

## 7, 8 January 2017 \* First Sunday After Epiphany



### *St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church*

3 Appleton Street,  
Waterville, ME 04901-6630  
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**Pastor:** The Rev. Larry Jensen  
**Subdeacon:** Steve Crate 314- 2049



#### **Epiphany**

The Weekly Video of Our Sunday Liturgy can be found on our Web Site <http://www.sjmaronite.org>

**“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.

<b>Choir Director:</b> Fefa Deeb	<b>Sacristan:</b> Laurie Nale	<b>Parish Secretary:</b> Paula Mitchell
<b>Teachers DRE:</b> Lenore Boles, K-1 <sup>st</sup> Lenore Boles, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jane Lee 3-5 <sup>th</sup> Shana Page,		
<b>Parish Council:</b> Sheila Bonenfant, Lisa Grard, Lowell Hawes, Rosanna Joseph, Pearley Lachance, David Lee, Kevin Michaud, Mark Morin, Aaron Rowden, Elizabeth Wilson	<b>Ex-officio:</b> 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,**

John, the Baptizer, is a relative of Jesus. Before he was even born he sensed the presence of Jesus, who was also still in the womb of Mary. Elizabeth could feel her son John, moving with joy within her. They were keenly aware of a profound presence of

the Divine, and they were filled with prophetic joy and peace. It is interesting that the Gospel has John saying, “he did not know him” even though actually he knew Jesus even before either of them was born. To express this “not knowing” can be confusing if one does not look for the intended message expressed in this Gospel. Many things come to mind in how this can be understood. Just because we know something does not mean that it has changed our life. We can be indifferent to very profound events. In this expression, it is made clear that John and Jesus didn’t work together to create a new religion. They continued to say yes to the plan of God. They let it unfold and develop ever strengthening their faith expressed by their actions and deeds. Using the revelations of the past joined to the experiences of the present, we now have revealed to us through the Holy Spirit the Teachings of all teachings.

The thunderous voice heard by the witnesses verifies that this was not a private plan between two

relatives, but manifestation of the plan of the Heavenly Father. The accomplishment of the promise made to Adam and Eve is in process. To believe that Jesus is the Son of God is the power of the Holy Spirit, without it, we cannot believe this.

God had called John to baptize and prepare the way for Jesus by calling Israel to repent of their sins. This message that John proclaimed very quickly became a message for all humanity. The baptism that John performed does not literally 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.

If we were ever to discover a society that had no system to confront wrong doing in hopes that what is wrong will be stopped, it would have to be a society that is collapsing in complete destruction. To the degree we are able to discern correctly what is wrong and be willing to do what is right dictates how quickly or slowly we move toward decrease or increase our destruction or recover.

John decreases, not in the manner of how valuable his message of repentance is but that this message increases the probability of who will follow the Son of God. No one's relationship with God increases without decreasing in those things that pull us away from Him. The message of John is not in competition with the message of Jesus. From the moment Mary visited Elizabeth, the unknown ways in which they leapt with joy in the presence of the Holy Trinity, Jesus began changing the world with in increase in grace and mercy. **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, Dorothy Furgus, Albert Joseph, Betsy Joseph, Theresa Lee, Mary Morneau, Debbie Pomelow, Tala Poulin, Virginia Poulin, Gordon Webber.**

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

#### **Last Week's Collection**

Regular Collection \$1,908.00

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**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collections** Jan. 7, 8 Fuel Collection

Jan. 21, 22 Bishops' Worldwide Charities

**Liturgy: First Sunday After Epiphany**

**Pg. 107/108**

Page numbers for the Prayers and Songs are on the back cover of the Bulletin.

#### **Liturgy Intentions**

**Sat 7 4:00 pm**

† **Malcolm Spencer**  
By Bodie Spencer

**Sun 8 10:00 am**

† **Kathleen Hawes**  
By Judie Lynn Nassar & Family

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

#### **No Weekday Liturgies**

#### **Maronite Priest Retreat**

**Sat 14 4:00 pm**

† **Hayatte Haddad Abou Sleiman**  
By John Sleiman

**Sun 15 10:00 am**

† **Prinella Mitchell**  
By John Sleiman

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

#### **Dear Father Jensen (& Parishioners):**

On behalf of the staff and students at Waterville High School, I would like to thank you and your very generous Church family for all your donations to our Giving Tree Program here at the high school as well as all our other schools! Because of your generosity 45 high school students will have gifts to open on Christmas Day. Our students have no idea they are receiving gifts at all. On Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, during school time, our administrators will deliver the gifts to their homes. When the students arrive home for their Christmas Vacation, your gifts will be there waiting for them. Our main goal with this program is just to let these students know we care about them. Many thanks again for your generous gifts to all these students in the Waterville Public schools and especially here at Waterville High School. God Bless you all, Anne Smith, the WHS Giving Tree Program.

#### **January Food Pantry**

Variety soups                      Bisquick  
Jelly                                      Cake Mixes

**Thank you for your thoughtfulness and help.**

## **Blessing of Homes**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

O Lord, for the salvation of all people, You have ordered Your marvelous mysteries through water. Hear our prayers and shower Your blessing upon this blessed natural element. Through it, may Your creation serve Your mysteries, and may it receive the power of Your divine grace. May the homes of the faithful be blessed and protected by the sprinkling of this water. May evil and harm be scattered; guilt and misfortune be washed away; the spirits of malice and darkness be cast out; and the peace that we invoke in Your holy name come and reign among us. We will glorify You, O Christ, Your Father, and Your Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

May this home be purified in the name of the + Father; May it be sanctified in the name of the + Son; And may it be blessed in the name of the + Holy Spirit. May all who enter your home be instruments of God's peace and grace. Amen.

Christ, the Coal of Fire, descended and bathed in the waters of the river. Christ, the Burning Flame, is immersed in the waters. The fiery beings stood in awe at the immersion of Christ, that Flame. His pure body is washed to purify those who are not. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to Him!

## **January Devotions**

### **St. Joseph 14 day**

**Available**

### **St. Jude 7 Sanctuary Candle**

**For Special Intention**

By The Taddeo Family

### **Altar Bread**

**For Chris Langlais**

By Rosanna Joseph

### **Altar Wine**

**For Shackie & Rose Marie Joseph**

By Rosanna Joseph

## **READERS SCHEDULE**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Corinthians 10:1-11      John 1:29-34

Jan                            7 Ruth Lunn

8 Lauraine Mansur

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

2 Corinthians              John 1:35-42

Jan                            14 Lila Hallowell

15 Joe Rowden

## **EVENTS FOR JANUARY**

Sun 8 Rosary Meeting 11:30/45 am

Mon 9 Maronite Priest Retreat conducted by the  
Passionist Retreat Center in Florida

Thu 19 Return from Florida

## **EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY**

Sun 5 Super Bowl Breakfast

Tue 7 Parish Council Meeting 6:00 pm

- Parish Council Meetings will be in the Social Hall 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays of the month.

Sun 12 Rosary Meeting 11:30/45 am

Sun 26 Cana Sunday – Talent Show

Mon 27 Ash Monday

## **Coffee Schedule**

Jan 8 Larry Mitchell & Gareth Belton

Jan 15 Lenore Boles & Pam Casavant

Jan 22 Sharon Crowe & Mary Hawes

Jan 29 Cindy Elias & Mary Nader

Feb 5 Elaine Hoag & Mary Jo Hodgkin

Feb 12 Larry Mitchell & Gareth Belton

## **Vocation Icon – Prayers for Vocations**

We will be changing the way we schedule the Vocation Icon to allow more options. For now, we will schedule a person once a month or less often.

Aramaic/Syriac Bible

“Request therefore of The Lord of the harvest to send out laborers to his harvest.” Matt. 9:38

Jan 8 Larry & Lisa Grard

Jan 15 Pearley & Alice Lachance

Jan 21 Jim & Lenore Boles (Sat)

Jan 28 Audrey Yotides (Sat)

Jan 29 Greg & Marianne Gillespie

Feb 4 Ann Giguere (Sat)

Feb 5 Jim & Mary Jo Hodgkin

**"Say goodbye to golden yesterdays or your heart will never learn to love the present."**

- Anthony DeMello, SJ