



SAINT SHARBEL PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2024-288
September 1, 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

September 2024

September 1	16th Sunday of Pentecost	
	Epistle	Gospel
	Rom 8:18-27	Lk 18:9-14
September 8	Celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross	
	Epistle	Gospel
	1 Cor 1:18-25	Jn 12:20-32




		* LITURGY INTENTIONS *		FROM
Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions				
Sept. 1	11:00 AM	Available		
Sept. 8	11:00 AM	Available		
Sept. 15	11:00 AM	Available		

HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2024

Sept. 1	Ana & Hady Abi-Aad
Sept. 8	Ghada & Mounif Aoun
Sept. 15	Amale & Habib Lawandos



*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 25, 2024	
Weekly offering	\$1,253.00
Coffee Hour	\$33.00
Total Income	\$1,286.00

Important Messages

Daily Readings

Monday: Jas 3:13-18; Lk 18:15-17
 Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10; Lk 18:18-23
 Wednesday: Jas 4:11-17; Lk 18:24-30
 Thursday: Jas 5:1-6; Lk 18:31-34
 Friday: Jas 5:7-12; Lk 19:11-28
 Saturday: Jas 5:13-20 Lk 19:41-44

*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

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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

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

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

The Fruit of the Word is Prayer

the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)

This Sunday stresses prayer, which is the fruit of the Word. It also reminds us of the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. In it the Lord warns us that when we pray, we ought not to be arrogant and judge others. He admonishes us to humble ourselves before God and as for mercy and forgiveness!

The prayer of the Pharisee is literally the prayer of the righteous, in which he recites the good he does such as fasting and tithing. The Pharisee believes that these good deeds are gifts from God, which make him better than others. Thus he boastfully thanks God for these gifts. What is lacking in his prayer is his belief that he is perfect, that he is without blemish, that he is quite righteous in all he does, that he has secured his salvation, while he despises the rest of the people who are sinners. Whereas the prayer of the Tax Collector is that, in it he admits that he is a sinner without recounting his sins. He found an isolated corner in the Temple and did not dare lift his eyes upward. He was beating his chest as a sign of humility and self-despising. He humbled himself before God petitioning for mercy and forgiveness. In the eyes of Jesus, the sinner went home justified, while the Pharisee, because of his arrogance, became the one who needs justification!

The Pharisee did not go to pray to God. He was praising himself. He went to the Temple to inform God how good he was. The most genuine and true prayer is when we offer prayer to God and to God alone. What the Pharisee did was not a prayer. It was a testimonial for himself before God. Jews were bound only to one day of fasting and that is the day of Atonement. There were some Pharisees who wished to gain additional favors, they fasted on Mondays and Thursdays. In order to show off and be noticed, they whitened their faces and wore shabby clothes while parading the streets where their piety attracts the largest possible audience. In the book of Numbers 18:21 and in the book of Deuteronomy 14:22, we learn that the Levites were to collect a tithe of a person's produce. In order to justify himself, this Pharisee tithed everything, even things on which he was not obligated to tithe.

God does not hear our prayers when we are arrogant. Our prayer does not count when we curse and despise our fellowmen and when we put ourselves above others. Our prayer is best heard by God when we are gathered as one large family admitting that we are a sinning, suffering, sorrowing humanity, kneeling before the throne of his mercy. The challenge is not to compare ourselves to our fellowmen. The challenge is when we set ourselves beside the life of God.

My dad once gave me a cue on humility. He said: "Look at the high land and the mountain how dry and parched they are while the valley below is so fertile, lively, rich and green. Because of lowliness and humility, the valley gets both its own water and the water that falls on the high land. When you praise yourself and blow your own horn, people will mock you. You get more credibility and respect when people praise you and not when you praise yourself." We fare very well in prayer not when we compare ourselves to others, but when we are weighed by the scale of God. In the eyes of God, self-praise is no praise. As Jesus said: "for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted." If we were to be forgiven and justified, we ought to be humble, respect and build others, come to God with sincere repentance and recite the prayer of the Tax Collector: "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner."