

2, 3 April 2016 * New Sunday – “Thomas Sees”



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



Thomas touches the wounds Web Site <http://www.sjmaronite.org>

Recent Videos of our Liturgy on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/gfRpDGrYG3M>

This link is also now found on our Website on the opening page and on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/BulletinForStJosephMaroniteChurch/>

“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:** 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

“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

John 20:24-31

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, **“Peace be with you.”** Then he said to Thomas, **“Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.”** Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, **“Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”** Conclusion: Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of [his] disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Even now billions still do not believe in the Incarnation, that God, the Eternal Word would take on the flesh of our humanity. He who is sinless became sin and embraced death so that we can become free of sin and have eternal life. This is a scandal and sounds like a failure to many.

It is obvious that we do not truly accept or want to see ourselves as we truly are, otherwise there would not be multibillion-dollar industries responding to our desire to feel and look better than what we see in the mirror. Our desire to numb our senses or intensify them supplies billions to those trafficking in illegal products. There is even the trafficking of people. Not everything that improves our sense of well-being is necessarily always wrong. Like anything else; all creation is created good, but we are capable of misusing what is created.

God loves us, and He loves the world, this is why He sent His Son. His love is only limited by our rejecting Him. He became us, so we can become Him. In the Eastern Church this is called Divinization. Not that we become a God, but that we inherit all that He has by grace and mercy. With Him, we are raised up like Him. Our death, our wounds lose the ability to cause us pain.

The importance of this Gospel reading is to witness that Jesus truly was crucified and He did die, and now is raised up in glory. He touched wounds that rob a body of life, yet becomes a body now living in glory.

Based on history and the present constant global news, revenge, hatred and anger is the message of the world. If the world were following the message of Jesus, the world we live in would be a very different place. Jesus didn't hide his scars, nor terrorize the families, country or culture in which those responsible came from. He didn't take the scars, flaws and hurts of any family, country, or culture and demean them to be less than what He knows He can lift anyone who lives by His grace and mercy.

The wounds of Jesus were the proof that Thomas asked to believe that Jesus was alive because he knew He had died. He was a witness that Jesus was a healer and a forgiver of sins. Jesus didn't have to hide His wounds, because they brought Him no shame or pain any longer. In fact, He showed His wounds to witness His mission of the price and the victory of salvation.

We all carry the wounds of our humanity. No one can be born without knowing pain. From the beginning of our existence in the womb, with our first breath and our last, we sometimes experience pain without understanding why and where it comes from. Jesus after experiencing the heart wrenching pain of physical, spiritual, and psychological distress, left it all behind Him and chose to forgive the thief and His tormentors.

For us, He shows His wounds, to demonstrate to us, that no matter how life may have scarred us, for all eternity the scars can no longer bring us pain, not to our body, not to our spirit, and not to our mind. Like Jesus, when we die with Him and live for Him, our scars exist in peace; no longer able to bring us shame, no longer a mark that would make others uncomfortable. We can see the power of God's love and compassion triumphing over death and sin.

Thomas touched the wounds, but Jesus was not there for sympathy, but to build faith. We win what He won when we run the race with Him. **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: **Fr. Bill Clark, Jerry Fortin, Herb Jabar, Albert Joseph, Betsy Joseph, John M. Joseph, Debbie Leary, Theresa Lee, Reginald "Mitch" Michaud, Mary Morneau, Debbie Pomelow, Tala Poulin, Virginia Poulin.**

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

Deepest Sympathy

Our prayers and thoughts go out to the family and friends of **Daniel Karter** who passed away Thursday. The funeral will be at 11 am on Friday, April 15th. May **Daniel** rest in peace with our Heavenly Father.

Liturgy Helps:

Be sure your cell phone is off or silenced

2nd Collections: Apr. 9-10 Fuel Collection
Apr. 23-24 Catholic Home Missions Appeal

Liturgy: New Sunday

Entrance chant: Pg. 386 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 2 4:00 pm**
† **William Marozzi & Violettet Sleiman**
By John Sleiman
- Sun 3 10:00 am**
† **Prinella Mitchell**
By John Sleiman

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

- Mon 4** Father's day off for prayer, reflection, and relaxation
- Tue 5 9:00 am**
† **Theresa Nemer**
By Herb Joseph, Sr.
SI Joe and Marie Kendra
Don & Marie Kendra
- Wed 6 9:00 am**
† **Thomas Maland**
By Dan & Pam Casavant
- Thu 7 9:00 am**
† **Prinella Mitchell**
By Cindy Elias
- Fri 8 9:00 am**
† **Daniel Karter, Jr.**
By Ronald L. Giroux
- Sat 9 4:00 pm**
† **Andrew W. Marozzi Harfuch**
By John Sleiman
- Sun 10 10:00 am**
† **Charlie Maroon**
By John Mitchell
William Marozzi & Violettet Sleiman
By John Sleiman

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

Last Week's Collection

Regular Collection \$1,751.00

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

April Devotions

St. Joseph 14 day Sanctuary Candle

For For our Soldiers

By Doris Labranch

St. Jude 7 Day Sanctuary Candle

For For our Soldiers

By Doris Labranch

Altar Bread

For For Deceased Mem., Jules Cloutier Family

By Larry & Paula Mitchell

Altar Wine

For Shackie & Rose Marie Joseph

By Rosanna Joseph

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.

- Apr 2 Audrey Yotides (Sat)
- Apr 3 Greg & Marianne Gillespie
- Apr 10 Jim & Rachel Kilbride
- Apr 17 Nancy Fairfield
- Apr 23 Ann Giguere (Sat)
- Apr 24 Larry & Paula Mitchell
- May 1 Larry & Lisa Gard
- May 8 Pearley & Alice Lachance
- May 15 Lowell

Displays of our History

We would like to set up a display in the church hall, while the relics of St. Sharbel are here, about St. Sharbel and the Lebanese community here in Waterville. If you have anything you would like to have displayed (personal testimonies about St. Sharbel, artifacts/relics, and information about the church/community) please contact Emily Fournier (207-314-8607 email: emilyrowdenfournier@gmail.com). Advance notice is preferred so we can print information on the items displayed. All items will be returned to you on that Friday evening.

READERS SCHEDULE

New Sunday

2 Corinthians 5:11-21	John 20:26-31
April 2 Ruth Lunn	
3 Joe Rowden	

Third Sunday of the Resurrection

2 Timothy 2:8-13	Luke 24:13-35
April 9 Lenore Boles	
10 Lauraine Mansur	

- Sun 10 Set up after Liturgy
- Sun 10 Servers 3:30 pm
- Sun 10 Lebanese Supper 5:00-6:30 pm
- Sun 17 Rosary Sodality Meeting 11:45 am
- Thurs 28, 29** Relics of St. Sharbel will be here at the parish.
- Sat 30 May Day Eve Dance, Church Hall 7-11 \$5

EVENTS FOR MAY

- May 1 May Crowning
- May 1 Rosary Sodality Luncheon (Joseph's) 12:00 noon
- May 15 First Communion

Coffee Schedule

- Apr 3 Pam Casavant & Sharon Crowe
- Apr 10 No Coffee
- Apr 17 Larry Mitchell & Gareth Belton
- Apr 24 Larry Mitchell & Gareth Belton
- May 1 Emily Fournier & Mary Hawes
- May 8 Larry Mitchell & Gareth Belton
- May 15 Elaine Hoag & Mary Jo Hodgkin

MYO Schedule 4/3, 5/1

Deepest Sympathy

Our condolences and deepest sympathy go out to **Cindy Elias**, of this parish on the loss of her husband, **Richard** who died last Sunday. May **Richard** rest in peace with our Heavenly Father

Call for Volunteers

We need volunteers while the St. Sharbel Relics are here, Thursday April 28th and Friday April 29th. Volunteers will act in hospitality roles, lead prayers, and help maintain the security of the relics. We need at least 2 volunteers every hour, one upstairs in the sanctuary and one in the church hall. Thursday volunteers will sit in silent veneration and assist guests when needed. Friday's sanctuary volunteers will be asked to lead the hourly prayers and will be provided with a prayer book.

EVENTS FOR APRIL

- Sat 9 Roll Cabbage & Grapeleaves 10 am