



SAINT SHARBEL PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2023-254
December 10, 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

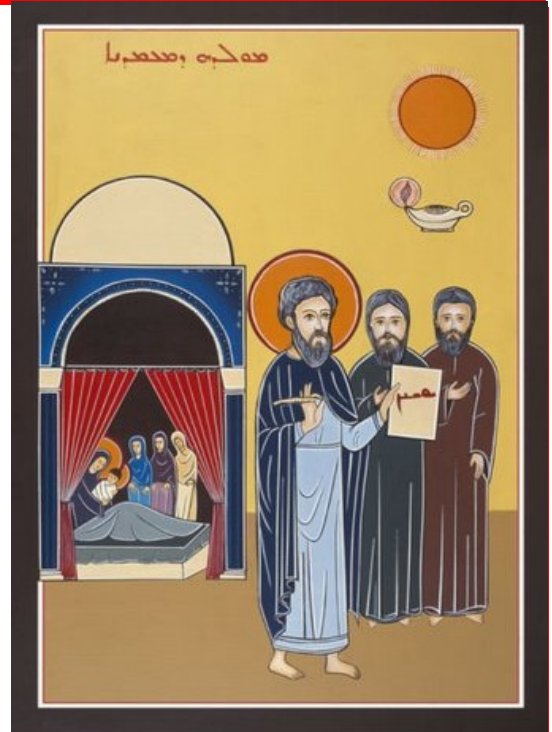
Pastor: Rev. Robert Youssef Farah

Sunday Liturgy: 11:00 AM

Saturday Liturgy: 5:00 PM

Wednesday & Friday Liturgy: 6:30 PM

Thursday Adoration: 6:30 PM



Donate Now PayPal

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER NETWORK

Donate Now PayPal

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER NETWORK

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.

amazon
smile

Support St Sharbel Mission by shopping at AmazonSmile.

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to St Sharbel Mission. Support us every time you shop.

READINGS

December/2023

December 10	Birth of John the Baptist	
	Epistle	Gospel
	Gal 4:21-5:1	Lk 1:57-66
December 17	Revelation to Joseph	
	Epistle	Gospel
	Eph 3:1-13	Mt 1:18-25



*** LITURGY INTENTIONS * FROM**

Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions

Dec. 10	11:00 AM	All Children of Our Parish	By: The Priest
Dec. 17	11:00 AM	Available	
Dec. 24	11:00 AM	All Parishioners	By: The Priest

HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2023

December 10	Nathalie & George Ishak
December 17	kanefeh
December 24	Dolly & Bassam Matar



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

PARISH OFFERING

December 3, 2023



Weekly offering	\$1,009.00
Donation	\$250.00
Coffee Hour	\$81.00
Total Income	\$1,340.00

Thank You for your generosity and your support

Important Messages

Daily Readings

Monday: Rom 9:1-5; Lk 1:67-80
 Tuesday: Rom 9:6-13; Mt 11:11-15
 Wednesday: Rom 9:14-18; Mt 17:9-13
 Thursday: Rom 9:19-29; Mt 21:23-27
 Friday: Rom 9:30-33; Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Rom 10:1-13; Jn 5:31-36



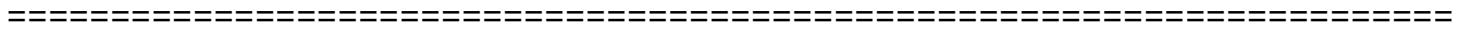
THE SANCTUARY LAMP

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.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) |
| Dec. 26: | Felicitations to the Virgin Mary |
| Jan. 1: | The Circumcision of Jesus (Holy Day of Obligation) |
| Jan. 6: | Feast of the Glorious Epiphany (Holy Day of Obligation) |

Birth of John the Baptist

Qurbono P. 48; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of St. James p. 794

Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John (Luke 1:57-66)

The birth of John completes the family of Zachariah & Elizabeth. With the presence of relatives and neighbors, the parameter of the family broadens and happiness ensues. But with the presence of the Virgin Mary, the happiness of the family reaches a fever pitch, because the birth of John proclaims the birth of Jesus. Further, the birth of John brought happiness to the house of his elderly father, to his barren mother and to the neighbors and relatives, because God's love to his people is renewed. His name is "John" which means "the compassionate God." It points out to a new phase in God's salvific plan and to the fidelity of God's promise to his people. "And the hand of God was with him" is a scriptural expression explaining that God called John to a special prophetic mission, just like Elijah and the rest of the prophets, because he is going to "prepare a people fit for the Lord" (Luke 1:17).

Among the more fascinating figures in Scripture, the person of John stands out. Certainly he is a "Surprise Baby" since Zechariah and Elizabeth had been unable to conceive a child. The time had long passed for new life to emerge from their marriage. Yet the God of grace and surprise was not bound by human expectations. Grace builds on nature and brings new life out of the most barren circumstances. When human powers have been spent, the grace of God shines through our weaknesses and limitations. The conception of John is a foretasting of God's ultimate act of grace and life in Jesus. The new age of grace is dawning.

Scriptural Names are expressive. They are a reflection or a projection of someone's life which expresses the meaning of a particular action. For example: Hosea's children's names, Jezreel, Unloved, and not-my-people, are given by their father as a result of their mother's action. Mshee-ho (Aramaic), Massih (Arabic), Messiah with the English transliteration and means the Anointed one, the Savior. Yuhanon (Aramaic), Hanna or Hannan (Arabic), John (English) means compassion. The name "John" expresses God's action of love toward Elizabeth and Zechariah by answering their prayers. It further expresses the compassion that God has toward humanity at large.

There are spells of lifelessness in our life. We feel the reproach of the world, which is too much with us: Where is your God? Where is the sign of grace that brings forth new life? Even in the midst of so many lights we fail to see the One Who is Light. Yet it is in the absence of God that we may come to feel his presence. The wilderness speaks of the absence of God and the deep longing in the human heart for home. God is never indifferent to what happens to us, his children. He cares about the world which he created. The idea of wilderness is prominent in the Scripture. It is the place of void and emptiness, the place of demons and temptation. The wilderness is also a space for God's face. For it is in wanderings that we grow weary and turn to the God who is in search of us.

John is the one who will preach about the coming of the Messiah. John is about the business of preparing hearts for the coming of the One Who takes the crooked and makes it straight, the rough and turns it smooth. It is into the wilderness of our heart and everyday lives that the Word must become flesh. When our human efforts and powers are spent, when we have become aware of our lowliness, smallness and imperfection, then grace proclaims, "God lives...God lives in you." "A voice cries out in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God!" (Isaiah 40:3).