

5, 6 December 2015 * Birth of John the Baptist



St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church

3 Appleton Street,
Waterville, ME 04901-6630

Office: Phone: 207-872-8515

E-Mail: stjoesinmaine@yahoo.com

Pastor: The Rev. Larry Jensen

Subdeacon: Steve Crate 314-2049

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



Birth of John the Baptizer

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

St. John XXIII, Pope of Rome

- 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:** Theresa Nemer & Laurie Nale **Parish Secretary:** Paula Mitchell
Teachers DRE: Lenore Boles, **K-1st** Lenore Boles, **2nd** Jane Lee **3-5th** Shana Page,
Parish Council: Sheila Bonenfant, Lisa Grard, Lowell Hawes, Pearley Lachance, David Lee, Aaron Rowden,
Elizabeth Wilson **Ex-officio:** Subdeacon Steve Crate, Lenore Boles DRE, Paula Mitchell, Rosary Sodality,
Larry Mitchell, Knights of Columbus

Luke 1:57-80 When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, “No. He will be called John.” But they answered her, “There is no one among your relatives who has this name.” So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, “John is his name,” and all were amazed.

Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, “What, then, will this child be?” For surely the hand of the Lord was with him. Then Zechariah his father, filled with the holy Spirit, prophesied, saying: “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and brought redemption to his people. He has raised up a horn for our salvation within the house of David his servant, even as he promised

through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old: salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to show mercy to our fathers and to be mindful of his holy covenant and of the oath he swore to Abraham our father, and to grant us that, rescued from the hand of enemies, without fear we might worship him in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God by which the daybreak from on high will visit us to shine on those who sit in darkness and death’s shadow, to guide our feet into the path of peace.” The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The prophet Isaiah says God wants to comfort His people by speaking kindly to them, to remove their guilt, make straight their wasteland, fill their low valleys and make their rough mountains smaller. He reminds all of us that our earthly life is **grass soon to wither**, not very long at all.

Very often, sadness in our life is because we lose our perspective of what is most important in living. There are many sad things happening in the world, and for most people, this sadness hits home at some time in our lives - for some more, some less.

The reason God offers His comfort to us is because He knows we are in need of it. **We have fallen, and we have hurt ourselves. This we all have in common. The place where we hurt may be different, but, nonetheless, there are compassionate reasons why our Father wanted to send His Son into the world.**

Our turmoil, sickness and shame now have a healthy direction to go. Now Zechariah, through the power of the Holy Spirit begins to speak and we read it in today's Gospel. Reread his canticle; it is simply beautiful and never out of date.

John's mission was to prepare us for the Savior, to prepare our hearts to be open to happiness, to be open to compassion by first experiencing forgiveness.

Zechariah named his son according to the will of God, his son's name will be John. Who has not been called "names"? Maybe it was, ugly, clumsy, blind, deaf, dying, maybe an Alcoholic, maybe stupid. Our real name is the name God calls us by. Our name is, son or daughter. Our name is loved one. Our name is redeemed, beautiful, who can now see, hear, walk, restored health, sober, living forever. John will preach and our life can be cleansed, changed and restored to wholeness, for God is gracious. **Aboona**

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: **Richard Elias, Sr., Jerry Fortin, Patricia Holmes, Herb Jabar, Albert Joseph, Betsy Joseph, John M. Joseph, Debbie Leary, Theresa Lee, Mary Morneau, Debbie Pomelow, Tala Poulin, Virginia Poulin.**

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

Last Week's Collection

Regular Collection \$1,781.00

God bless you for your generosity. If you are not receiving envelopes and would like to start, please let the office know.

Liturgy Helps:

Be sure your cell phone is off or silenced

2nd Collections: Dec. 5- 6 Maronite Patriarchal
Dec. 12-13 Fuel Collection

Liturgy: Birth of John the Baptist

Entrance chant: Pg. 49 Creed: Pg. 748,
Anaphora of the Twelve Apostles Pg. 754

This week's Songs: The Song number and page are on the back of the bulletin.

Liturgy Intentions

- Sat 5 4:00 p.m.**
† **Leocadia Ticken**
By Mary Ticken
- † **Joseph Elias Nasr**
By Bodie Spencer
- Sun 6 10:00 a.m.**
† **Marietta Thomas (20th Anniv.)**
By The Family
- † **Sam & Lottie Deeb**
By Paul & Stephen Maroon

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

**The Immaculate Conception
(Holy Day of Obligation) Dec 8**

- Tue 8 9:00 a.m.**
† **Deacon Peter Joseph**
By Al & Ruth Joseph
6:00 p.m.
- † **Bertha Jensen**
By Michelle Benton
- Wed 9 9:00 a.m.**
† **Ferdinand Mahieu Family**
By Dan & Pam Casavant
- Thu 10 9:00 a.m.**
† **Prinella Mitchell**
By Sandra Stevens
- Fri 11 9:00 a.m.**
† **Don & Marcia Kendra**
By Don & Marcia Kendra
- Sat 12 4:00 p.m.**
† **Ronald Stevens**
By Herb Joseph, Sr.
- † **Elias Boles**
By John T. Sleiman
- Sun 13 10:00 a.m.**
† **Raymond & Georgette Veilleux**
By Larry & Paula Mitchell
- † **Bertha Jensen**
By Edward & Beverly Ackell

Liturgy Codes: † = Faithful Departed, SI = Special Intention, BD = Birthday, AV. = Anniversary, H = Health.

December Devotions

St. Joseph 14 day Sanctuary Candle

St. Jude 7 Day Sanctuary Candle

Available

Altar Bread

For For our Soldiers

By Doris LaBranche

Altar Wine

For For our Soldiers

By Doris LaBranche

Mark your calendar!

Sunday, Dec. 27, 3pm. St Joseph Maronite Church Hall, Front St, Waterville. Accessible by elevator. Lyn and Joe Rowden will share their experiences as they present a show of photos and art from their recent life changing trip to Nepal, India and UAE. See the diversity of cultures, the contrasts between poverty and wealth and what directions that takes in these countries. **A free will offering may be made to purchase wheelchairs for UNESCO sites in India.**

Vocation Icon – Prayers for Vocations

We have two Vocation Icons, so I am hoping that some people on Saturday will sign up to take it home also. You can take it home more than once.

| | | |
|-----|----|---------------------------|
| Dec | 5 | Audrey Yotides (Sat) |
| Dec | 6 | Greg & Marianne Gillespie |
| Dec | 13 | Nancy Fairfield |
| Dec | 19 | Ann Giguere (Sat) |
| Dec | 20 | Larry & Paula Mitchell |
| Dec | 27 | Lowell & Mary Hawes |
| Jan | 3 | Larry & Lisa Gard |
| Jan | 10 | Pearley & Alice Lachance |

READERS SCHEDULE

Birth of John the Baptizer

Galatians 4:21 – 5:1 Luke 1:57-66

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------------|
| December | 5 | Lenore Boles |
| | 6 | Lauraine Mansur |

Revelation to Joseph

Ephesians 3:1-13 Matthew 1:18-25

| | | |
|----------|----|----------------|
| December | 12 | Lila Hallowell |
| | 13 | Joe Rowden |

EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

| | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Sun | 6 | Rosary Sodality Christmas Party 11:30 |
| Thu | 10 | Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm |
| Sat | 12 | Play Rehearsal 9:00 am |
| Sun | 13 | Children's Play and Party |
| Thu | 17 | Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm |
| Thu | 24 | 3:30 Christmas Cantata |
| | 24 | 4:00 Christmas Eve Liturgy |
| Fri | 25 | 10 a.m Christmas Liturgy |
| Sun | 27 | 3 p.m. Slide show of Nepal, India and UAE. See further details in this Bulletin |

APRIL 28, 29 Relics of St. Sharbel will be here at the parish.

Coffee Schedule

| | | |
|-----|----|---------------------------------|
| Dec | 6 | Susan Webber & Elizabeth Wilson |
| Dec | 13 | Mary Bard & Lenore Boles |
| Dec | 20 | Jan Bourque & Pam Casavant |
| Dec | 27 | Sharon Crowe & Emily Fournier |
| Jan | 3 | Mary Hawes & Elaine Hoag |
| Jan | 10 | Larry Mitchell & Gareth Belton |
| Jan | 17 | Mary Jo Hodgkin & Laya Joseph |
| Jan | 24 | Alice Lachance & Jane Lee |

December Food Pantry

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Ravioli | Toilet paper |
| Jiffy mixes | Stews |

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and help.

MYO Schedule: 12/12, 12/13, 1/24, 3/6, 4/3, 5/1

Giving Tree

This year the gifts will be for the Homeless Shelter including students who are homeless and or going without basic necessities. On each ornament is a suggested gift. You may take as many Ornaments as you would like to purchase a gift for. You do not have to wrap your gift(s). The Christmas gifts will be delivered on December 18th.

The greatest wealth is contentment with a little.

~Anon.