

30, 1 December 2013 * Visit to Elizabeth by Mary



St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church

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NEW Web Site Address <http://www.sjmaronite.org>



“The Eastern Rites are the Treasure of the Catholic Church”

Pope John XXIII

- Liturgies:** Saturday 4:00 p.m., * Sunday 10:00 a.m. * Tuesday - Friday 9:00 a.m. in the St. Jude Chapel
The Miraculous Medal and the St Jude Novenas are on Tuesday following the 9 a.m. Liturgy
- Sick Calls:** To receive the Eucharist and/or the Anointing of the Sick, Please call Fr. Larry.
- Confessions:** A Half-hour before all scheduled Liturgies, emergencies, and by appointment.
- Baptisms:** Call the Office
- Marriage:** Call the Office **6 months** before you finalize a date for your wedding and book your reception.

***Suggested donation** for the Sanctuary Candles, St. Jude Chapel \$20, St Joseph Church \$20, for the Altar Bread, \$25, and the Wine, \$25.
Suggested offering for Liturgies: \$10 for weekdays - \$15 for weekends.

Choir Director:	Fefa Deeb	Sacristans:	Yvonne Nemer, Theresa Nemer & Laurie Nale
Teachers	DRE: 3-5 th Lenore Boles K-1 st Rosanna Joseph 2 nd Jane Lee		
Parish Council:	David Elias, Frank Griffin, David Lee, Gerald Joseph, Rosanna Joseph, Kevin Michaud, Lowell Hawes, Aaron Rowden, Lisa Gard & Elizabeth Wilson		
Ex-officio:	Deacon Peter Joseph, Subdeacon Steve Crate, Lenore Boles DRE, Paula Mitchell, Rosary Sodality, Larry Mitchell, Knights of Columbus.		

Luke 1:39 During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away

empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

After the angel told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was with child, she rushed to visit her. It could be that Mary felt alone in the knowledge of her received miracle and thought the perfect person to share all that she was pondering would be Elizabeth. Miracles attract miracles, faith shares faith. The experience of a deep encounter with the Holy Spirit draws us to share with others this experience.

The second discovery in this Sunday's Gospel is that a child in the womb leapt for joy because his mother heard the greeting of Mary. No unborn child can be safer and happier than having a mother who is listening to a greeting from the one who carried and fed the Savior of the world from the essence of her very self. Science has proven that a child within the womb is affected by the temperament and responses of their mother's reactions to daily life events.

This first human to believe that the promised Messiah, the Son of God was now among us, was Mary. The first person named in Scripture believing that Mary was blessed among all generations and the mother of our Lord is Elizabeth.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, she knew her child was the Son of God and because of that all ages now will call her blessed. The Apostolic Churches, both Catholic and Orthodox, are often accused of worshiping Mary instead of Jesus by others. To be profoundly moved by what has happened, professed, and proclaimed between Mary, Elizabeth, and John is not worshiping them, but our joy filled faith in the Holy Son of God being shared with them toward the Savior.

Mary proclaims the greatness of God, she rejoices in her Savior. In our lowliness God loves us and lifts us up. When God makes us great, it is not arrogant and self-centered fame, but a humble love toward the ones the prestigious and haughty reject. Those that hunger for riches tend to be tempted to want to send away and ignore. The Spirit of God guides the believer to good things. The hungry are fed.

Pope Francis daily makes news with his understanding of the Gospel, proclaiming what Mary proclaimed about the plan of God. This is not the sermon of prosperity preached on TV. Prosperity among Christians is not condemned but one would be naive to think it is 100% immune from greed and taking advantage of the poverty and ignorance for its own personal gain.

The only way any of us can know mercy is if we are taught and experience mercy. The hungry can only be filled with good things when there is an accurate understanding of what goodness is and it is shared. Who can convert and change the arrogant if it is blocked by a mindset of superiority rather than the virtue of humility as expressed in today's Gospel?

When Mary says that the rich will go away hungry, this is not a universal statement. Giving fills the spirit, satisfying the very character of the one who is generous. This is to address the danger of "loving money" more than God and contributing to a culture destroying the dignity of others and of ones moral and physical environment. **Aboona**

Thank you Everyone!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Christmas Bazaar another success. We had a great time working and enjoying the fellowship. The food was great and the booths had many crafts and items for people to browse over and find something of interest to take home with them. The Hall looked especially beautiful with the lights, newly painted, and remodeled. And again, the Christmas tree is absolutely beautiful.

Liturgy Helps:

Be sure your cell phone is off or silenced

2nd Collection: 12/1 Maronite Patriarchal Charities
12/8 School Subsidy

Liturgy: Visitation to Elizabeth Hymn Pg. 38

Entrance chant: Pg. 40, Creed: Pg. 748,

Anaphora of St. Peter Pg. 774

Sat 30 4:00 p.m.

† **Edmond G. Pare (1 year Anv.)**

By Suzanne M. Pare

Sun 1 10:00 a.m.

† **Sam Maroon Family**

By Freda Nassar & Judie Lynn Nassar

When the servers go to the side altar, those who will be carrying the gifts may go at this time.

Mon 2 Father's day off for prayer, reflection, and relaxation

Tue 3 9:00 a.m.

† **Intention Available**

Wed 4 9:00 a.m.

† **Intention Available**

Thu 5 9:00 a.m.

† **Intention Available**

Fri 6 9:00 a.m.

† **Caroline Nale**

By Mark & Laurie Nale

Sat 7 4:00 p.m.

† **Ida George**

By the Sturtevant Family

Sun 8 10:00 a.m.

† **Raymond & Georgette Veilleux**

By Larry & Paula Mitchell

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Heal Your servants, who are sick,

O Lord, and send them help

And comfort from Your holy place.

Those who seek our prayers: **Theresa Clark, Dianne Fjeldheim, Herb Jabar, Albert Joseph, Betsy Joseph, Alice Lachance, Theresa Lee, Brent Maroon, Kendra Maroon, Hope Murphy, Anita Peeault, Tala Poulin, Virginia Poulin.**

Be sure to let Aboona know if you would like a name added or removed.

TO PROTECT THE LITURGICAL BOOKS we are asking that you place them on the pew instead of using the book-rack because of the tight fit it makes them difficult to remove and return. Please handle them carefully and respectfully. If you have a child that might mishandle them, be sure to provide another item for them to be entertained with.

Food Pantry - December

Cake mixes Soup
Canned ravioli mix Jelly or Jam
Thank you for caring!

December Devotions

Sanctuary Candles

St. Joseph 14 day Sanctuary Candle

For John and Margaret Joseph Family
By Rosanna Joseph

St. Jude 7 Day Sanctuary Candle

For John and Margaret Joseph Family
By Rosanna Joseph

Altar Bread:

For Shackie and Rose-Marie Joseph
By Rosanna Joseph

Altar Wine:

For Shackie and Rose-Marie Joseph
By Rosanna Joseph

Birthdays in December

Anniversaries for December

Manger Square Christmas Fair: Pleasant Street United Methodist Church, 61 Pleasant Street, Waterville. Saturday, December 7; 8:00 am to 2 pm. Beef Stew & Chili Luncheon 10:30 – 2:00, Fish Chowder and Baked Beans to go. Books, silent auction, baked goods, white elephant items, handmade crafts and gift items.

See someone new? Make them feel at home, and hopefully they will call it their home. There is no such thing as outsiders.

“The Catholic Church, East and West, breaths as two lungs in the same body”

Church Etiquette

Refrain from long and loud conversations, no food or drinks in church, no leaving of pews during the reading of the Gospel and the Consecration of the Bread and Wine. Check to see if your cell phone is off.

READERS SCHEDULE

Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth

Ephesians 1:1-14 Luke 1:39-45
4 p.m. Nov 30 Lila Hallowell
10 a.m. Dec 1 Mary Jo Hodgkin

Birth of John the Baptist

Galatians 4:21-5:1 Luke 1:57-66
4 p.m. Dec 7 Lenore Boles
10 a.m. 8 Lauraine Mansur

EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

Wed 4 6 p.m. Parish Council Meeting
Thu 5 6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Sat 7 Bean Supper after Liturgy
Sun 8 Rosary Sodality Christmas Party
Thu 12 6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Sun 15 Religious Ed Christmas Party
Wed 18 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
Thu 19 6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Tue 24 3:35 p.m. Christmas Program
4 p.m. Christmas Eve Liturgy
Wed 25 10 a.m. Christmas Liturgy

There are Coffee and donuts served each Sunday after the 10 a.m. Liturgy.

Muffins will be served the second Sunday of each month.

Dec. 1: Sharon Crowe & Elizabeth Wilson

Dec. 8: Larry Mitchell & April Mitchell

Religious Education Schedule

12/15 – 1/5 -2/2 – 3/2 – 4/6 - 5/4

MYO Schedule

12/15 Liturgy & Christmas party, 1/26 Lenten Discussion, Super Bowl Breakfast preparation, 2/2 Super Bowl Breakfast, 3/2 M'jadra dinner, 4/13 Hosanna Sunday Celebration.

Last Week's Collection

Regular Collection \$2,060.00

God bless you for your generosity.

If you are not receiving envelopes and would like to start, please let the office know.

BLESSING OF THE CRECHE: Did you know St. Francis of Assisi created the first crèche using real people, a real manger, a real ox and donkey, and real shepherds? Francis called it a “Crèche”, the French word for Cradle.

In daily life we must see that it is not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy.

~David Steindl-Rast