



# SAINT SHARBEL PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2023-257  
December 31, 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

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**website:** [www.saintsharbelchurch.org](http://www.saintsharbelchurch.org)

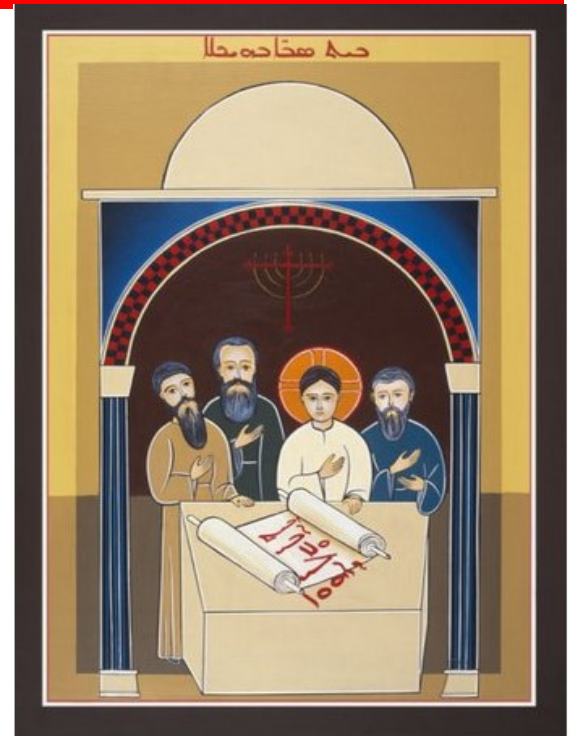
**Pastor:** Rev. Robert Youssef Farah

**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/>

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# READINGS

December 2023—January 2024

<b>December 31</b>	<b>The Finding of the Lord in the Temple</b>	
	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
	Heb 7:11-19	Lk 2:41-52
<b>January 1</b>	<b>The Circumcision of Jesus (Holy Day of Obligation)</b>	
	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
	Eph 2:11-22	Lk 2:21



**\* LITURGY INTENTIONS \* FROM**

**Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions**

Dec. 31	11:00 AM	Remember Me In Your Kingdom	By: The Priest
January 1	11:00 AM	All Parishioners	By: The Priest
January 6	6:30 PM	All Parishioners	By: The Priest

## HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2023

December 31	Dolly & Bassam Matar
January 1	Available
January 6	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**  
**December 24, 2023**

Weekly offering	\$1,555.00
Christmas Day—Midnight	\$595.00
Christmas Day—Morning	\$968.00
Donation	\$250.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3,368.00</b>

### Important Messages

**Daily Readings**

Monday: Eph 2:11-22; Lk 2:21  
 Tuesday: Heb 7:1-10; Lk 2:22-24  
 Wednesday: Heb 7:20-28; Lk 2:25-35  
 Thursday: Heb 6:9-12; Lk 2:36-40  
 Friday: Rom 5:1-11; Lk 3:1-14  
 Saturday: Tit 2:11-3:7; Lk 3:15-22

*Thank You for your generosity and your support*



## 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

- January 28: United States Catholic Bishops' Worldwide Charities  
February 12-March 28: Eparchial Charities Appeal  
March 28: Holy Land Collection

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2023

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Jan. 1:  | The Circumcision of Jesus (Holy Day of Obligation)      |
| Jan. 6:  | Feast of the Glorious Epiphany (Holy Day of Obligation) |
| Feb. 9:  | Feast of St. Maron (Holy Day of Obligation)             |
| Feb. 12: | Ash Monday  |

# Finding of Our Lord in the Temple

Qurbono P. 87; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of St. John Chrysostom p. 876

## The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)

This is the last Sunday in the Glorious Season of the Birth of Our Lord. Jesus is twelve years old, he is in the transitional year during which he leaves childhood to take personal responsibility: "I have to be in my Father's House".

Today's Gospel is the conclusion of the Infancy Narrative in St. Luke's Gospel. This period in the life of Jesus, mediates between his childhood and his adulthood where he begins his salvific mission, and precedes his public life. On his own initiative, Jesus remained in the Temple in Jerusalem, without the awareness of Mary and Joseph. When they have found him after three days, his mother asked him: "Why have you done this to us?" His decisive answer was: "Why were you looking for me, did you not know that I have to be in my Father's house?" With this episode, Jesus confirmed that he belongs to a circle other than his human family, and that he is completely independent where Mary and Joseph are concerned, due to the fact that he is the Son of God. Jesus foretells of his passion, death, and resurrection after three days, pointing out to his return to the Father. However, for the time being, he went with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them, due to his human disposition, and he advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man, Through this act of obedience, Jesus remains the perfect example of every child who grows in all aspects of life—human and spiritual: in mind, body, and soul.

After his resurrection, Jesus was no longer limited to time and space . The risen Jesus reaches us wherever we are. He is ever present among us today through the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. That is why the Sunday of the Finding of the Lord in the Temple is, at the same time, the commemoration of his dwelling among us, as we grow in our committed life of faith.

Conflicts, troubles, afflictions, friction, fighting, and sickness make our life miserable. But it is after such circumstances that we experience true joy. Coming back from a long weekend after they went up to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover, Mary and Joseph realized that Joseph was missing and they went searching for him. But their joy was inexplicable when they found him among scholars in the Temple. Do we have the urge of Mary and Joseph to look for Jesus when he is missing from our lives? Do we look as enthusiastically for him as we look for something we have lost? If our joy is so great when we find that missing item, how much will we rejoice when we find Him in our personal lives?

Lord Jesus, thank you for allowing us to find you in ourselves -your new found temple-and for coming among us to show us the love of God, and most of all, thank you for saving us from our sins. Grant that our New Year be filled with a growing appreciation of your presence among us and the power of your love. As the God of Christmas and the God of Joy fill our hearts with the JOY, the PEACE, and the HOPE that can come from you alone. Amen