for your generosity and your support*

## Important Messages

### Daily Readings

Monday: 2 Cor 10:12-18; Mk 1:1-8

Tuesday: 2 Cor 11:1-6; Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday: 2 Cor 11:7-15; Jn 3:22-30

Thursday: 2 Cor 11:22-30; Jn 3:31-36

Friday: 2 Cor 12:1-10; Mt 14:1-12

Saturday: 2 Cor 12:11-16; Jn 10:40-42



## **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.

## **Thank You for Supporting Your Church**

You may do so in various ways:

- By Mail at: 600 Mount Vernon Church Rd., Raleigh NC 27614
- Via our website [www.saintshatbelchurch.org](http://www.saintshatbelchurch.org) by clicking on Donate
- Direct Deposit to First Citizens Bank : Routing #: 053100300, Acc # 000861430571
- Vanco: by downloading the free Vanco Mobile application

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### **Upcoming Second Collection**

January 22: United States Catholic Bishops' Worldwide Charities  
February 20-April 6: Eparchial Charities Appeal

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2022**

January 8:	Pastoral Council Meeting
January 17:	St. Anthony the Great
January 20:	March for Life, Washington, DC

## **First Sunday after Epiphany**

**Qurbono P. 107; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of St. John p. 815**

### **Praises of John the Baptizer**

After the celebration of a great feast, the author of that feast is celebrated or congratulated. After the Feast of the Birth of our Lord, the Church celebrated the praises of the Mother of God. After the Feast of the Birth of Mary, the Church commemorates Anne and Joachim, her parents. Now, after the Feast of the Epiphany, the Church calls to memory John the Baptizer, the one who fulfilled the will of the Father and who witnessed the manifestation of the divinity of Jesus. This feast is celebrated in all of the Churches of the East.

John witnessed to the Lord; he pointed him out, saying, "There is the lamb of God!" Afterwards, he was put in jail because of his criticisms of the lifestyle of the king. Even though he was in jail, John's interest did not leave Jesus. Like the other Jews of his time, John was expecting Jesus to conquer the world for his people. However, Jesus was to be another king of kings. He heard of his miracles, his preaching, and sent his disciples to inquire of Jesus whether he was indeed the awaited Messiah. Jesus told them about the miracles he was performing and how he was fulfilling the predictions of the prophets. After John's disciples had departed, Jesus himself began to praise John the Baptizer. (Perhaps John never heard of these praises.) He did this by asking three questions: "What did you go out into the desert to see?"

"A reed swayed by the wind?" Jesus was telling everyone that John was not in jail because his teachings were false, but rather because he would not bend in the face of the powerful or evil. John was a strong reed, a courageous martyr.

"A man dressed in luxurious clothing?" John is not like those people who are found in royal palaces (the ones who cast him into prison). Instead, he is a man of asceticism and holiness. He is a light pointing the way to the kingdom of God. He is calling us to conversion by doing penance himself.

"A prophet?" Yes, John has all of the characteristics of a prophet and is indeed a prophet, but much more. The prophets preached in the name of the Lord; John is announcing the imminent coming of the Lord. John is the link between Old and the New Covenants. Jesus closes his praise with the declaration, "I assure you, there is no man born of woman greater than John. Yet the least born into the kingdom of God is greater than he." The Lord is assuring us that if we personally believe in him and commit ourselves to the kingdom of God, we can be even greater than this holy man of the desert, John.