



SAINT SHARBEL PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2024-301
December 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

December 2024

December 1	Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth	
	Epistle	Gospel
	Eph 1:1-14	Lk 1:39-45
December 8	Birth of John the Baptist	
	Epistle	Gospel
	Gal 4:21-5:1	Lk 1:57-66



		* LITURGY INTENTIONS *		FROM
Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions				
Dec.1	11:00 AM	Antoine Elghossain	By: Nina Elghossain	
Dec. 8	11:00 AM	Amine Khalil Jabbour	By: The Najm Family	
Dec. 15	11:00 AM	Available		

HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2024

Dec.1	Nina Elghossain
Dec. 8	The Najm Family
Dec. 15	Roche & David Haught



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

PARISH OFFERING

November 24, 2024



<i>Weekly offering</i>	\$1,491.00
<i>Donation</i>	\$1,250.00
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	\$32.00
<i>Candle Intentions</i>	\$42.00
Total Income	\$2,815.00

*Thank You for your generosity and
 your support*

Important Messages

Daily Readings

Monday: Eph 1:15-23; Lk 1:46-56
 Tuesday: Eph 2:1-10; Lk 10:38-42
 Wednesday: Eph 2:11-16; Lk 19:1-10
 Thursday: Eph 2:17-22; Jn 4:39-42
 Friday: Eph 3:14-21; Mk 7:24-30
 Saturday: Eph 4:1-7; Lk 5:27-32



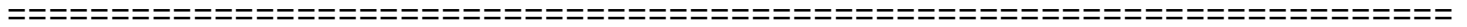
THE SANCTUARY LAMP

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

December 25: Pastor's Collection

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2024

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| December 1: | Ste Barbara Trunk or Treat |
| December 7: | MYO One Day Retreat |
| December 14: | Christmas Dinner |
| December 22: | Children Christmas Party |

Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth

Qurbono P. 38; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of St. James p. 794

(Luke 1:39-45)

“Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb”

The Sunday of the visitation commemorates the event of the encounter between two mothers, Mary and Elizabeth; between two sons, Jesus and John, while they still are in their mother’s wombs; and between two Testaments: the New and the Old. It reminds us of God’s visit to his people throughout their salvific history and announces his visit to us through the mystery of his Son’s incarnation and miraculous birth.

Of all women you are most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb...How strange the words of the angel. It would seem that Mary was anything but blessed. In fact, her marriage to Joseph was in jeopardy. She was on the verge of becoming an object of scorn and moral condemnation. Yet these words stand and have been preserved for all generations. Mary’s blessedness is to be found in the Child she carried. What appears to the natural eye as a source of rejection is to the eye of faith the dawn of the age of grace and healing. Yes Mary’s blessedness comes from God. Because she was obedient and because she accepted God’s will, in spite of the fact that it put her life in jeopardy, Mary was rewarded by becoming the Mother of God’s only Son, “the Mother of God.” The sign of God’s assurance to her was that she learned, before anyone, that her cousin Elizabeth is expecting a child. Mary’s Visit to Elizabeth is not to question God’s announcement to her, but she went to help her expecting aged cousin as she prepares for the birth of John.

A simple, yet a very powerful, message is handed to us through the spiritual meaning of the visitation. The barren Elizabeth symbolizes the old humanity as it relates to the new humanity, which is symbolized by Mary. The New Testament gives the Old Testament its fullest meaning. Thus, the Holy Spirit is the acting power in both Mary and Elizabeth. That is why Elizabeth cried out: “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” It is the work of the Holy Spirit, which transformed the human encounter between Elizabeth and Mary to praise and thanksgiving and led them both to the surrendering of self to the salvific plan of God. That is why the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth precedes the visit of the Son of God who is dwelling in her so that God visits our world and renews our creation through the salvific mystery of his birth.

Hunger has many faces. It touches the rich who need to become poor in spirit so that God can fill their hearts with love, tenderness and truth. The poor are touched by their need for daily bread for their stomachs and by human indifference. Both needs are addressed by these words of the Magnificat. So it is with us. We are blessed through the gift of faith and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The source of all good things has its origin in Divine Mercy. There are times when we are more aware of reproach. We feel anything but blessed. We feel our hunger. During such times we must be ever more open to grace. We must be receptive to that grace which gives us the wisdom to accept our blessedness. In the midst of our challenges and trials, we are reassured of a great blessing from Jesus, the Fruit of Mary’s womb.

Dear Lord, help me understand Your ways just like Mary did. Give me the faith, the courage and the grace of obedience you gave to Mary. Too often the world is too much with me and within me. Your Word is drowned by the noise of my life. Your presence in the poor is hidden. Help me appreciate everything I have. Help me accept the fact that all I am and everything I have comes from Your generosity. Help me become more grateful for all the good with which you surround me. Help me become a messenger to spread your goodness around me. Amen.