



# SAINT SHARBEL PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2023-243  
September 17, 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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<http://saintsharbelchurch.org/donate/>

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# READINGS

## July - August / 2023

<b>September 17</b>	<b>1st Sunday after Holy Cross</b>	
	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
	2 Tim 2:1-10	Mk 10: 35-45
<b>September 24</b>	<b>2nd Sunday after Holy Cross</b>	
	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
	1 Cor 15:19-34	Mt 24:1-14



**\* LITURGY INTENTIONS \* FROM**



**Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions**

Sept. 17	11:00 AM	Available	
Sept. 24	11:00 AM	Available	
Oct. 1	11:00 AM	Available	

### HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2023

September 17	The Church
September 24	Available
October 1	Available



*To sponsor a coffee hour pls contact Gloria Salim-Brown: 919.345.3483, [gsalim@aol.com](mailto:gsalim@aol.com).  
Donation for coffee hour is appreciated*

### PARISH OFFERING

**September 10, 2023**



Weekly offering	\$1,245.00
Donation	\$150.00
Second Collection	\$67.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,462.00</b>

*Thank You for your generosity and  
your support*

### Important Messages

#### Daily Readings

- Monday: Rev 1:1-8; Mk 8:34-9:1
- Tuesday: Rev 1:9-20; Mk 9:33-37
- Wednesday: Rev 2:1-7; Mk 9:38-50
- Thursday: Rev 2:8-11; Mk 10:17-27
- Friday: Rev 2:12-17; Mk 10:28-31
- Saturday: Rev 2:18-29; Mt 20:1-16



## **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

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## **Upcoming Second Collection**

- Oct. 22: World Mission Sunday  
Nov. 5: Maronite Patriarchal Charities  
Dec. 25: Pastor's Collection

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2023**

- Dec. 16: 23rd Annual Christmas Dinner  
Dec. 16: Reverse Drawing Raffle

# Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Qurbono P. 606; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of the Twelve Apostles p. 754

(Mark 10:35-45)

Jesus announced several times his passion and death and always tied them with his resurrection and his glory at the right hand of the Father. As for James and John, the sons of Zebedee, they requested to be seated on his right and on his left without mentioning his passion and death. Jesus reminded them that the price of glory is to drink the cup of sacrifice and pain.

Both Mark and Matthew connect the request of the two disciples, James and John, directly with Jesus' third announcement of his passion, death and resurrection, as they were going up to Jerusalem. They requested of him to seat them on his right and on his left in his glory. He reminded them of his passion and death before he enters into his glory. They responded that they were ready for the passion and death with him. But were they aware of the suffering and death? The answer of Jesus was crystal clear in that the two disciples will enter into glory with him because they will endure suffering with him and for him. But with regards to sitting in the first place, this has been reserved to the Father. Jesus points out the way to glory by his own death. Only the Father can bestow that glory, at least until Jesus has received the full measure of his Messianic authority through his resurrection. The mission of Jesus on earth is not to reward mankind, but to prepare them to reach the reward in the glory of the kingdom through his death and resurrection. He is the "Son of Man who has come to serve and not be served—to give his life in ransom for the many."

The disciples along with the majority of the Jews at the time had a misconception about the kingdom of Jesus which was widely prophesied by the prophets of the Old Testament. They thought of the kingdom of Jesus to be an earthly one which was going to liberate Israel from the oppression of the Roman Empire. James and John were ambitious to become among those who will rule with him. The kingdom of Jesus is not of this world, it is not set on earthly thrones and castles but in the hearts and the lives of his followers. But his apostles did not understand that until after his resurrection.

It is easy to say that we are willing to accept and endure any suffering and pain for the sake of Jesus. Although we mean that very sincerely, most of us complain as soon as we face the least difficulty. If we claim that we are ready to suffer for Jesus, then we must be prepared to accept this suffering no matter how difficult it might be. Notice that Jesus did not scold James and John but he denied their request. In turn we might be asking God for a favor and it may be denied. God always gives us what is best for us and not what we ask for, because he denies some of our requests for our won good.

When the other ten disciples became indignant at James and John, Jesus called them all and gave them a simple instruction on greatness. He explained to them that he who wishes to be great must prove it through service. The disciple of Jesus is to reverse the customary practice whereby those in authority rule by force. The disciple's new conduct must be the willingness to serve the needs of all. A ransom was to be paid in order to free a slave. Jesus paid this ransom on our behalf since we were not capable of paying it. His death has freed us from the slavery of sin, and that is the reason of his death. The disciples thought that the power of Jesus was going to spare them from the oppression of Rome, but Jesus said that his death was going to save them from sin, because the slavery of sin was far more severe than the slavery of Rome.

today, greatness is measured through personal success and achievement. We may be aspiring for great things in life. We look to achieve our goals through various ways and means that may harm others and hamper our spiritual success. If we aspire for greatness with Jesus and are working to gain eternal life and earn a great share in the heavenly kingdom, then serving the needs of all whom we encounter is the right path.