



# SAINT SHARBEL PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN #2025-309  
January 19, 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](mailto:abouna@saintsharbelchurch.org)

**website:** [www.saintsharbelchurch.org](http://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

<b>January 19</b>	<b>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</b>	
	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
	2 Cor 4:5-15	Jn 1:35-42
<b>January 26</b>	<b>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</b>	
	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
	Gal 3:23-29	Jn 3:1-16



		<b>* LITURGY INTENTIONS *</b>		<b>FROM</b>
<b>Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions</b>				
Jan. 19	11:00 AM	Available		
Jan. 26	11:00 AM	Remember Me In Your Kingdom	By: The Priest	
Feb. 2	11:00 AM	Nada Bachaalani & George Jabbour	By: Yvonne Najm Sr.	

### HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2024

Jan. 19	Roche & David Haught
Jan. 26	Rula Freiji
Feb. 2	Yvonne Sr. & Joumana Najm



*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 12, 2025



<i>Weekly offering</i>	<b>\$1,541.00</b>
<i>Donation</i>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,691.00</b>

*Thank You for your generosity and  
 your support*

### Important Messages

#### Daily Readings

Monday: 2 Cor 1:1-11; Jn 1:43-51  
 Tuesday: 2 Cor 1:12-24; Lk 5:1-11  
 Wednesday: 2 Cor 2:1-11; Mt 4:18-25  
 Thursday: 2 Cor 2:12-17; Mt 9:9-13  
 Friday: 2 Cor 12:17-13:4; Mt 9:35-38  
 Saturday: 2 Cor 13:5-13; Mt 10:1-6



## **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](http://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 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



## Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

### **The Mystery of Jesus is Revealed to the Apostles (John 1:35-42)**

For the four evangelists, the call of the first disciples and the twelve apostles is a very important event in the public life of Jesus and his salvific mission. But the Evangelist John gives it a unique and distinct significance noting that the first disciples of Jesus were the disciples of John the Baptist. As such, John the Baptist would have directly prepared for the coming of Jesus, not only by testimony and baptism, but by calling his own disciples to follow Jesus: "He is to increase, while I have to decrease."

The testimony of John the Baptist in front of his disciples is a call inviting them to follow Jesus. It is a personal experience to follow Jesus, no one tastes it except the one who follows Jesus to where he lives. Thus, he lives with Jesus, he hears Jesus and Jesus reveals his mystery to him. In turn, he goes out to witness to Jesus and attracts to him new faithful and disciples. That is why the call of Andrew and the other disciple remains the perfect example of the Christian calling. When they came to Jesus he asked them: "What are you looking for?" they said to him: "Rabbi, which means teacher, where are you staying?" Jesus invited them and they spent that night with him. The next day Andrew went to his brother Simon and told him: "We have found the Messiah" and brought him to Jesus who told him: "You are Simon the son of Jonah; you will be called Cephas, which means Peter."

The continuation of the gospel shows Jesus on his way to Galilee where he called Philip who in turn went and told Nathanael "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the Prophets." Jesus recognized Nathanael as a true Israelite. Nathanael, who first exclaimed: "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" immediately professed out loud: "Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are the King of Israel."

Nathanael in the gospel of John is Bartholomew in the Synoptic gospels. Nathanael / Bartholomew was certainly one of the Twelve. Nazareth was mentioned because it was the town with which Jesus first associated His public life. It was never mentioned in the Old Testament. Not one Old Testament prophecy had connected the Messiah with Nazareth. It is said of Nathanael as "a true Israelite." The contemporary popular etymology of the name Israel was "one who sees God." In verse 51, Nathanael is promised a vision of heavenly things. This vision which is alluded to in the same verse refers to the vision of Jacob (Gn. 28:10-17) with his guileful character. Jesus here makes the contrast between the original Israel and Nathanael, "but there is no guile in him." Only those who will have more intimate association with Jesus will be granted "Much greater things." Nathanael, a true Israelite in whom there is no guile, will be granted the exclusive gift of seeing "the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

The introduction, the testimonial, and the acceptance of discipleship are poignant in the gospel of John. After meeting Jesus, Peter was immediately recognized as the son of Jonah and was given a new name. Even though Nathanael was still at a distance, he was recognized as true Israelite and swiftly acknowledged Jesus as Rabbi, the Son of God and the King of Israel. Jesus has been introduced and his mystery has been revealed to us. Before we make any move, he has already recognized us just as he recognized Peter, Nathanael and the rest of humanity. Our task is to become his disciples bringing people to him to be saved. It is up to us to respond to the call, to testify and to become his disciples. The best way to know Jesus is not just through stories, books or movies. We must come to live with him, abide by his word and have a personal relationship with him. It is then that we come to appreciate his salvific mission. It is then that we become emboldened to bring to him new faithful and disciples to continue his salvific mission until the end of time.