

9, 10 January 2016 * 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 314-2049



Baptism of the Our Lord

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

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 drew large crowds preaching the need to repent, get right with God and be prepared for the coming of the Messiah. One of the dangers of becoming famous and popular is for a person’s ego and pride to take over and focus on themselves to stay successful. We all know people who have let this happen in their life. John could have perceived Jesus as a threat to his popularity and interpret the growing influence of Jesus in a manner that would

make him jealous and resentful. John kept faithful to his calling, to the message he was born to preach; prepare the hearts of his people to be receptive to the coming Messiah.

Scripture quotes John saying the he must decrease while the ministry of Jesus increases. The greatness of John is undisputed in Church history. It isn’t that there was a decrease for John, but rather accepting in knowing that a reflection of the, true Light from true Light, by its very essence is totally dependent on the light.

John testifies that he saw the Spirit come down like a dove upon Jesus. A voice like thunder proclaimed that Jesus was the beloved Son of whom the Father is well pleased. We are baptized in the Holy Spirit, making us God’s children. This is all the greatness we need to experience joy and peace. This is not obvious at the time of Baptism, it becomes obvious when we remain faithful to our relationship with Jesus, which provides the loving atmosphere in which the baptized will experience these loving relationships.

We do have a tendency to want some other form of greatness. Some greatness is good, but when it becomes an identity, competing and replacing the

identity God gives us by calling us His son or daughter, we are decreasing the spiritual power of God over us. In a mystical way, through our commitment to living out the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit we received, we can reflect the Light of Christ into the darkness of the world. Those baptized as a baby may have not personally and consciously chosen to become a child of the loving Father, but neither did they choose to be a child of their parents.

As a person matures in their ability to make decisions freely, a child can reject God and their parents. Those who experience love and are surrounded by love have a far better chance to choose to continue to surround themselves with this love.

John prepared the way for Jesus as a prophet, in a manner all the reflections of humanity, when guided by the desire to love and be loved in a healing healthy manner prepares the way for the salvation that comes through the message and deeds of Jesus.

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 their relationship with Him. Our relationship and perception of God is sometimes linked with how much trust and confidence we have in what our parents believe.

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 did some bad things, however, He took that chance so that all water could be sanctified to sanctify all that water touches.

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 our sins forgiven and washed away to never again distort and make lasting peace and joy distorted and unreachable.

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 since accepting His will over 2,000 years ago.

Aboona

Liturgy Helps:

Be sure your cell phone is off or silenced

2nd Collections: Jan 9-10 Fuel Collection

Jan 24 Worldwide Charities

Liturgy: First Sunday after Epiphany

Entrance chant: Pg. 108 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 9 4:00 p.m.

† **Lucille Pare (10th Anniv)**

By Suzanne Pare

† **Bertha Jensen**

By Daniel & Katrina Plourde

Sun 10 10:00 a.m.

† **Prinella Mitchell**

By Pearley & Alice Lachance

† **Edward Atkins, Sr.**

By John T. Sleiman

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

No Weekday Liturgies - Fr. Larry is on Retreat

Sat 16 4:00 p.m.

† **Paulette Daou**

By John Sleiman

† **Deacon Peter Joseph**

By Paul & Stephen Maroon

Sun 17 10:00 a.m.

† **Doug Day (10th Anniv.)**

By The Family

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

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

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

Last Week's Collection

Regular Collection \$2,565.00

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

January Devotions

St. Joseph 14 day Sanctuary Candle
Available

St. Jude 7 Day Sanctuary Candle
Available

Altar Bread
Available

Altar Wine
Available

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.

Jan 10 Pearley & Alice Lachance
Jan 16 Audrey Yotides (Sat)
Jan 17 Greg & Marianne Gillespie
Jan 24 Nancy Fairfield
Jan 30 Ann Giguere (Sat)
Jan 31 Larry & Paula Mitchell
Feb 7 Larry & Lisa Grard

January Food Pantry

Variety soups egg cartons cake mixes
Bisquick Personal care items

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and help.

READERS SCHEDULE

The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple

Hebrews 7:11-19	Luke 2:41-52
Jan 2	Lenore Boles
3	Joe Rowden

First Sunday After Epiphany

Hebrews 7:11-19	Luke 2:41-52
Jan 9	Ruth Lunn
10	Lauraine Mansur

EVENTS FOR JANUARY

Sun 10	Rosary Sodality Meeting 11:45 am
11-22	Aboona away for Priests' Retreat
Sat 23	4:30-6 p.m. Turkey Dinner \$8.00

EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

Wed 3	Parish Council 6 p.m.
Sun 7	Cana Sunday – Super Bowl Breakfast
Mon 8	Ash Monday 12 noon, 6 pm Liturgies
Fri 12	Haddock Chowder Supper 4:30 -6:00 pm 6 pm Lenten Devotions Stations & Veneration of the Cross
Sun 14	M'Jadara Luncheon & Talent Show

EVENTS FOR MARCH

Sun 27 Easter Sunday

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

Coffee Schedule

Jan 10	Larry Mitchell & Gareth Belton
Jan 17	Mary Jo Hodgkin & Laya Joseph
Jan 24	Alice Lachance & Jane Lee
Jan 31	Lauraine Mansur & Marie McMahon
Feb 7	April Mitchell & Paula Mitchell
Feb 14	Larry Mitchell & Gareth Belton
Feb 21	Shana Page & Jodi Veilleux

MYO Schedule: 3/6, 4/3, 5/1

When? Where? What?

St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church provides a bulletin to keep parishioners and non-parishioners well informed. This bulletin is available while attending weekend Liturgy. For those who ask, a bulletin is sent by Email each week and can also be found on Facebook and our Website.

Mondays are Fr. Larry's day off from parish work.

**May God's blessing be upon our homes
and those who dwell there.**