



SAINT SHARBEL PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2023-251
November 19, 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

website: www.saintsharbelchurch.org

Pastor: Rev. Robert Youssef Farah

Sunday Liturgy: 11:00 AM

Saturday Liturgy: 5:00 PM

Wednesday & Friday Liturgy: 6:30 PM

Thursday 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.



Support St Sharbel Mission by shopping at AmazonSmile.

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READINGS

November/2023



November 19	Announcement to Zechariah	
	Epistle	Gospel
	Rom 4:13-25	Lk 1:1-25
November 26	Announcement to the Virgin Mary	
	Epistle	Gospel
	Gal 3:15-22	Lk 1:26-38

*** LITURGY INTENTIONS * FROM**

Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions

	TIME		
Nov. 19	11:00 AM	Remember Me In Your Kingdom	By: The Priest
Nov. 26	11:00 AM	Khalil Youssef Farah:40-Day Memorial Dalila Saab Lawandos	By: The Priest By: Habib Lawandos
Dec.3	11:00 AM	Available	

HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2023


November 19	Rita & John Jajo
November 26	Jocelyne Farah & Amale Gebrael Lawandos
December 3	Joumana & Marie Najm



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

PARISH OFFERING

November 12, 2023

	
Weekly offering	\$1,040.00
Coffee Hour	\$65.00
Total Income	\$1,105.00

*Thank You for your generosity and
your support*

Important Messages

Daily Readings

Monday: Rom 4:1-12; Jn 8:31-37
 Tuesday: Rom 2:1-8; Jn 8:38-40
 Wednesday: Rom 2:9-16; Jn 8:41-45
 Thursday: Rom 2:17-29; Jn 8:46-50
 Friday: Rom 3:1-12; Jn 8:51-55
 Saturday: Rom 3:21-31; Jn 8:56-59



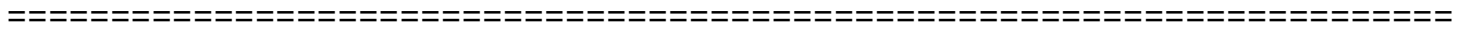
THE SANCTUARY LAMP

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



Upcoming Second Collection

- December 25: Pastor's Collection
- January 28: United States Catholic Bishops' Worldwide Charities

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2023

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Dec. 3: | Ste. Barbara: Trunk or Treat & Costume Competition |
| Dec. 8: | The Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation) |
| Dec.10: | Children Christmas Party with Santa |
| Dec. 16: | 23rd Annual Christmas Dinner and Reverse Drawing Raffle |
| Dec.25: | The Glorious Birth of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation) |

Announcement to Zechariah

Qurbono P. 18; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of St. James p. 794

ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZECHARIAH (LUKE 1:5-25)

In today's gospel we learn about the announcement of the coming of John, the forerunner of the Lord. John's coming to the world of an older couple explains to us how the power of God is dealt with here on earth. Just like Abraham and Sarah, Zechariah and Elizabeth were childless in their old age. When God's message came to Abraham about a numerous posterity, Abraham unquestionably believed in God's ability and it was credited to him as being the father of faith. Unlike Abraham, when God's message came to Zechariah that Elizabeth would bear him a son, Zechariah questioned the ability of the Lord. He addressed the messenger, "How will I know that is going to happen?" Although Abraham and Sarah realized they were up in years, they accepted the idea with respect, awe and astonishment. Whereas Zechariah questioned the angel and wanted a sign as to how this was to happen! For this doubt in God's ability, the Lord left him mute, because he failed to recognize God's mighty power in changing the impossible.

The Angel's surprising message to Zechariah while he was offering incense startled him. Zechariah's doubtful reaction preceded his act of faith. He may have answered quickly because he did not know what to say. This is not to justify Zechariah's doubt, but rather to better understand our doubt, insecurity and human weakness. If we were to ask ourselves the question: Are we able to recognize God's message among many other messages? How do we know when God is the one who is speaking to us? Are we able to decipher God's request from other requests? Are we obedient to God's Call? Further, we may, at times, wonder how anyone can refuse God's request! And this is where the crux of today's message lies. Should we or should we not accept angels as God's Messengers? How are we to recognize a good angel from a bad angel? St. Paul tells us that "there are many spirits but there is one Holy Spirit." We can decipher the good from the bad when we take time to meditate. When making a decision, so long as its results do not offend, God, the neighbor, and the self, it is a sign that our decision is being guided by the good angel and directed by the Holy Spirit.

It was a very fearful yet very joyful experience for the house of Zechariah. On the one hand, it is a fearful experience because Zechariah was severely punished for his unbelief as he was left mute until a later time. And this caused him low esteem and uselessness, and brought embarrassment to his priestly rank and to his family lineage. Imagine a prophet, a priest, a professor unable to express himself verbally. His are the feeling of emptiness and frustration. Zechariah is ashamed thinking that God may have punished him for some wrongdoing. He is also embarrassed because of his impediment and uselessness. On the other hand, it is a joyful experience because the Lord acted on behalf of the barren Elizabeth by granting her fertility through the announcement of the birth of John. A childless woman in the old Jewish religion was frowned upon because she was blamed for interrupting the chain of the family lineage. A family that does not have offspring is doomed and thus it is being eliminated from the participation in the house of Israel. In this simple story we learn that God looked with mercy upon Zechariah's family, continued his lineage and rewarded Elizabeth for her faith and patience. Through this son, John, not only did Zechariah's posterity pushed ahead another generation, but it exemplified the family's love of God, zeal and dedication for thousands of years.