



SAINT SHARBEL PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2024-286

August 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

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

August 2024

August 18	14th Sunday of Pentecost	
	Epistle	Gospel
	1 Thes 2:1-13	Lk 10:38-42
August 25	15th Sunday of Pentecost	
	Epistle	Gospel
	1 Thes 1:1-10	Lk 7:36-50




		* LITURGY INTENTIONS *		FROM
Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions				
August 18	11:00 AM	Fahed Saleh	By: The Family	
August 25	11:00 AM	Remember Me In Your Kingdom	By: The Priest	
Sept. 1	11:00 AM	Available		

HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2024

August 18	Betty & Samir Saleh
August 25	Faeqa & Joseph Mimarbashi
Sept. 1	Available



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

PARISH OFFERING August 11, 2024	
	
Weekly offering	\$1,440.00
Donation	\$1,000.00
Candle Intentions	\$272.00
Total Income	\$2,712.00

Important Messages

Daily Readings

Monday: 1 Jn 3:23-4:6; Lk 15:1-7
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-21; Lk 15:8-10
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 5:1-12; Lk 16:1-8
 Thursday: 1 Jn 5:13-21; Lk 16:9-12
 Friday: 2 Jn 1-13; Lk 16:13-17
 Saturday: 3 Jn 1-15 Lk 17:1-4

*Thank You for your generosity and
 your support*



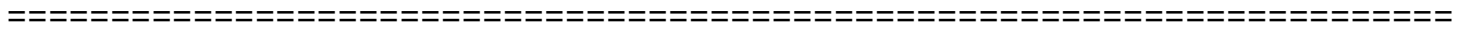
THE SANCTUARY LAMP

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

- September 8: Catholic University of America and Maronite Seminary
- October 20: World Mission Sunday
- November 3: Maronite Patriarchal Charities

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2024

- September 21-22: Taste of Lebanon Festival
- December 14: Christmas Dinner

Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Qurbono P. 425; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of St. Mark p. 835

Listening to the Word, Martha & Mary (Luke 10:38-42)

This Sunday tells us of the two sisters who received Jesus at their home. Martha was anxious, upset and busy tending to many hospitality details by herself. Whereas Mary sat by the feet of Jesus listening to him. Saint Luke stresses the importance of hearing the “Word” of the Gospel and listening to it. Thus the famous quote: “Mary has chosen the better portion and she shall not be deprived of it.”

We see Martha and Mary without reference to time or location in this story because St. Luke mentions them in Jesus’ journey from Galilee to Jerusalem (9:51 & 19:28). We find them with the same character in chapter 11, in the gospel of St. John. However John gives Martha a significant role whereby she repeats, verbatim, what Peter said in the Gospel of St. Matthew (16:16): “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God!” expressing the real identity of Jesus. Martha’s sole interest here was to serve. She wants her sister to help in serving Jesus rather than sitting and visiting with him. That is why, she was gently reproved: “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and upset about many things.” Whereas Mary’s attention was approved: “Mary has chosen the better portion.” Although St. Luke emphasizes listening to the Word, this does not mean that one can do without serving, meditating or working. All of these compliment each other just as it appeared in the parable of the Good Samaritan, which preceded the story of Martha and Mary. In the story of the Good Samaritan we learn about the love of the neighbor, thus, living the Second Commandment.

Jesus was interested more in Martha listening to his instruction than in preparing a meal. She needs to prepare only one dish. He told Martha only “one thing is required” referring to Mary who has chosen the “better portion” which will not be taken away from her. The lesson here is to help us understand that “the one thing” that is needed is to listen to the “Word.” Priority is given to the hearing of God’s word over preoccupation with many other concerns. Although Martha wanted to honor Jesus with a fancy dinner, he told her that it is more important to listen to what he has to say.

Two important points can be deduced from the story of Martha and Mary. (1) By listening to the word of Jesus we are obeying God, and thus, living the First Commandment. Martha’s service was not repudiated by Jesus, but it took place at the wrong time. Here Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem to face crucifixion and death. To have an elaborate dinner was probably the last thing on his mind. His stop at his friend’s house in Bethany was like taking a break from the demanding crowds. He wanted them to know what his teaching and ministry is all about. And (2) St. Luke depicts a woman as a disciple sitting at Jesus’ feet and listening to him. This explains all the more that Jesus is proclaiming the Good News to everyone: Jews and Gentiles, men and women, old and young, educated and illiterate, sinners as well as righteous and just.

The character of both sisters is acceptable because with Martha we see the perfect hostess and with Mary, the perfect disciple. However, we must react differently to each and every situation. We must give priority to what is at hand and act accordingly. The greatest problem most of us commit is that we often want to be kind to people but we want to do it our way. Unfortunately, we take offense when our way is not the necessary one. Most of the time our selfishness gets in the way. In order for our kindness to be effective and desirable we ought to see into the heart of those we are trying to help. Many a time we want to please God, we pray, we fast and abstain, we get wrapped up in our own way of telling God what we want. The best prayer we make is when we sit still, close our eyes, listen to what God wants from us, meditate and act upon his “Word.” Lord help us come to you, listen to you and serve you and others in a spirit of Love. Amen.