



SAINT SHARBEL PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2025-307
January 5, 2025

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

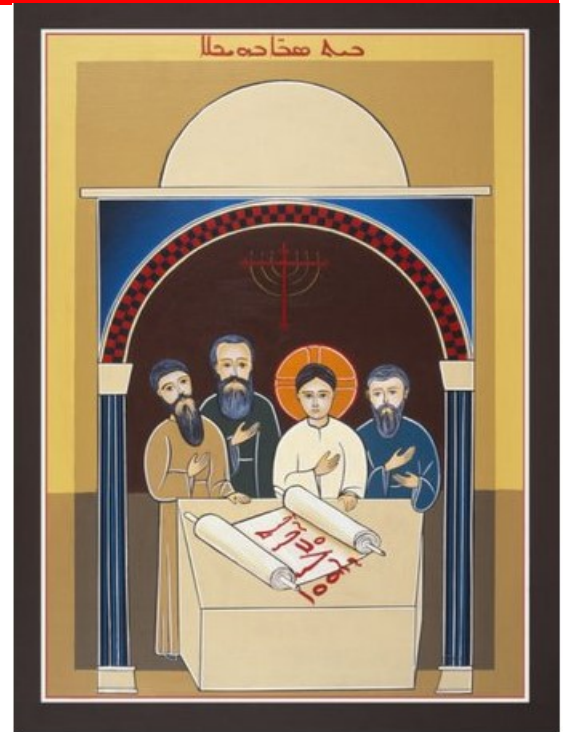
Pastor: Rev. Robert Youssef Farah

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

January 2025

January 5

Finding of Our Lord in the Temple

Epistle

Gospel

Heb 7:11-19

Lk 2:41-52

January 6

Glorious Epiphany (**Holy Day of Obligation**)

Epistle

Gospel

Tit 2:11-3:7

Lk 3:15-22



* LITURGY INTENTIONS *

FROM

Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions

Jan. 5

11:00 AM

Cecilia Saleh

By: The Family

Jan. 6

6:30 PM

All Parishioners

By: The Priest

Jan. 12

11:00 AM

Available

HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2024

Jan. 5

The Saleh Family

Jan. 12

Available

Jan. 19

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

December 29, 2024



Weekly offering

\$1,517.00

Donation

\$1,015.00

Total Income

\$2,532.00

*Thank You for your generosity and
your support*

Important Messages

Daily Readings

Monday: Tit 2:11-3:7; Lk 3:15-22

Tuesday: Col 1:24-29; Lk 7:18-30

Wednesday: Col 2:1-7; Mt 3:13-17

Thursday: Gal 5:2-15; Jn 5:31-38

Friday: Gal 5:16-26; Jn 5:39-47

Saturday: Gal 6:1-10; Mt 3:7-12



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 6: | Epiphany: Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Water at 6:30 PM |
| January 17: | St. Anthony the Great: Divine Liturgy at 6:30 PM |
| February 9: | Feast of St. Maron: Divine Liturgy at 11:00 AM |
| March 3: | Ash Monday: Distribution of the Ashes at 6:30 PM |

The Finding of the Lord in the Temple

Qurbono P. 87; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of St. John Chrysostom p. 876

The finding of our Lord in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)

This is the last Sunday in the Glorious Season of the Birth of our Lord. Jesus is twelve years old. He is in the transitional year during which he leaves childhood to take on personal responsibility: "I have to be in my Father's house!"

Today's Gospel is the conclusion of the Infancy Narrative in St. Luke's Gospel. This period in the life of Jesus, mediates between his childhood and his adulthood where he begins his salvific mission, and precedes his public life. On his own initiative, Jesus remained in the Temple, in Jerusalem without the awareness of Mary and Joseph. When they have found him after three days, his mother asked him: "Why have you done this to us?" His decisive answer was: "Why were you looking for me, did you not know that I have to be in my father's house?" With this episode, Jesus confirmed that he belongs to a circle other than his human family, and that he is completely independent, where Mary and Joseph are concerned, due to the fact that he is the Son of God. Jesus here foretells of his passion, death and resurrection after three days, pointing out to his return to the Father. However, for the time being, he went with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them, due to his human disposition; and he "advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man." Through this act of obedience, Jesus remains the perfect example of every child who grows in all aspects of life—human and spiritual: in mind, body and soul.

Let us rejoice in the New Found Lord!

To rejoice and especially to "rejoice in the Holy Spirit" is something out of the ordinary. You may have no end of fun when you are at a party, but chances are you won't rejoice. To rejoice is to have deep gratitude and joy. To rejoice means to be at peace knowing that, at all times and in all places, God lives within us. The true JOY that Christmas brings is a much deeper experience than fun. Mary and Joseph were homeless as they searched for a room in that cold Bethlehem night. Mary clothed the baby as the poor did, in swaddling clothes, and placed Him in a feed-trough for animals. Yet her joy was deeper than those difficult circumstances. The great good news of Christmas is that we can look forward to a joy that depends not on the immediate surrounding, but on God's graciousness.

Conflicts, troubles, afflictions, friction, fighting and sickness make our life miserable. But it is after such circumstances that we experience true joy. Coming back from a long weekend after they went up to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, Mary and Joseph realized that Jesus was missing and they went searching for Him. They probably did not sleep for three days. They went about frantically looking for Him. But their JOY was inexplicable when they found Him among scholars in the Temple. Do we have the urge of Mary and Joseph to look for Jesus when he is missing from our lives? Do we look as enthusiastically for him as we look for something we have lost? If our joy is so great when we find that missing item, how much will we rejoice when we find Him in our personal lives?

Lord Jesus, thank you for allowing us to find you in ourselves—your new found temple—and for coming among us to show us the love of God, and most of all, thank you for saving us from our sins. May we take JOY and HOPE in the blessings you gave to Mary and Joseph, your first disciples and a symbol of your people.