



SAINT SHARBEL PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2023-263
February 11, 2024

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

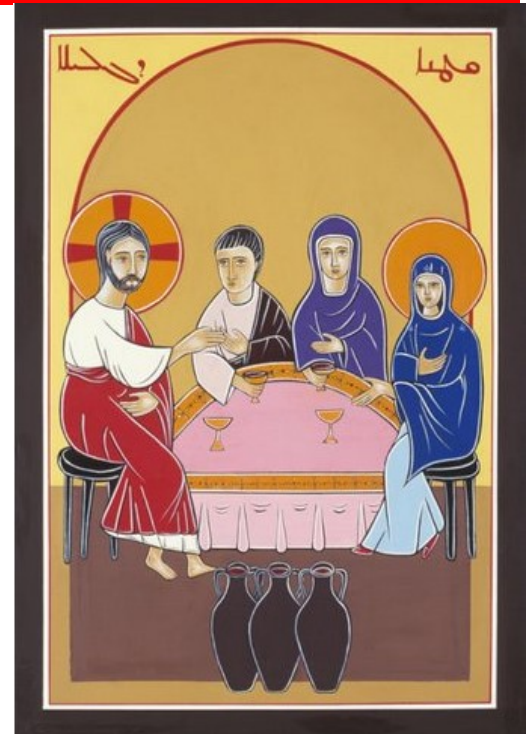
Pastor: Rev. Robert Youssef Farah

Sunday Liturgy: 11:00 AM

Saturday Liturgy: 5:00 PM

Wednesday & Friday Liturgy: 6:30 PM

Thursday: Eucharistic 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

February 2024

February 11	Sunday of the Entrance into Lent: Miracle at Cana	
	Epistle	Gospel
	Rom 14:14-23	Jn 2:1-11
February 12	Ash Monday	
	Epistle	Gospel
	2 Cor 5:20-6:7	Mt 6:16-21



*** LITURGY INTENTIONS * FROM**

Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions

Feb. 11	11:00 AM	All Parishioners	By: The Priest
Feb. 12	6:30 PM	All Parishioners	By: The Priest
Feb. 18	11:00 AM	Joseph Jabbour	By: Judith Abraham

HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2023

February 11	Melody & Rokos Isaak
February 18	Judith Abraham
February 25	Rita & John Jajo



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

PARISH OFFERING	
January 28, 2024	
Weekly offering	\$1,375.00
Coffee Hour	\$24.00
Total Income	\$1,399.00



Important Messages

Daily Readings

Monday: 2 Cor 5:20-6:7; Mt 6:16-21
 Tuesday: Rom 15:1-13; Mt 6:5-15
 Wednesday: Rom 15:14-21; Mt 6:1-4
 Thursday: 1 Tim 6:6-12; Mt 6:25-34
 Friday: 2 Thes 3:6-14; Mt 7:13-27
 Saturday: Heb 3:14-4:4; Lk 18:9-14

Thank You for your generosity and your support



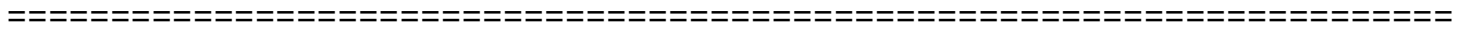
THE SANCTUARY LAMP

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



Upcoming Second Collection

February 12-March 28: Eparchial Charities Appeal

March 28: Holy Land Collection

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2023

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| Feb. 10: | 2nd Annual Table Top Tournament |
| Feb. 12: | Ash Monday |
| Feb. 17: | “Evening with Our Lady” |
| March 5: | St. Sharbel Ladies Guild Meeting |

Sunday of the Entrance into Lent: Miracle at Cana

Qurbono P. 176; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of the Twelve Apostles p. 754

The Wedding At Cana (John 2:1-11)

The Season of Great Lent in our Maronite Tradition is clear in definition and meaning. It begins with the Sunday of the Wedding at Cana and concludes with Palm Sunday, and to be exact, on the Friday before, which marks the Fortieth Day. In the Book of Al-Hoda (1059) there was a Maronite practice which linked the Lenten Season to the feast of Epiphany, just as the evangelists of the Synoptic Gospels did. But our present tradition links it to the feast of the Resurrection, and to be specific, it links it to Passion Week. Thus, Lent refers to an oceanic journey leading the faithful to the harbor of salvation, which used to be celebrated at the beginning of Passion Week, with the Monday evening prayer: "The Coming to the Harbor."

This Sunday reminds us of the miracle at the Cana wedding where Jesus changed water into wine. It was his first miracle as he had shown his glory and his disciples believed in him. Through him goodness and joy overflow. This replaces the Jewish feasts, the Manna, and the cleansing water, which indicates the essence of his divine identity. Through the presence of the Lord Jesus, the Old Law loses its significance in order to gain a new concept. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is always in the company of her Son, and in the company of his disciples and the Church. She is the New Eve, the Mother of all the faithful. The choice wine is the symbol of the great Messianic joy, of His new teaching, and of the chalice of his Eucharistic Blood. For the Early Church, the expression "The Third Day" referred Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Thus the Weeding at Cana, at the Entrance into Lent Sunday, is the beginning of the Lenten journey marked with repentance and joy, leading us into Passion Week and into the Glory of the Resurrection.

Today, Maronites are urged to observe Lent through special acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The Church requires its adherents to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Monday and Great Friday of Crucifixion, and abstain from meat on all the Fridays of Great Lent. To fast means to deprive one self from foods and drinks. It also means to open ourselves up to God, to learn his divine will and to act upon it. To fast means to open ourselves up for prayers, to charitable giving, to trust in the divine providence, to be satisfied with what we have, to walk the straight and narrow path that leads to life, to do the will of God, to yield fruits of good works, to build our home on the rock as does the wise builder. Lent warns us from being arrogant and from judging others. Lent urges us to humble ourselves before God and to ask him for mercy and forgiveness.

Easter is the oldest Christian season. Lent later came into being as a time of preparation. Though ancient terms and symbols are used during this season, Lent and Easter remain contemporary and fresh in the life of the Church because they focus on the very center of our faith in Christ. This is THE TIME for us to examine our lives and prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Easter. As we commemorate Christ's resurrection we celebrate our baptism, as all of God's people, we join with the death and the resurrection of our Lord. When we observe Lent during the 7 weeks of fasting before Easter, we imitate Jesus' days of fasting, self-denial and prayer in the wilderness. New adult converts to Christianity practiced Lenten Penance and prayer which prepared them to receive their Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil Service.