

10, 11 January, 2015 * First Sunday After Epiphany

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 872-9257

Baptism of our Lord 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: Theresa Nemer & Laurie Nale	Parish Secretary: Paula Mitchell
Teachers	DRE: 3-5 th Lenore Boles, K-1 st Rosanna Joseph, 2 nd Jane Lee	
Parish Council:	Sheila Bonenfant, Lisa Grard, Lowell Hawes, Rosanna Joseph, 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	

John 1:29-34 – Sunday after Epiphany

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Have you ever wondered why Jesus needed someone to prepare the way for Him? The Gospel answers it by telling us that John was fulfilling Prophecy. So why did Isaiah foretell that this would have to happen? God knows why we will or will not do something in every circumstance. He does not make us, but is aware of how we will use our freewill. Prophecies are used to make available a message that encourages us to make decisions that will

benefit our life here and make it possible to enjoy life eternal. John's preaching increases the receptivity of some of the people to the message that Jesus proclaims.

We should count it a blessing that there is such a thing as preparing the way for us to know Jesus. Most of us are Christians because the way was prepared for us through the faith of our parents. The knowledge they insist we know about Jesus, reflects theirs and our relationship with Him. It should be noted that increasingly, this salvation message is not being passed on to the next generation.

Another dimension of preparing the way is like the story of the Good Seed. John's preaching of repentance broke up the hardened ground of the path, removed the rock and thorns, and created fertile ground. Jesus went into the water because He was humble. He knew that people might think He was in the water because He was repenting of sins, however, His reason was to sanctify the water for our use.

Jesus now prepares the water for us making it possible to become His Father's children. Baptism is an acknowledgment that we, as a believing community, want to have our sins forgiven and

washed away. Without this we are not prepared to be with Christ in Glory.

It was a clear and direct command of Jesus that His followers go out to the four corners of the world to teach all nations all that He taught them and baptize them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. This is what the church continues to do 2,000 years later.

John, the Baptizer, tells us he believes that Jesus is the Son of God. Even while John was still in the womb of Elizabeth, his spirit knew and recognized Jesus as the Son of God.

God had called John to baptize and prepare the way for Jesus by calling Israel to repent of their sins. John's baptism did not take away sins, but it brought the hearts and minds of those who accepted his preaching to be open to the One Who will take the sin of the world away.

It is important for us to remember that the people who came to John for baptism felt a conversion take place in their heart. In hearing him preach they felt convicted of their sins. The purpose of the Holy Spirit convicting us of sin is not get us to feel emotion, even though it can be a very emotional experience, but to turn our will from sin to doing the Father's will and be made holy by the Spirit of Holiness.

Even now with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit that flows from the Holy Trinity, we often feel a need in our life at different times to feel what these people felt when John baptized them.

I know people who want to be baptized again so that they can have the emotional experience that comes with a new profound understanding of God's mercy combined with the grace of the Sacrament. Our emotions are not a Sacrament; God's divine grace given to us is the true power.

If a person only wants an emotional experience, one might prefer John's baptism rather than the Sacrament of Baptism of water and Spirit. A large number of people have decided there is no need for sacraments in their lives. Sacraments are a testimony of who God is and who He wants us to become. They are an action of fact and grace present through the action of God rather than the ways we seek to gratify our senses.

The grace of God is present not because we think it is, but because God says it is by His plan and choice, this is why we have the voice coming down from heaven. Baptism makes us children of a God who identifies Himself as a loving Father. **Aboona**

January Food Pantry

Ravioli Condiments
Toilet paper Stews

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and help.

Liturgy Helps:

Be sure your cell phone is off or silenced

2nd Collection: Jan 11 Fuel (Pink Envelope)

Jan 25 Bishop's World Wide Charity

Liturgy: First Sunday after Epiphany

Entrance chant: Pg.108, Creed: Pg. 758,

Anaphora of Saint John: Pg. 815

The Song number and page is on the back of the bulletin.

Liturgy Intentions

Sat 10 4:00 p.m.

† **Selma (Joseph) Thompson**

By John Thomas

Sun 11 10:00 a.m.

† **Yvonne Nemer**

By Dan & Pam Casavant

Mon 12 Father's day off for prayer,
reflection, and relaxation

No Weekday Liturgy this week *

Sat 17 4:00 p.m.

† **Gerry Joseph**

By Sheila Bonenfant

Sun 18 10:00 a.m.

† **Douglas Day**

By The Day Family

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

* At the retreat the Bishop and Priests celebrate together daily the Liturgy. My individual intention for the time away will be for **Jeannette Sleiman**, by John Sleiman.

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: **Dianne Fjeldheim, Herb Jabar, Albert Joseph, Betsy Joseph, John M. Joseph, Theresa Lee, Dr. Ronnie Marrache, Hope Murphy, Anita Perreault, Tala Poulin, Virginia Poulin, Brent Williams.**

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

Fuel Budget for the 2014 – 2015 Winter:

Fuel Budget	\$20,000.00
Collected last week	\$5.00
Collected previously	\$1,494.00
Total yet to collect	\$(18,501.00)

January Devotions - Sanctuary Candles

St. Joseph 14 day Sanctuary Candle

Peter Joseph

By Joseph & Sara Taddeo

St. Jude 7 Day Sanctuary Candle

Peter Joseph

By Joseph & Sara Taddeo

Altar Bread:

Bernie Thomas

By The Family

Altar Wine:

Available

By

Last Week's Collection

Regular Collection \$1,941.00

God bless you for your generosity.

Please don't forget to send in your contributions when you are unable to attend, our monthly bills still continue to arrive every month.

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

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

***One filled with joy preaches
without preaching***

~Bl. Teresa of Calcutta

READERS SCHEDULE

First Sunday After Epiphany

2 Corinthians 10:1-11 John 1:29-34

4 p.m. Jan 10 Lila Hallowell

10 a.m. 11 Joe Rowden

2nd Sunday After Epiphany

2 Corinthians 4:5-15 John 1:35-42

4 p.m. Jan 17 Lenore Boles

10 a.m. 18 Joe Rowden

EVENTS FOR JANUARY

Sat 10 Baked Bean Supper 4:30-6:00 pm

Sun 11 Rosary Sodality Meeting

Mon 12 Maronite Priest Retreat Begins

Fri 23 Aboona returns

EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

Sun 1 Religious Education

Wed 4 Parish Council Meeting 6:00 pm

Sun 8 Rosary Sodality Meeting

Sat 14 Bishop's Pastoral Visit

Sat 14 Knight's Turkey Supper 5:00-6:30 pm

Sun 15 40 Day Liturgy for Deacon Peter and Bertha Jensen

Sun 15 M'Jadara Supper/Talent Show 5:00 pm

Mon 16 12 Noon Service - Ash Monday

Coffee Schedule

We will continue to serve muffins at the coffee hour - thanks to Larry Mitchell and Gareth Belton

Jan 11: Larry Mitchell & Gareth Belton

Religious Education Dates for 2014-2015

2/1, 3/1, 4/to be announced, 5/3 May Crowning.

Use of the Hall – Guidelines are posted.

We really have a beautiful hall and because it is used more often now, there needs to be more attention to its proper use and care. Sometimes there is a request to use the hall, and without guidelines, it is not always clear what is expected of the group after they are done using the hall. Guidelines will be made available in the hall.

When anyone asks to use the hall, it is expected they will take responsibility to be sure it is clean after each use. We do not have a staff to do this for you.

Refusing to hope

is nothing more than a decision to die.

~Bernie S. Siegel, M.D.