



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

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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Please remember your Church 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.

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READINGS

July-August/2023

July 30

10th Sunday of Pentecost

Epistle

1 Cor 12:1-11

Gospel

Mt 12:22-32



August 6

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Epistle

2 Cor 3:7-17

Gospel

Mk 9:1-7



TIME

* LITURGY INTENTIONS *

FROM

Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions

July 30

11:00 AM

Remember Me In Your Kingdom

By: The Priest

Aug. 6

11:00 AM

Available

Aug. 13

11:00 AM

All Parishioners

By: The Priest

HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2023

July 30

Amal & Habib Lawandos

August 6

Claude Kattan

August 13

Lina Choufani



To sponsor a coffee hour pls contact Gloria Salim-Brown: 919.345.3483, gsalim@aol.com.
Donation for coffee hour is appreciated

PARISH OFFERING

July 23, 2023



Weekly offering	\$1,344.00
Candle Intentions	\$32.00
Coffee Hour	\$21.00
Covered Dish	\$1,120.00
Total Income	\$2,517.00

Thank You for your generosity and
your support

Important Messages

Daily Readings

Monday: Acts 21:1-14; Mt 23:13-15

Tuesday: Acts 21:15-26; Mt 23:16-22

Wednesday: Acts 21:27-40; Mt 23:23-26

Thursday: Acts 21:40-22:10; Lk 12:1-5

Friday: Acts 22:17-29; Lk 12:6-9

Saturday: Acts 22:30-23:11; Lk 12:10-12



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 by clicking on Donate
- Direct Deposit to First Citizens Bank : Routing #: 053100300, Acc # 000861430571

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Upcoming Second Collection

- Sept. 10: Catholic University of America and Maronite Seminary
- Oct. 22: World Mission Sunday
- Nov. 5: Maronite Patriarchal Charities

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2023

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Aug. 6: | Transfiguration of Our Lord |
| Aug. 15: | Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation) |
| Sept. 9-10: | "Taste of Lebanon" Festival |
| Dec. 16: | 23rd Annual Christmas Dinner |
| Dec. 16: | Reverse Drawing Raffle |

Tenth Sunday of Pentecost

Qurbono P. 425; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of St. John p. 815

The Apostle proclaims the Kingdom (Matthew 12:22-32)

In his divine authority Jesus freed the possessed man who was blind and dumb. People were amazed and wondered whether he is the coming Son of David! But the leaders did not find an excuse for their lack of faith other than accusing him that he did all these cures through a secret agreement with the head of evil spirits! The Jews who were contemporary to Jesus believed that the devil controlled the world. Jesus responded in three sharp ways: Firstly, he refuted the accusation in a simple logical way saying: "It is not possible that the devil drive out himself." Secondly, he refuted the accusation by directly asking to those who are accusing him: "by whom do your own people drive devil out? Therefore they will be your judges." And thirdly, he refuted the accusation by the power of the Spirit of God who speaks through the prophets and the Holy Scripture: "If it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." Therefore, through the Spirit of God, Jesus alone is capable to enter the house of the oppressor, tie him up, plunder his house and ruin his kingdom! That accusation by the leaders is nothing but a blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, because they saw the power of the Spirit in the saying and the deeds of Jesus, and related it to evil spirit. This is the peak of apostasy and evil, and the only sin that will never be forgiven.

Evil spirits were uprooted through exorcism which dates back to the time of king Solomon. By the time of Jesus it had developed to the level of sorcery and magic. Jewish exorcists used sorcery, various tactics and magical skills to confuse vulnerable people who sought them looking for deliverance from evil and human sufferings. Even these various magic way and fake exorcism, through God's love and mercy, brought some relief. But what a difference there exists between the power of the word of Jesus which cures through the spirit of God and the witch-doctoring which Jewish exorcist used. Through Jesus, the word of God came with power to heal, to sustain and to bring deliverance, which people desperately needed—something they had never had before.

In our battle against the stronghold of evil there are only two options: Either we are with Jesus or against him. *"Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."* In this sentence Jesus is challenging each one of us. We cannot be in both camps at the same time. Either we are with Jesus or with the devil. It is a matter of belonging to the Church of Christ or not. If our presence does not strengthen the church, then our absence is weakening it.

The sentence *"whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven"* sheds new light on repentance. It is not possible for man to be saved without the Holy Spirit. The denial of repentance and the confessing of sins is a denial to God's forgiveness. The concept is that they will not be forgiven because their sin is greater than any other sin, but because they have never sought forgiveness. Everyone who refuses the work of the Holy Spirit has made it impossible for himself to recognize the word and the work of God. Only he can be forgiven who confesses that he has something to be forgiven. Our challenge today is heightened by the understanding of this concept. Do we repent, do we believe, do we accept the work and action of the Holy Spirit? It is the choice that we make and the action we take in our lives that saves or destroys us.