

17, 18 October 2015 * Fifth Sunday after Holy Cross



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



Season of the Holy Cross

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.

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

Matthew 25:1-13

The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

My mind goes to a different issue or thought everytime I read this Gospel. There are so many

aspects to think about. The foolish person doesn't always know when they are being foolish. Some very smart people sometimes do foolish things. The simplest view that I have of this story, is that God never asks us to do something that we are unable to do. If it is truly something we cannot do, God is not asking us to do it.

The foolish bridesmaids did not ask for money to go get the oil, so they cannot say they could not afford the oil. They asked oil from the the wise bridesmaids because they did buy the oil and had it with them. In a real wedding, the bride would only ask her bridesmaids do what she knows they are able to do. The bride would have given money or the oil to the person who could not afford to provide the oil to light the way to the groom's home.

From this we draw the conclusion that the foolish bridesmaids chose to keep the money rather than spend it on oil. God provides us with the grace and mercy to be able to enter heaven. Jesus uses stories of banquets to help us understand our invitation to enter the Heavenly Kingdom. If we do qualify to enter the Heavenly Kingdom, it is because of personal decisions we make.

I don't know what the reasons were for each one of them to decide to not spend the money, or want to carry the oil. The honest person would admit that they didn't want to spend money on this event and would decline when they were asked. Some people want the position and title without the desire to actually carry out the responsibility.

I think is why the wise bridesmaids did not give them some of their oil. None of us have enough mercy and grace to bring salvation to another person. There is not a formula or way to save another by unsaving our self. The issue really isn't the oil, it is that sometimes a person does choose to not do what they have the ability to do. Everyone worships something, sometimes it is not God.

There is part of me that feels sorry for the foolish. They had to be devastated when they discovered that they couldn't enter late. They might have even wanted to blame the groom for coming so late. If the groom had come early they would not have run out of oil. They made an effort to go get the oil. They simply had miscalculated how long or "gambled wrongly" on how much they would need and for how long.

This is not a literal true story in the sense that we lose our salvation by messing up on wedding plans. It is about what can happen when we do not pay attention. As Jesus says, "keep awake". They more we don't pay attention to what is important and become increasingly distracted from what is good by what is evil the more likely we will fail to be there when the saved enter.

In the concrete day to day life, the more often a person is intoxicated or absorbed in constant texting while driving, the probability of being in an accident increases. Life is filled with decisions that make our life more difficult or easier, healthier or less healthy, more in harmony with the will of God or in rebellion. There comes a time when our decisions have taken us so far from God, that we simply are not there with Him.

No one is abandoned by God, we can abandon Him. We can fall asleep with oil or without oil. Sometimes we can get confused that the desire to enter the wedding banquet means you get to enter. We actually have to use our gifts according to what He has given to us to do His will.

The beauty of the 7 Mysteries/Sacraments is that our beliefs are in a ritual where we are not living through imagination and abstract emotions, but something concreted to see, feel, and touch, like the oil of the wise they keep us ready for the groom. **Aboona**

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

Liturgy Helps:

Be sure your cell phone is off or silenced

2nd Collections: Oct. 17-18 Mission Sunday

Liturgy: Fifth Sunday after Holy Cross

Entrance chant: Pg. 608 Creed: Pg. 748,
Anaphora of Saint Mark Pg. 835

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

Liturgy Intentions

- Sat 17** 4:00 p.m.
† **Richard Ayoob**
By Herb Joseph, Sr.
- Sun 18** **10:00 a.m.**
† **Prinella Mitchell (40 day)**
By The Family

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

- Tue 20** 9:00 a.m.
† **Brent Williams**
By Al & Ruth Joseph
- Wed 21** 9:00 a.m.
† **Joseph Poulin**
By Dan & Pam Casavant
- Thu 22** 9:00 a.m.
† **Neil Avcollie**
By Larry & Paula Mitchell
- Fri 23** 9:00 a.m.
† **Prinella Mitchell**
By Mr & Mrs Robert Grenier
- Sat 24** 4:00 p.m.
† **Fr. Paul Coury**
By Eric Peters
- Sun 25** **10:00 a.m.**
† **"Buddy" & Eva Mitchell**
By Larry & Paula Mitchell
† **Madame Jeannette Marie Sleiman**
By John T. Sleiman

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

25th Annual Interfaith Memorial Service

Hosted by Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area, November 1, at 4 P.M. here at St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church. All are welcome.

Last Week's Collection

Regular Collection \$1,607.00

God bless you for your generosity.

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

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: **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, Kevin Scully.**

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

October Devotion

St. Joseph 14 day Sanctuary Candle

For Clarence Jensen
By The Family

St. Jude 7 Day Sanctuary Candle

For Special Intention
By Gerry Brouillard

Altar Bread

For Shackie & Rose Marie Joseph
By Rosanna Joseph

Altar Wine

For John & Margaret Joseph & Family
By Rosanna Joseph

READERS SCHEDULE

Fifth Sunday after Holy Cross

Philemon 2:12-18 Matthew 25:1-13
October 17 Lila Hallowell
18 Joe Rowden

Sunday of Christ the King

Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 25:31-46
October 24 Lenore Boles
25 Joe Rowden

EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Sun 1 Religious Education 11:30 am
Sun 1 4 p.m. 25th Annual Interfaith Memorial
Service here at St. Joseph
Wed 4 Parish Council Meeting 6:00 pm
Sun 8 Rosary Sodality Meeting 11:30 am
Sat 14 Christmas Bazaar 9 - 2

Coffee Schedule

Oct 18 Elaine Hoag & Mary Jo Hodgkin
Oct 25 Laya Joseph & Rosanna Joseph
Nov 1 Larry Mitchell & Gareth Belton
Nov 15 Jane Lee & Marie McMahan
Nov 22 April Mitchell & Paula Mitchell
Nov 29 Shana Page & Jodi Veilleux
Dec 6 Susan Webber & Elizabeth Wilson

October Food Pantry

Bisquick Variety soups
Cake mixes Personal care items

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and help.

Bazaar – It is that time of year once again. Please start collecting White Elephant items & books, making your crafts, and planning what you will be making for the baked goods table. The bazaar is coming up quickly and we need all of you to contribute what you can to make this the very best bazaar ever.

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.

Oct 18 Pearley & Alice Lachance
Oct 25 Greg & Marianne Gillespie
Nov 1 Nancy Fairfield
Nov 7 Ann Giguere (Sat)
Nov 8 Larry & Paula Mitchell
Nov 15 Lowell & Mary Hawes
Nov 22 Larry & Lisa Gard

One who knows how to show and accept kindness will be a friend better than any possession.

~Sophocles