



SAINT SHARBEL PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2023-264
February 18, 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

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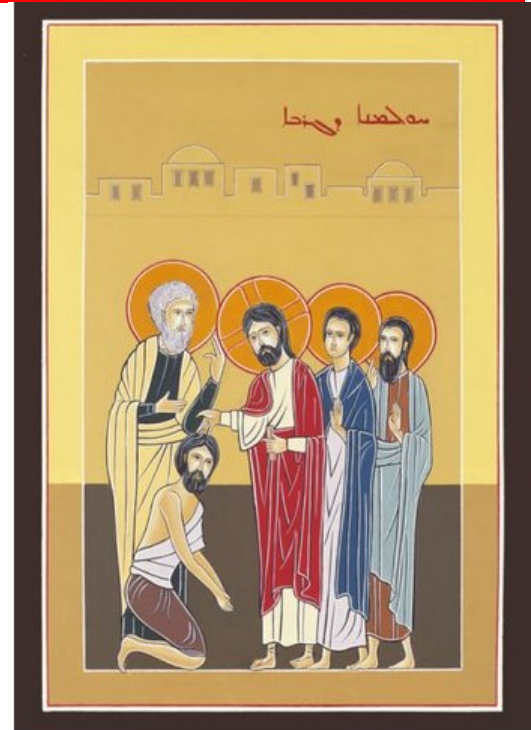
Pastor: Rev. Robert Youssef Farah

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 18****Healing of the Leper****Epistle****Gospel**

Rom 6:12-23

Mk 1:35-45

**February 25****Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman****Epistle****Gospel**

2 Cor 7:4-11

Lk 8:40-56

*** LITURGY INTENTIONS *****FROM****Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions**

Feb. 18

11:00 AM

Joseph Abdallah Jabbour

By: Judith Abraham

Feb. 25

11:00 AM

Available

March 3

11:00 AM

Naameh Fayad Nicolas

By: The Family

HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2023

February 18

Judith Abraham

February 25

Rita & John Jajo

March 3

The Nicolas Family

*To sponsor a coffee hour pls contact Gloria Salim-Brown: 919.345.3483, gsalim@aol.com.**Donation for coffee hour is appreciated***PARISH OFFERING****February 11, 2024***Weekly offering**\$1,029.00**Ash Monday**\$224.00**Coffee Hour**\$74.00**Candles Intentions**\$88.00****Total Income******\$1,415.00****Thank You for your generosity and
your support***Important Messages****Daily Readings**

Monday: 2 Cor 9:1a, 5-15; Lk 9:37-45

Tuesday: 1 Cor 16:15-24; Mk 8:22-26

Wednesday: Rom 14:1-13; Lk 7:1-10

Thursday: 2 Cor 1:23-2:5; Mt 15:29-39

Friday: 2 Cor 12:21-13:5; Mt 9:27-35

Saturday: 2 Cor 4:11-18; Lk 6:20-23



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

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Upcoming Second Collection

February 12-March 28: Eparchial Charities Appeal

March 28: Holy Land Collection

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2023

Feb. 17: "Evening with Our Lady"

March 2: Feast of St. John Maron

March 5: St. Sharbel Ladies Guild Meeting

March 9: Meaning of the Crucifixion & Searching the Garden of Eden

Every Friday during Lent: Stations & Benediction of the Cross at 6:30 PM

Sunday of the Healing of the Leper

Qurbono P. 196; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of the Twelve Apostles p. 754

SUNDAY OF THE LEPER (Mark 1:35-45)

This Sunday reminds us of the healing miracle of the Leper. It is the first in the Gospel of Mark. Jesus expressed his great love for the person who is despised and alienated from his family and society. God's infinite love made him stoop down to the weak and be compassionate toward suffering humanity, to treat it with care, and to break the barriers that separated man from his own brother.

Leprosy, in the eyes of the Jews, was the worst disease and the severest of God's punishment to a sinner. A leper was banned from mingling with God's people and was kept away from the community. The Leper begged Jesus with full confidence disregarding what the Torah prescribed. Jesus touched him and told him: "I do will it be cure!" And the Leper was cleansed through the simplicity of the Almighty and the compassion of the Savior, without much verbal expression and extensive movements. Before the curing of the Leper, Jesus would be found praying early in the morning, dedicating a long time for prayer, for meditation and for his relationship with the heavenly Father. As for people, their main concern was to be cured by Jesus and he cured them by his touch and his word. This is still happening to the faithful through the liturgy of the Eucharist, by receiving the Body and Blood of the Lord and by listening to his Word. Just as the Leper went about crying out loudly announcing the news of his healing, so should every faithful who had lived the experience of Jesus's encounter. So also should every sinner, who was healed by Jesus and reinstated to the joy of living within the Church, to be transformed into an apostle so as to spread the Good News.

Leprosy begins with a loss of all sensation, the muscles waste away, the tendons contract until the hands look like claws. Ulceration of hands and feet follows. The patient then progressively loses fingers and toes, until in the end the whole hand or foot drops off. It is a kind of progressive death in which a human being dies by inches. The leper's life was also overwhelmed with mental decay and psychological anguish. In short, Leprosy was literally a living death.

During the time of Jesus, Lepers were considered unclean and should live in a habitation outside the camp. They were barred from Jerusalem and from all walled towns. A leper had to have a bell around his neck to alert people to stay away. In the Middle Ages, if a priest encountered a leper, he donned his stole, took his crucifix, brought the leper into the church and read the burial service over him. For all human purposes a leper was considered as good as dead. The disease did not only inflict physical pain but emotional and psychological as well. When the leper heard of Jesus' compassion and power, although he was not allowed to come near anyone, he fell before Jesus and cried out: "Lord, if you will, you can cleanse me." This feeling reflects the entire biblical tradition that the most poignant sorrow about leprosy was the lonely despair in being excluded from society. The leper wanted to be accepted back into the community, he wanted his health and human dignity. He came to Jesus as the last resort, knowing that Jesus and only Jesus can restore his health and reinstate his life.

Through our sicknesses and imperfection Jesus does not condemn us but is merciful, and forgiving. Yes, Jesus wants the unwanted, loves the unlovable and forgives the unforgivable. Jesus did all of that and as Christians, so must we, at least for His name's sake. Further, if there is a sin that keeps causing our soul a great deal of leprosy, let it not intimidate us and keep us separated from our loved ones. But let us have the courage, like the leper, to come to Jesus, the Supreme Physician and ask Him to render us healthy and clean.