



SAINT SHARBEL PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2025-308
January 12, 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 12	1st Sunday after Epiphany	
	Epistle	Gospel
	2 Cor 10:1-11	Jn 1:29-34
January 19	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	
	Epistle	Gospel
	2 Cor 4:5-15	Jn 1:35-42



		* LITURGY INTENTIONS *		FROM
Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions				
Jan. 12	11:00 AM	Alice Gebara	By: James Gebara	
Jan. 19	11:00 AM	Available		
Jan. 26	11:00 AM	Available		

HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2024

Jan. 12	James Gebara
Jan. 19	Roche & David Haught
Jan. 26	Rula Freiji Mouawad



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

PARISH OFFERING

January 5, 2025



<i>Weekly offering</i>	\$1,242.00
<i>Donation</i>	\$550.00
<i>Epiphany Collection</i>	\$352.00
Total Income	\$2,144.00

Thank You for your generosity and your support

Important Messages

Daily Readings

Monday: 2 Cor 10:12-18; Mk 1:1-8
 Tuesday: 2 Cor 11:1-6; Jn 1:19-28
 Wednesday: 2 Cor 11:7-15; Jn 3:22-30
 Thursday: 2 Cor 11:22-30; Jn 3:31-36
 Friday: 2 Cor 12:1-10; Mt 14:1-12
 Saturday: 2 Cor 12:11-16; Jn 10:40-42



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

- 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 17: St. Anthony the Great: Divine Liturgy at 6:30 PM
- January 19: Parish Council Meeting
- February 9: Feast of St. Maron: Divine Liturgy at 11:00 AM
- March 3: Ash Monday: Distribution of the Ashes at 6:30 PM

First Sunday after Epiphany

Qurbono P. 107; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of St. John p. 815

The Mystery of Jesus is Revealed to John the Baptizer (John 1:29-34)

Jesus lived privately in Nazareth until he was thirty years old. His mystery was not revealed until his baptism by John who was administering a baptism of new repentance, which had an absolute Christian message, preparing the faithful who were being baptized, to directly become the newly established Christian community for the coming Messiah who was awaited by the Prophets and the people of the Old Testament. This is why the baptism of Jesus, and the mystery of his manifestation was a significant event in salvation history.

The Holy Spirit is the distinct sign for Jesus and the Christian era. God granted it to John the Baptizer to recognize the Messiah, who is coming after him and who was before him, so that he would witness for Jesus in front of all people that he is the Messiah, the chosen Son of God who was promised by the prophets and awaited by all people. John the Baptist calls Jesus the “Lamb of God” who is strong and powerful as it is described in Revelation (5,6; 7,17; 17,14). He also said about Jesus that “The coming Messiah is more powerful than I am” as it is recorded in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 3, 10-12). However, John the Evangelist, gave it the meaning of the humble Lamb, the Suffering Servant of God, and in (Isaiah 53,7) the slain Paschal Lamb who is the redeemer. Therefore, Jesus takes away the sin of the world and, at the same time, bears it because he cured the sick; he eliminated the sufferings which was considered by the Jewish tradition as punishment for sin; and he himself bore those sins for his people through his death on the Cross!

“EPIPHANY” is a Greek term which means “manifestation.” Christ’s manifestation to the world means the beginning of his Ministry. No one who witnessed Christ’s Baptism at the Jordan River heard the voice of God saying: “This is my Beloved Son.” It was concealed from everyone and revealed strictly to Jesus and to John the Baptizer. Christ is the “Lamb of God” as John proclaims. Lambs were sacrificed daily in the Temple for the expiation of sins of all peoples (Ex. 29: 38-42). Isaiah prophesied that Christ, the Servant of God, will be led like a lamb to be slaughtered (Is. 53: 7). The price for someone’s sin was to offer a sacrifice. God chose to offer the sacrifice himself. When Christ died as a complete sacrifice, he erased the Sin of the world, which means the sin of every individual. Through his death, Christ paid for our sins.

We hear of St. John testifying that Jesus is the Lamb of God, and it is he who is to “take away the sin of the world.” Further, John the Baptizer confesses saying: “The one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘when you see the Spirit descend on someone, it is he who is to baptize with the Holy Spirit.’” As John was pouring water over the head of Jesus, the voice of the Father thundered down from heaven. It was then, and only then, that John recognized the Beloved Son of God.

John knew who Jesus was but he did not know that he was the Messiah until Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan. The baptism of Jesus is also mentioned by the other evangelists (Mt. 3:13-17); (Mk. 1:9-11) and (Lk. 3: 21-22). John’s baptism in water was a baptism of new repentance and purification from sins. But the Lord Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit whom He will grant to all believers in order to strengthen them and to spread His salvific mission. The world was looking for the coming of the Savior. John’s mission was to prepare people and to direct them to this savior. Our world can be looking for a Savior to put an end to war, to establish peace, to bestow upon us his Holy Spirit and to forgive our sins. Therefore, we can be like John, leading people to Jesus, and directing them to Him so they may see that it is JESUS whom we are all awaiting.