



# SAINT SHARBEL PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2023-266

March 3, 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](mailto:abouna@saintsharbelchurch.org)

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

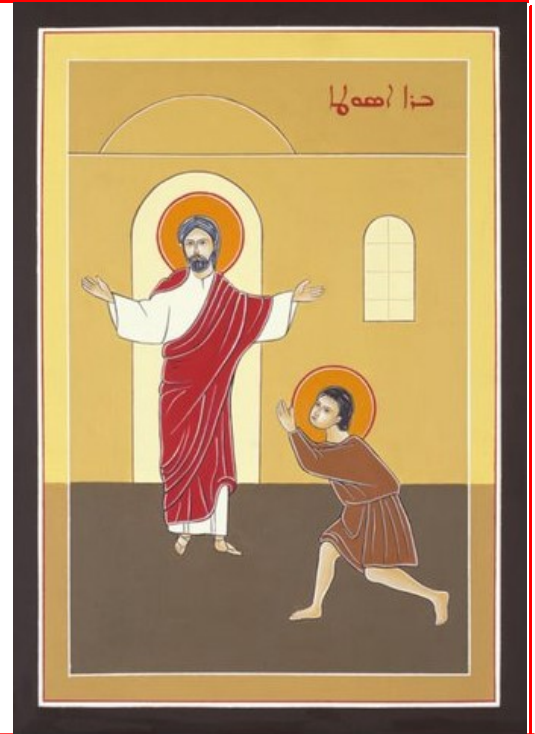
**Pastor:** Rev. Robert Youssef Farah

**Sunday Liturgy:** 11:00 AM

**Saturday Liturgy:** 5:00 PM

**Wednesday & Friday Liturgy:** 6:30 PM

**Thursday: 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/>

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# READINGS

March 2024

<b>March 3</b>	<b>Parable of the Prodigal Son</b>	
	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
	2 Cor 13:5-13	Lk 15:11-32
<b>March 10</b>	<b>Healing of the Paralytic</b>	
	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
	1 Tim 5:24-6:5	Mk 2:1-12



**\* LITURGY INTENTIONS \* FROM**

**Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions**



March 3	11:00 AM	Naameh Fayad Nicolas	By: The Family
March 10	11:00 AM	Available	
March 17	11:00 AM	Available	

## HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2023

March 3	The Nicolas Family
March 10	Dalya & Munqith Balwan
March 17	Maryam & Awfeed Isho



*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

February 25, 2024



Weekly offering	\$1,153.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$74.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,227.00</b>

### Important Messages

#### Daily Readings

Monday: 2 Cor 9:5-15; 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

*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**

February 12-March 28: Eparchial Charities Appeal

March 28: Holy Land Collection

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2023**

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**

# Fourth Sunday of Lent: Parable of the Prodigal Son

Qurbono P. 217; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of St. James p. 794

## Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

Among all Sundays of Lent, this is the only Sunday that does not remind us of a miracle of Jesus, but of a parable, that of the Prodigal Son. It is the peak of the first three weeks of Lent, which emphasizes the practice of penance through fasting, prayer, works of righteousness and almsgiving; and at the same time it is in the middle of Lent: for our heavenly Father wants nothing but our repentance and eternal salvation with him.

After the parables of the lost sheep and the lost silver piece, St. Luke presents the parable of the lost Son. These three sum up Jesus' answer to the complaints of the Scribes and the Pharisees, because he accepted sinners and ate with them. The younger son took his share of his father's inheritance and travelled to a distant land...! There, he squandered his money, was in dire need, worked as a slave herding pigs...! He returned to himself and realized his sin, so he decided to go back to his father asking forgiveness. His father returned to him the dignity of a son. This is how God treats every repentant sinner! As for the older son who refused to participate in the celebration, the father begged him to come in, he listened to all the objections he had against his brother, but the father insisted that he enters and accepts his brother, or else, he was going to lose his Son-ship! This is how God treats every person who behaves like the Pharisees and the Scribes: righteous before God, but refuses the repentance of his brother!

The Father knew that half of his fortune was going to be lost because of his son's ignorance and if the son was ever to learn his lesson he must learn the hard way. Thus he granted the son's request. The son quickly spent the money; and he ended up herding pigs, a task that was forbidden to a Jew because their law laid it down: "Cursed is he who feeds pigs." When he was hungry and desperate he returned to his father asking to be forgiven and accepted in the lowest rank of slaves. The Father was not waiting to punish him, or made him feel estranged or humiliated. On the contrary, he forgave him, hugged him and welcomed him back. And because he found him alive he ordered the celebration.

The forgiving father wanted his son to know that he is still his son and not a slave. Because the son repented and returned home, he was treated royally. The father ordered his servants to bestow upon the newfound son the royal paraphernalia: the **robe**, the **ring**, and the **shoes**. The **robe** stands for dignity, power and honor, for it is the formal garment of priests, kings and judges. The **ring** stands for the seal of authority, for if a man gave to another his signet ring it was the same as giving him the power of attorney. The **shoes** stand for freedom, for a son and heir as opposed to a slave. Further, killing the fatted calf signifies the Father's joyous celebration in honor of the return of his once lost son.

The emphasis of this parable centers around the son who acknowledged his sin, repented and sought forgiveness. Further, it emphasizes the love and the forgiveness of the father. It is a great deal on our part to admit our failures, but it is even greater to love and to forgive those who have done us wrong. The offense committed against the father's honor and pride was immeasurable. But the greater the offense, the greater the credit to the those who forgive. The Prodigal Son stands for each one of us and the Father stands for God who forgives our sins and accepts us. Let us take it upon ourselves, to admit our failures and to confess our sins; and also take it upon ourselves to imitate the Father and forgive each other for our transgressions.

*Dear Lord, Father of love and forgiveness, we come to you with a renewed heart, seeking a worm fatherly embrace, Forgive our transgressions and treat us not according to our failures but according to your abundant mercy. Amen.*