

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Miracle at Cana Entrance into the Great Fast

February 27, 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, *Rosary Sodality*; Matthew Stone, *Finance Committee*

This Day's Gospel¹ St. John 2: 1-11

And on the third day there was a feast in *Qtana*, a city in Galilee: and the Mother of Jesus was there.

And also Jesus and His disciples were invited to the feast.

And the wine fell short: and His Mother said to Jesus:

They have no wine.

Jesus said to her:

What is (that) to Me and to thee? My hour hath not yet come.

His Mother said to the waiters:

Whatever He saith to you, do (it).

And there were there six water-pots of stone, set for the purification of Jews, containing each two or three *quadrantalia*.

Jesus said to them:

Fill those water-pots with water.

And they filled them to the top.

He said to them:

Draw now, and carry to the *chief of the feast*.

And they carried.

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

And when the chief of the feast tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know whence it came (although the waiters knew, as they had filled the pots with water) the chief of the feast called the bridegroom, and said to him:

Every man first bringeth forward the good wine, and when they are satiated, then that which is inferior; but thou hast kept the good wine till now.

This is the first sign, which Jesus wrought at *Qtana* in Galilee, and manifested His glory: and His disciples believed in Him.



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

The conscious effort or training – *askesis* – involved in fasting and prayer is our safest path to purification. Saint Anthony of the Desert taught that it allowed us to imitate Christ, follow His path, and receive His grace. Fasting does this by training us to elevated attention, raising our spirit to God, moderating our appetites and desires, strengthening our resolution, dampening our passions, and mastering our caprices.

Fasting is not primarily a juridical thing – what “must be done”, “who” is obliged? – nor is it focused firstly on expiation in some legal sense, although, as in any training, purification of course does take place. This is why the path of fasting is

not first, or foremost, about suffering, loss, or “giving up” something we like. It is a discipline, and in that understanding, it is a path of “learning” and a “mode of reception”: *to form within us the mind of Christ*.³

For this reason, we fast all throughout the year, not just at Lent. Weekly (Wednesdays and Fridays) and periodically (two great fasts and two small fasts annually) we seek to collaborate with the work of Christ in our lives. Grace transforms. It clarifies the mind, elevates the spirit, purifies the emotions, and strengthens us in our physical lives. We must be mindful that the meaning of “fast” in old English means “strength”, and that is our purpose, no more and no less. We fast in order to be strengthened in the path of the Gospel; we fast to sharpen our minds to the Voice of Christ; we fast in order to master our passions (and, um, our lusts) so that we may be truly free as the children of the Light, guided by the light of faith and directed toward the Last Day and its Dawn without End.

This practice is also why from antiquity it has been centered on certain food and in certain practices. **Uniformity** and **universality** are precisely the goal: to all walk together in the light of the one Radiant Spirit of Holiness. Fasting – although it is a personal observance – is not an individualistic pursuit centered upon oneself, which is why it is not about “giving up” what “I” may “like”. It is steady in its tradition. Fasting is not left up to us to pick and choose what it might be that we “give up” as it is not an individualized effort, nor is it meant to cause “pain” to me personally (by choosing something arbitrary according to my personal whims).

Our Patriarch has written a couple times on this subject in the last few years, and he reminds us that while we, all who have attained the “age of reason”, must fast and abstain at least on Ash Monday and on Good Friday, we are encouraged to do more than “legal” requirements. This is *generosity*. He noted that we should make special effort – *askesis* – to observe the whole of the first and last weeks of the Great Fast, that is, this week of Cana Sunday and the Great Week, Holy Week, the Week of the Passion. Of course, we are always

² Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”

³ Philippians 2:5

encouraged to observe faithfully the entire season, week by week.

The liturgical life is the easiest way to find the holiness of Christ in our lives.

So, may we all dive in generously. The standards and norms taught by the Patriarch, and the *Feastday exemptions* during the Great Fast, are to be found at the end of this bulletin. These norms will remain published all throughout the season as reminders of the blessings to those who wish to be “pearl divers”. They are guidelines to the path of wisdom practiced, and taught to us, by our ancestors.

After all, it is only those enter the water that ever learn to swim. God will never be outdone in generosity as He seeks to heal us all, but He can only teach (and save) those who try to respond to His aid.

May we all generously, and with clear resolve and purpose, “take to the water”, find our vessel of hope in the Mother of the Light, and faithfully persevere traversing the agitated sea of this world as we hope to enter one day into the Harbor of Salvation.



VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Feb	27	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Mar	6	Michael & Gayle Misner
Sun	Mar	13	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Mar	20	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sun	Mar	27	Sue Paré & Lolo Salazar
Sun	Apr	3	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Apr	10	Ira & Catherine Mandel
Sun	Apr	17	Dean & MaryAnn Carter

⁴ mac&cheese for those not keen on lentils

*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: 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, Lolo Salazar, Rita Hikel, and all those who may suffer from illness, disease, want, or depression.

Cana Sunday & Ash Monday

The *Lenten Fast begins with Cana Sunday, February 27th* this year, which we will celebrate as something of a “Mardi Gras” with servings of delicious **majadra** and refreshments⁴ during a **luncheon** to follow the **11:00am Mass**.

There will be **no gathering** after the Liturgy at **9:00am today**.

In times past, we have asked for a **\$5.00** contribution for the meals, but this year we leave it free for you to choose – as you are able. We have been apart from one another for too long, and our wish is to



encourage the greatest number to gather together as is possible.

There will be a **donation basket** available for contributions, of course, but all should feel free to come and celebrate together and mark the beginning of this sacred season. Each can contribute what they are able in order to sustain our beloved parish in her events.

Tomorrow, **February 28th**, will be **Ash Monday**. We Maronites are the only Eastern Catholics who have adopted this Latin symbolism of repentance and conversion. The distribution is done on Monday as the Lenten season has already begun with Cana Sunday. Monday is therefore the first weekday of the full fast of Lent.

To make the **reception of ashes** more convenient, they will be distributed before the Liturgies twice on Ash Monday: **9:00am** and **6:00pm**.

The following day, **Tuesday** of this week, March 1st, will replace the normal "Monday off" in the schedule and there will be **no public Mass**.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$1,310.00

(Budget Deficit 2022: \$7,619.00)⁵

Pancake Breakfast & Super Bowl Squares:
\$595.00

Contributions to the **hot-water system** in the parish **hall** (re-imbursement for the project):
\$000.00⁶

An additional **\$000.00** has come in this week toward the **needed masonry construction and maintenance** collection of **\$39,000.00⁷**

Second Sunday each month is a second collection to cover our **monthly fuel-oil costs**.

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

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 27 9:00am For the Members of the Parish

11:00am †Darrell Mitchell
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

Mon 28 **ASH MONDAY**

9:00am For the Members of the Parish

6:00pm †Wayne Thomas
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Tue 1 -----

Wed 2 Nicholas Family
(Mary Nicholas)

Thu 3 Lenore Boles
(the Parish)

Fri 4 †Michael Alan Hibbard
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Sat 5 †Paul & Charlene LaVerdiere
(Paul Maroon)

Sunday Vigil, 4:30 Private Intention

Sun 6 9:00am For the Members of the Parish

11:00am Roger Charette
(Monique Deschaine)

Mon 7 -----

Tue 8 Lisa Grard

Wed 9 †Tom Ferris
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Thu 10 †John Marietta & Paul Thomas
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

⁵ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59/Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00/Deficit 2021: \$35,178.00

⁶ Our responsibility for this expense remains at \$5,905.00.

⁷ This makes the amount toward our matching Challenge Grant (20k), to be presently **\$15,310.00**. This lengthy collection is being made to cover the needed **building maintenance projects**, estimated at \$60,000.00, two-thirds of which will come from the challenge grant and matching funds.

Fri 11 †Jerry Kramer, Sr
(Abouna)

Sat 12 †Betram Castonguay
(Mike & Maureen Martin)

Sunday Vigil, 4:30 *Private Intention*

Sun 13 9:00am For the Members of the Parish
11:00am †Debra Lynn Reny
(Suzanne Paré)

Mon 14 -----

Tue 15 †Raymond & Georgette Veilleux
(Paula & Larry Mitchell)

Wed 16 †Fr. Dominique Bourmaud
(Steve & Elena Dailey)

Thu 17 †Laurieanne Castonguay
(Mike & Maureen Martin)

Fri 18 †Anniversary of Sharon Doran
(Abouna)

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

ENTRANCE INTO THE GREAT FAST

THE MIRACLE AT CANA

February 27, 2022

Rom 14: 14-23 St. John 2: 1-11

THE HEALING OF THE LEPER

March 6, 2022

Rom 6: 12-23 St. Mark 1: 35-43

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *I'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

The Twelve Apostles: p 754

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *Your Body is our Food; Seek ye first*

Recessional: SB *These Forty Days of Lent*

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

February 27th:

9:00am: A. Michaud/N. Carter
11:00am: L. Michaud/I. Misner-Elias

March 6th:

9:00am: M. Carter/N. Carter
11:00am: L. Michaud/S. Nappi

March 13th:

9:00am: A. Michaud/M. Carter
11:00am: I. Misner-Elias/L. Michaud

March 20th:

9:00am: M. Carter/N. Carter
11:00am: I. Misner-Elias/S. Nappi

March 27th:

9:00am: A. Michaud/M. Carter
11:00am: L. Michaud/S. Nappi

April 3rd:

9:00am: M. Carter/N. Carter
11:00am: S. Nappi/I. Misner-Elias

The Miracle at Cana

p. 176

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *fyosto* 102

Glory: SB *glory*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *toobaik 'eedto* 103

Creed p 748



!مُكْمًا حَقْلَهْ :Priest

Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

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

!وَهُمَّا وَحْرًا :People

W'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)

The Traditional and Patriarchal Norms for the Great Fast

- A.) Ash Monday and the First Week of Great Lent and Great Week of the Passion and especially Great and Holy Friday of the Crucifixion through to noon on Saturday of the Great Light are Days of Fast and Abstinence according to our tradition.
- B.) *For all, as a minimum requirement according to law, we must **fast** on **Ash Monday** and on **Good Friday**. Abstinence must be observed on all Fridays of Great Lent. The days of fast are strictly to be free of flesh meats.*
- C.) From the age of reason onward, all are obliged to follow the abstinence from all meat, meat products, and dairy products on these fast days.
- D.) All Fridays throughout the year are traditional days of fast and abstinence from all meat and dairy products.
- E.) *In general, the sick, expectant mothers, and the elderly who need to eat regularly are exempted from fasting and abstinence, especially those who under medical care for chronic illnesses.*
- F.) Saturdays and Sunday are not, in the eastern traditions, days of fasting as strict as the weekdays.
- 1.) *Abstinence is still required from all meat and meat products, from all dairy products, and from fish.*

- 2.) *The mitigation on Saturday and Sunday does allow for the consuming of shellfish and wine or other alcohol.*
- 3.) *There is no fast until noon either.*

G.) *Breaking the Fast is permitted also on the following feastdays:*

- 1.) Saint John Maron (March 2);
- 2.) The Forty Martyrs (March 9);
- 3.) Saint Patrick (March 17th);
- 4.) Saint Joseph (March 19th); and,
- 5.) The Annunciation (March 25th).

QUANTITY: *In our tradition, the fast means no food whatsoever between midnight and noon, only water and medication are permitted.*

QUALITY: *Also, in our traditional eastern tradition, the days of fast are in practice more or less vegan, that is, no meat, no seafood, no meat products, no dairy products, and no eggs are eaten.*



Saint John Maron

Our First Patriarch

March 2nd