



SAINT SHARBEL PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2024-276

May 12, 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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<http://saintsharbelchurch.org/donate/>

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READINGS

May 2024

May 12 7th Sunday of the Resurrection

Epistle

Gospel

Eph 1:15-23

Jn 13:31-35

May 19 Pentecost Sunday

Epistle

Gospel

Acts 2: 1:21

Jn 14:15-20



* LITURGY INTENTIONS *

FROM

Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions

May 12 11:00 AM All Mothers By: The Priest

May 19 11:00 AM Available

May 26: 11:00 AM Remember In Your Kingdom By: The Priest

HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2024

May 12 Mother's Day Brunch

May 19 Denise & George Harb

May 26 Widad Jabbour



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

PARISH OFFERING

May 5, 2024



Weekly offering	\$864.00
Coffee Hour	\$224.00
Total Income	\$1,088.00

Thank You for your generosity and
your support

Important Messages

Daily Readings

Monday: Eph 4:1-13; Jn 12:20-25
Tuesday: Eph 4:17-24; Jn 12:26-30
Wednesday: Eph 4:25-32; Jn 12:31-36
Thursday: Eph 5:1-7; Jn 12:37-43
Friday: Eph 5:8-21; Mk 12:28-43
Saturday: Eph 6:10-24; Mt 5:43-48



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

- May 19: Catholic Communications Campaign
- June 30: Holy Father's Collection
- September 8: Catholic University of America and Maronite Seminary

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2024

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| May 12: | Mother's Day |
| May 19: | Pentecost Sunday |
| May 30: | Thursday of the Body of Christ |
| June 7: | The Sacred Heart of Jesus |

Seventh Sunday of the Resurrection

Qurbono P. 396; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of St. John p. 815

Jesus' New Commandment (John 13:31-35)

During the last week of the Season of the resurrection, the Church emphasizes the most important message of the Gospel: *"I give you an new commandment: that you love one another... This is how all will know that you are my disciples."* His commandment is that we love each other as he loves us. Jesus lived this commandment in a new and a unique sense, i.e., in his life, death and resurrection. He made brotherly love between people as a part of his divine love for us. This brotherly love is the most sincere sign and the greatest proof of God's love for humanity. It is also new because Jesus perfected it when he commanded us to love our enemies; when he linked our love for the neighbor to be in the same measure of our love for God; and when he made our love for each other to be the sign of the new ages.

The very idea of Love as a commandment is interesting. In the Old Testament, the Ten Commandments have a setting in the covenant between God and Israel at Sinai; traditionally, they were stipulations that Israel had to observe if it was to be God's chosen people. In speaking of Love as the new commandment for those whom Jesus had chosen as His own and as a mark by which they could be distinguished from others, it is shown implicitly that the scene of the Last Supper is thought of in covenant terms. Since the disciples cannot follow Jesus as He leaves this life, they receive a command that, if obeyed, will keep the spirit of Jesus alive among them as they continue their life in this world. They ought to live this commandment of love and, pass it on to their disciples, i.e., the flock of Jesus. Christ came to the world to bring it love. He wanted this love to transform the world and make it a better place.

Yet, love is more than a commandment; it is a gift and like the other gifts of the Christian dispensation, it comes from the Father through Jesus to those who believe in Him. In John 15:9, we hear, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you." This emphasizes that Jesus is the source of the Christians' Love for one another. The love that Jesus had for His followers is not only affective but also effective: it brings about their salvation. It is expressed in His laying down His life, an act of Love that gives life to men. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood." As B. Schwank put it: "In our own times a frequent ideal is the love of all men, enunciated in terms of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man. Such a maxim has some biblical base in the creation of all people by God."

The newness of the commandment of Love is related to the theme of the new covenant at the Last Supper - the "New Commandment." This reflects the early Christian understanding that in Jesus and His followers was fulfilled the dream of Jeremiah: "Behold, the days are coming when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah." Further, the mark that distinguishes God's love expressed in the covenant from even the noblest forms of human love, is that it is spontaneous and unmotivated, directed to sinners and unworthy of love. According to R. Brown: "The generosity of God's love was already realized by Israel, and therefore, in one way, the Christian concept of love is not new. Yet because the generosity of God's love could not be fully known until He had given His own Son, in another way the Christian concept of love stemming from Jesus is new." The same theme is found in John 17:23 where it is said that the world's attention will be caught by the love and union that exists between the Father, the Son and the Christian disciples. **Such a love challenged the world two thousand years ago and still challenges us today in the same Jesus. It is through Love that the First Christians were recognized, "Look how those Christians love one another."**