



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—January 2025

December 29	The Flight into Egypt	
	Epistle	Gospel
	Heb 11:23-31	Mt 2:13-18
January 1	The Circumcision of Jesus (Holy Day of Obligation)	
	Epistle	Gospel
	Eph 2:11-22	Lk 2:21



		* LITURGY INTENTIONS *		FROM
Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions				
Dec. 29	11:00 AM	Remember Me In Your Kingdom	By: The Priest	
Jan. 1	11:00 AM	All Parishioners	By: The Priest	
Jan. 5	11:00 AM	Cecilia Saleh	By: The Family	

HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2024

Dec. 29	Widdad Jabbour
Jan. 1	Available
Jan. 5	The Saleh Family



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

 PARISH OFFERING December 25, 2024	
<i>Weekly offering</i>	\$1,678.00
<i>Christmas Offering—Midnight</i>	\$294.00
<i>Christmas Offering—Day</i>	\$838.00
Total Income	\$2,810.00
<i>Thank You for your generosity and your support</i>	

Important Messages
Daily Readings
Monday: Acts 7:30-34; Mt 2:19-21
Tuesday: Acts 7:35-37; Mt 2:22-23
Wednesday: Eph 2:11-22; Lk 2:21
Thursday: Heb 7:1-10; Lk 2:22-24
Friday: Heb 7:20-28; Lk 2:25-35
Saturday: Heb 6:9-12; Lk 2:36-40



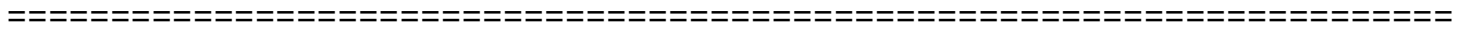
THE SANCTUARY LAMP

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

- January 26: United States Catholic Bishops' Worldwide Charities
- March 3– April 17: Eparchial Charities Appeal
- April 18: Holy Land Collection

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2024

- January 1: Circumcision of Jesus (Holy Day of Obligation)
- January 1: New Year's Day

The Flight into Egypt

Qurbano P. 76; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of St. John Chrysostom p. 876

The Flight into Egypt (Mt 2:13-18)

Today's Gospel reading presents a harrowing moment in the early life of Jesus—a moment marked by fear, flight, and sorrow. After the visit of the Magi, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream, warning him to take Mary and the child Jesus and flee to Egypt, for King Herod seeks to destroy the child. This narrative is not just a historical account; it speaks to the realities of our world and the human experience.

First, let us reflect on the courage of Joseph. Faced with fear and uncertainty, he responds with obedience and faith. When the angel speaks, he does not hesitate. He takes Mary and Jesus in the dead of night and escapes to Egypt. This act of bravery demonstrates the depth of his love and commitment to his family. Joseph's obedience reminds us that sometimes God calls us to act in ways that challenge us, that may require us to leave our comfort zones or face the unknown. In our own lives, how often do we hear the call of God but hesitate to respond? Joseph's example encourages us to trust in God's guidance, even when the path ahead is unclear.

As we consider the flight into Egypt, we also encounter the stark reality of Herod's cruelty. In his desperate attempt to eliminate the threat to his power, he orders the massacre of all male infants in Bethlehem. This tragic event echoes throughout history, reminding us of the violence and injustice that has plagued humanity. Innocent lives are lost due to the machinations of fear and power. In reflecting on this, we are called to recognize the suffering that still exists in our world today—children caught in the crossfire of conflict, families displaced by war, and communities torn apart by violence.

The lamentation of the mothers in Bethlehem, as they weep for their lost children, speaks to the depths of human grief. Matthew quotes the prophet Jeremiah, highlighting that this sorrow is not only a historical event but also a part of the ongoing human condition. "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning." This reminds us that God is intimately aware of our pain and sorrow. He doesn't turn away from our suffering; instead, He enters into it. Jesus, who escapes to Egypt, will one day bear the weight of the world's sin and suffering on the cross.

Furthermore, the flight into Egypt serves as a fulfillment of prophecy. Matthew emphasizes that Jesus is the new Moses, who will lead His people not just from physical bondage, but from the bondage of sin and death. This journey into Egypt and subsequent return is a foreshadowing of Jesus' mission to save humanity. It reassures us that God's plan is unfolding, even amid turmoil and despair.

As we meditate on this passage, let us ask ourselves: How do we respond to the challenges and fears in our own lives? Are we willing to trust in God's guidance like Joseph, even when the way seems dark? Do we recognize the suffering of others and respond with compassion and action?

In this season of reflection, let us hold in our hearts those who suffer today—children caught in violence, families fleeing persecution, and all who grieve. May we be instruments of peace and hope in a world that often mirrors the darkness of Herod's heart.

As we gather around the altar, let us pray for the courage to follow God's call in our lives, for the strength to comfort those who mourn, and for the wisdom to work toward justice and peace in our communities. May the love and protection of the Holy Family inspire us to live out our faith with courage, compassion, and unwavering hope.