



## 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

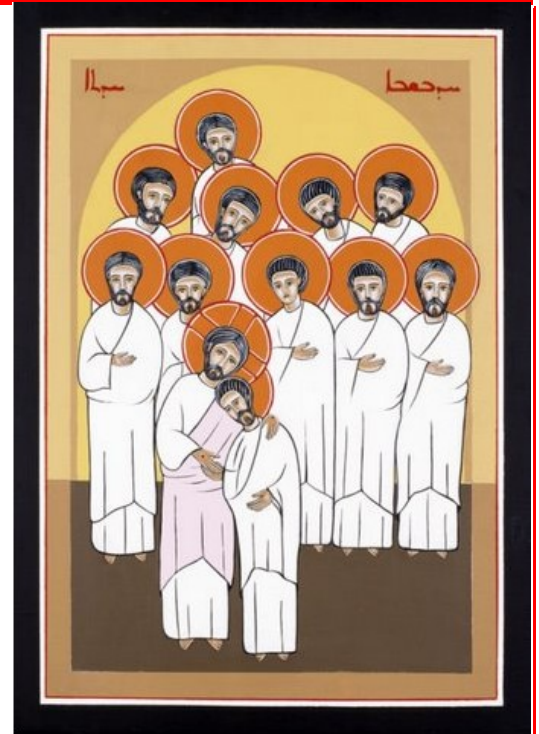
**Sunday Liturgy:** 11:00 AM

**Saturday Liturgy:** 5:00 PM

**Wednesday & Friday Liturgy:** 6:30 PM

**Thursday: Eucharistic Adoration:** 6:30 PM

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<http://saintsharbelchurch.org/donate/>

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# READINGS

April—May 2025

April 27

New Sunday (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Epistle

Gospel

2 Cor 5:11-21

Jn 20:26-31

May 4

Our Lady of Lebanon

Epistle

Gospel

2 Tim 2:8-13

Lk 24:13-35



## \* LITURGY INTENTIONS \*

Remember your loved ones with Mass Intentions

April 27

11:00 AM

Remember Me In Your Kingdom

By: The Priest

May 4

11:00 AM

First Communicants Intentions

By: The Priest

May 11

11:00 AM

All Mothers

By: The Priest

## HOSPITALITY - COFFEE HOUR / 2024

April 27

Available

May 4

First Communion

May 11

Mothers' Day Brunch



To sponsor a coffee hour pls contact Gloria Salim-Brown: 919.345.3483, [gsalim@aol.com](mailto:gsalim@aol.com).  
Donation for coffee hour is appreciated

## PARISH OFFERING

April 20, 2025



Weekly offering

\$4,294.00

Bishop's Appeal

\$128.00

Donation

\$500.00

Second Collection

\$194.00

**Total Income**

**\$5,116.00**

*Thank You for your generosity and  
your support*

## Important Messages

### Daily Readings

Monday: 1 Pet 1:1-9; Jn 20:1-10

Tuesday: 1 Pet 1:10-16; Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: 1 Pet 1:17-21; Mt 28:11-15

Thursday: 1 Pet 1:22-25; Mt 28:16-20

Friday: 1 Pet 2:1-10; Jn 2:13-25

Saturday: 1 Pet 2:11-17; Mt 22:41-46



## 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

## Upcoming Second Collection

- April 27: Catholic Home Missions Appeal
- May 4: National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon
- June 1: Catholic Communications Campaign

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2024

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| May 4:  | Feast of Our Lady of Lebanon: First Holy Communion |
| May 11: | Mother's Day                                       |
| May 29: | Ascension of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)     |
| June 8: | Pentecost  |



## New Sunday (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Qurbano P. 386; Creed P. 748; Anaphora of St. Peter p. 774

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**CHRIST IS RISEN**

### The New Sunday, The Sunday of Thomas (John 20:26-31)

This Sunday reminds us of the apparition of the risen and living Jesus to his disciples and to Thomas, that is why it is called: “The Sunday of Thomas.” After Jesus’ continual apparitions to his disciples, the profundity of the event of the Resurrection and the complete mystery of Jesus, have become, in reality, a new awakening to them and to the Church, that is why it is also called: “The New Sunday.” It is the “Eighth Day,” the beginning of a New Week and a New stage in the life of the apostles and the believing Church who have a New Faith in the living Jesus who is risen from the dead.

This apparition of Jesus to Thomas is uniquely attributed to St. John. It is tightly and securely linked to the appearance of the other disciples before him. The evangelist stresses the truth and reality of the apparition—the One who is present today in the midst of his disciples is the same Jesus who died on Friday, whose hands and feet were nailed to the cross, and whose side was pierced by a lance. Therefore, there is no chance left to doubt the reality of the risen and living Jesus who is present among them. Thomas moved from extreme doubt to extreme belief saying: “My Lord and My God!” Jesus is his Lord, because by his resurrection he conquered death, and he reigns forever on the right hand of the Father. Jesus is his God, because he is of the same essence of God the Father—true God from true God! This encounter, immediately following his resurrection and glorification, during which Thomas touched him, was necessary for Jesus and for his disciples. But after that, hearing a simple testimony was enough for the disciples to believe in him and for him to receive their praise. The Christian faith which is based on a testimony, and not on eye witness, does not take anything away from the firm faith of the apostles themselves.

**Two virtues are attributed to Thomas:** *First*, upon seeing Jesus, Thomas proclaimed: “My Lord and My God!” and that was basically it for Thomas. All his doubt disappeared and his belief in the Lord was so strong and accompanied him for the rest of his life. He was not airing his doubts just for the sake of being different or for being difficult; he doubted in order to become sure. And finally, when he did, his surrender to certainty was complete once and for all. *Second*, Thomas absolutely refused to say that he did believe what he did not understand, or vice versa. There is an uncompromising honesty about him. He would never still in his doubts by pretending that they did not exist. Thomas wanted to be sure and he was quite right.

The New Sunday definitely puts an end to the old way of looking at the Lord. He is no longer revealed in the flesh as the disciples had experienced Him during His life, nor in glory as Thomas just did. From here on, He is revealed in Spirit, through faith and intimate experience. His word is crystal clear resounding not only for Thomas, but also for all ages and generations: “You became a believer because you saw Me, blest are they who have not seen and have believed.” We become a new creation with Thomas on this New Sunday. With Thomas today all faithful become new believers, thus, this Sunday’s Title “New Sunday.” Let us not blame St. Thomas for we fall into the same trap over and over again. At times we are stubborn, other times we are weak in faith, still other times we falter and despair. In our spiritual life we constantly sway back and forth between faith and doubt and doubt and faith, strength and weakness and vice versa. Let us Today become new, true believers once and for all just like St. Thomas on this New Sunday.