

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Announcement to the Ever-Virgin Mary

November 20, 2022

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful heritage of Antioch

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"For us, the men and women of the East are a symbol of the Lord Who comes again." Orientale Lumen, John Paul II

Qourboneh: Sunday: (Vigil, Sat. 4:30pm) Sunday Morning 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.; Tues. – Fr. 9:00 a.m.; Sat. 10:00a.m.
Sick Calls: To receive the Divine Eucharist and/or the Sacred Anointing, please call the rectory.
Confessions: One half-hour before the Sunday Liturgies and by appointment.
Baptisms: *Parents* should refer to the website and then contact the parish through the parish e-mail address.
Marriage: Please refer to the parish website and contact the parish a **minimum 6 months before** finalizing the date of your wedding.
Mass Intentions: For *specific* dates requested, please submit at least **two months in advance**. Recommended stipend: \$15
Monthly Memorials: Sanctuary Candles \$35; Altar Bread \$30; Sacramental Wine \$55
Catechism: Steve Crate, *Director* **Choir Director:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG **Pastoral Council Chair:** Suzanne Paré
Pastoral Council Members: Suzanne Paré, *Chair*; Gayle Misner-Elias, *Secretary*; Steve Crate, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Sodality/Almoner*; Judith Metzger, *Finance Committee*



THIS DAY'S EPISTLE¹ Galatians 3: 15-22

My brethren, I speak as among men; a man's covenant which is confirmed, no one setteth aside, or changeth anything in it.

Now to Abraham was the Promise made, and to his seed. And it said to him, not, to thy *seeds*, as being many; but to thy *seed*, as being one, which is the Messiah.

And this I say: that the covenant which was previously confirmed by God in the Messiah, the Law – which was four hundred and thirty years after – cannot set it aside, and nullify the Promise.

And if the inheritance were by the Law, it would not be by promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

What then is the Law?

It was added on account of transgression, until that seed should come, to Whom belonged the Promise. And the Law was given by angels through a mediator.

Now a mediator is not of one; but God is one.

Is the Law then opposed to the Promise of God? Far be it!

For if the Law had been given, which could make *alive*, then certainly, righteousness would have been by the Law.

But the Scripture hath enclosed all under sin, that the Promise by faith in Jesus the Messiah might be given to them that believe.



You will progress in understanding the Holy Scriptures only to the degree that you yourself have made progress through contact with them.

St. Gregory the Great (AD 540-604)²

ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

In our Syriac tradition, the Holy Mother of God is portrayed as a richly laden vessel. The poetic imagery is of a ship filled with riches and gifts that traverses the world sharing its treasures. We sang this at the Ginnaz at Monday's funeral:

*A new vessel
has been seen laden with a great Reward,
traversing a stormy sea enriched by its Store.
Mary is the vessel's name,
Christ within her the Reward
Who travels throughout the world
to give mortals life.*

¹ Based on The New Testament, translated from the Syriac Peshitto Version, Gorgias Press, New Jersey, 2001, translated by James Murdock, STD, 1893

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

This beautiful imagery then is grounded in today's celebration of the Announcement to the Ever-Virgin Mary. This is the day that "loads" the "new vessel" with the riches of Heaven through the Incarnation of the Divine Word. The Spirit of Holiness "places" that Richness within the stainless womb of the sinless virgin. The arrival in that sacred place by the New Adam was another moment of grace that elevated the simple virgin of Nazareth to the status of the "New Eve", true Mother of all the living. This also makes her the new "Woman", the beginning of the new creation in her own conception, and she was addressed as such by Our Lord at Cana and on Calvary.

There are a multitude of images that can be drawn from the treasures of Syriac theological poetry, and many of them were named in the Ramsho of this exalted Sunday.

The Mother of God is the vehicle, the "new vessel", that the Hidden God chose to bring the Savior into the fallen world of men, and so it is through her that we return to the Hidden Father. This new Vessel - with the Store she carries - "sails" and communicates ("trades", one might say) between heaven and earth. We receive the Sacred Cargo from the holy Mother of God, and enriched by It, we are borne to the Harbor of Salvation, carried on that richly laden Ship.

Divine riches the Blessed Virgin brings, and we live when we find refuge in this Vessel, traversing over the melancholy and despair that - left on their own - produce the sad waves and storms of this world. Because of the Son she bears, she is the hope of the human race. She is the true Tree of Paradise that bears her Incarnate Son, the true Fruit of Eternal Life.

As the path by which God entered the world, so it is that she is *our* return path to Him. Without Marian devotion, and without recognition of the "New Eve", one cannot be fully Christian. Without her there is no "vessel" of passage, and without her there is no true Mother of the Living, who brings us into the eternal life of God.

The Churches of both East and West teach that Mary is inseparable from Jesus in the salvation of the world. This is expressed in a simple, but fundamental, theological manner by our Syriac

Fathers. In the Roman Church, this doctrine is most profoundly expressed in the writings of Saint Louis de Montfort: *God comes to us through Mary, so it is that we go to Jesus (Incarnate Word, and Face of the Hidden Father) through Mary.*



In the Conception announced today, the Kingdom of God established a beachhead in mankind through the woman who responded freely to the Archangel Gabriel. From that initial "landing" it is through Mary that the Kingdom continues to spread in the conquest of grace. God chose her from all eternity, and He does not repent of His choices; He will not work to spread the Kingdom of salvation other than through her and with her.

The Hidden One, of course, could have acted otherwise, but this is the eternally free choice made by the Holy One. Mary is central to salvation, and the redemption of the human race radiates through her, not because her nature requires it, but because God in this present order of providence deigned it to be so. This truth we contemplate today in the Gospel, and we will continue to meditate upon it throughout this sacred week.

The God of Holiness *enters spiritually within us through her*, and so it is we must respond "in" her so that we can return to Him. Simple logic this is, and a source of great hope when we understand that a mere creature could occupy such a place in the work of redemption. As Saint Thomas Aquinas taught, the Mother of God "touches" the edge of Infinity.

From all eternity, before the foundation of the world, God's choice of His Eternal Son to become incarnate includes the Blessed Virgin Mary in that same eternal view, will, and choice. Therefore, from eternity to eternity, unique among all creatures, Mary is exalted with her divine Son. She is the New Eve partnered to the New Adam, so that their children might live eternally.

All we need do to live is to respond in confidence to this Mother of Fair Love. Grace initiates this confidence, and it is in her gentle hands that our zeal for the Hidden One will be enkindled.

Marian devotion, therefore, is not something added to the practice of the Faith; it is central to it, even as Mary of Nazareth is central to the work of redemption. Mary is, in many ways, the essence of the Christian Faith as collaborator, channel, mediatrix, and exemplar.

Could anything be more beautiful than to know that the Infinitely Luminous One chose to create one of us to collaborate uniquely with Him so as to restore in each of us the marred divine image? She is the perfect exemplar of created humanity, the model of the faithful, and she labors at all times to raise us up with her.

The Immaculate Virgin is the hope of our race, and the most radiant creature ever brought forth from nothingness by the Hand of the Creator. The Self-Existent One did this so that He might manifest His splendid goodness in the face of a created woman, and **through her** to appear among us personally as the God-Man.

The apostolic Faith bequeathed to us is breathtaking in its beauty.

Hail, *Full-of-Grace!*

*Grant them health, and raise them up
from their illness, and make them
to have perfect health of body and soul
and strengthen them in spirit;
for Thou art our Savior and Benefactor,
the Lord of lords and Weaver of crowns,
Thou art Lord and King of all. Amen*

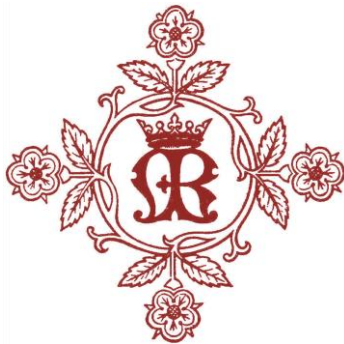
Those for whom we pray: Stephen Michaud, Dame Fefa, Kevin J. Michaud, Sheila Bonenfant, John Gallant, Gareth Belton, Katrina Nappi, Holly Perron, Christian Disuag, Daja Gombojav, Margaret Mae Lambert, Mary Theresa Huebner, Mary Morin, Larry Grard, Sarah Grace Misner-Elias, Cindy Elias, Barbara Joseph, Madeleine Dombroski, Sally Derosby, Tala Poulin, Richard Karter, Rita Hikel, and all those who may suffer from illness, disease, want, or depression.



The Sanctuary Lamp
burns in November
in memory of **Bob Derosby**
at the request
of Selwa Derosby.

May his memory be eternal!

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception



Wednesday, December 7th:

5:30pm Ramsho *and*
Vigil Liturgy

Thursday, December 8th:

10:00am Mass of the Holy Day



For the Healing of the wounded
world *through the Immaculate
Heart of Mary*
an alms of Sacramental Wine
(October through December) has
been offered by Kevin Koski

*May the Mother of God bring health
and well-being to the world through the
Divine Eucharistic Sacrifice of her Son!*

Schedule of Readings

ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE VIRGIN MARY

November 20, 2022

Gal 3: 15-22

St. Luke 1: 26-38

THE VISITATION OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

TO ELIZABETH

November 27, 2022

Eph 1: 1-14

St. Luke 1: 39-45

VOCATION ICON

*"Request therefore the Lord of the harvest to send
forth laborers into His harvest."* St. Matthew 9: 38

Sun	Nov	20	Ira & Catherine Mandel
Sun	Nov	27	Dean & MaryAnn Carter
Sun	Dec	4	Michael & Gayle Misner
Sun	Dec	11	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Dec	18	Anne Marie Mathieu
Sun	Dec	25	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Jan	1	Daja Gombojav & Family

! **مُكَلِّمًا حَقَّكُم** :Priest

Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

(literally: Peace [be] to all you!)

! **هَكَمَ وَهْمًا وَحُرًا** :People

w'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)



INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 20 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph
11:00am †Ralph Nappi
(Sava Nappi)

Mon 21 -----

Tue 22 Abouna's Intentions
(Michael & Gayle Misner-Elias)

Wed 23 Anna Evans
(Daja Gombojav)

Thu 24 †Jean Deeb
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)

Fri 25 Ira Mandel
(Misner-Elias Family)

Sat 26 Saturday, 10:00 am
Abouna's intentions
(Misner-Elias Family)

4:30pm Sunday Vigil
Private Intention

Sun 27 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph
11:00am †Darrell Mitchell
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

Mon 28 -----

Tue 29 Laya & Nada Joseph
(Abouna)

Wed 30 †Don Americo Verme
(Simon Misner-Elias)

Thu 1 †Scott Seelig
(Ed & Marjorie Laabs)

Fri 2 †Deceased Siblings : Ernie, Freda,
Charlie, Lucille, Peter & Louis Maroon
(Paul & John Maroon)

Sat 3 Saturday, 10:00 am
Reposed members of St. Joseph
(Audrey Yotides)

4:30pm Sunday Vigil
Private Intention

Sun 4 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph
11:00am Sava Nappi
(Misner-Elias Family)

Mon 5 -----

Tue 6 †Scott Seelig
(Ed & Margie Laabs)

Wed 7 †Sam & Latifa Deeb
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)

5:30pm Ramsho and Vigil
of the Immaculate Conception
Private Intention

Thu 8 10:00am Solemnity
of the Immaculate Conception
Parishioners of Saint Joseph

Fri 9 Ira Mandel
(Misner-Elias Family)

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$----.00

(Budget Deficit 2022: \$33,915.00)³

November 13th, Special Collection for the
Maronite Patriarchal Charities: \$ ----.00

*(All funds are earmarked for our Patriarch
to be used for his charitable works.)*

Donations to date to install **next heat-pumps** in
the church to burn cleaner, more efficiently, and
lower fuel-oil costs: **\$11,035.00⁴**

Second Sunday each month is a second collection
to cover our **monthly fuel-oil costs**. The next twelve
months will cost us **over \$30,000.00**.
Please be as generous as you can.

*Please remember to sustain the apostolic work
of this parish through regular contributions.*

*After the Divine Mysteries,
at both 9:00 and 11:00am,
there is a gathering in the parish hall
for coffee and freshly baked muffins
on the **second and fourth Sunday**
of each month.*



Anyone wishing to
help with this service
is asked to contact
Ruth,
or sign up on the
form in the parish
hall.

Servers of the Divine Altar

November 20th:

9:00am: L. Michaud / M. Carter

11:00am: R. Nappi / P. Carter

November 27th:

9:00am: C. Gombojav / N. Carter

11:00am: S. Nappi / I. Gombojav

December 4th:

9:00am: M. Carter / A. Michaud

11:00am: J. Gamble / P. Carter

December 11th:

9:00am: C. Gombojav / N. Carter

11:00am: I. Gombojav / S. Nappi

December 18th:

9:00am: A. Michaud / M. Carter

11:00am: R. Nappi / S. Nappi

December 25th:

4:00pm Ramsho & Vigil: M. Carter / L. Michaud

10:00am: I. Gombojav / P. Carter

January 1st:

4:00pm Ramsho & Vigil: N. Carter / C. Gombojav

10:00am: J. Gamble / S. Nappi

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Lighting of the Church: LB p 5
Jesus Christ, O Source of Light

Entrance Hymn: LB fsheeto 233

Glory: SB *al majdu*

³ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59/Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00/Deficit 2021:
\$35,178.00

⁴ The next twelve-month contract for heating oil is set to cost
over **\$30,000.00**. The projected cost for these heat-pumps

installation is \$9,700.00. Your generosity to this project has
been exceptionally edifying.

Qolo/Hymn: LB *toobaik 'eedto* 234

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

Saint John Chrysostom: p 876

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *Father of Truth; Praise God*

Recessional: SB *Joyful, Joyful*



Presentation of the Ever-Virgin Mary in the Temple

November 21st