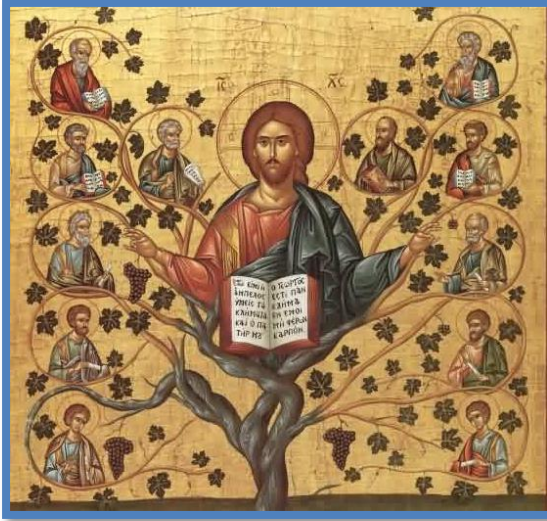


# Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



## Sunday of the Genealogy of Jesus

**December 18, 2022**

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful heritage of Antioch

3 Appleton Street  
Waterville, ME 04901  
Office Phone: 207-872-8515

**Pastor:** Rev. Fr. James Doran, KHS  
**Subdeacon:** Mr. Stephen Crate  
**website:** <http://www.sjmaronite.org>  
**e-mail:** [stjoesinmaine@yahoo.com](mailto:stjoesinmaine@yahoo.com)

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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* **Legion of Mary:** Sir Ira Mandel, KHS **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*; Ira Mandel, *Legion of Mary*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Almoner*; Judith Metzger, *Finance Committee*

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### THIS DAY'S EPISTLE<sup>1</sup> Romans 1: 1-12

Paul, a servant of Jesus *the Messiah*, called and a  
*legate*; separated unto the Gospel of God, --  
(which He had before promised,  
by His prophets, in the Sacred Scriptures,

concerning His Son, Who was born in the  
flesh, of seed of the House of David,  
and was made known as the Son of God,  
*in display of power*, and by the Holy Spirit;  
Who rose from the dead,  
Jesus *Messiah*, our Lord)

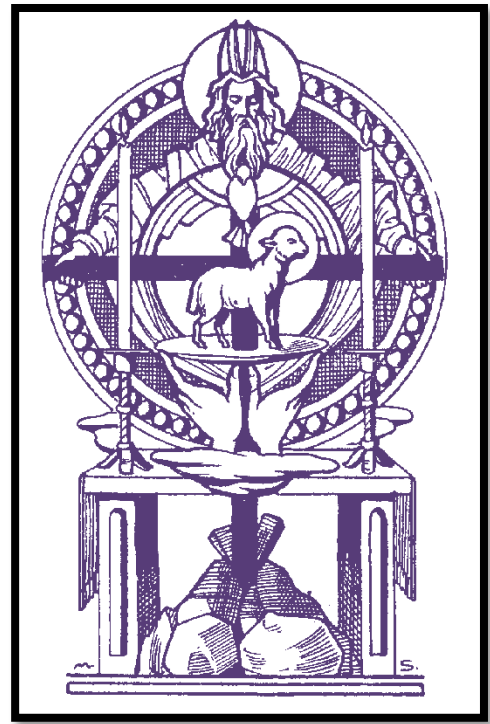
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<sup>1</sup> Based on The New Testament, translated from the Syriac Peshitto Version, Gorgias Press, New Jersey, 2001, translated by James Murdock, STD, 1893

-- by Whom we have received grace,  
and a mission among all the Gentiles,  
to the end that they may obey the faith  
in His Name;  
among whom, ye also are called  
by Jesus *Messiah*;

-- to all those who are at Rome,  
beloved of God, called and sanctified:  
Peace and grace be with you,  
from God our Father,  
and from our Lord Jesus *Messiah*.

In the first place, I give thanks to God by Jesus  
*Messiah*, on account of you all;  
because your faith is heard of in all the world.  
And God, Whom in spirit I serve in the Gospel  
of His Son, is my witness,  
that I unceasingly make mention of you,  
at all times, in my prayers.  
And I likewise supplicate,  
that hereafter a door may be opened to me,  
by the good pleasure of God,  
to come to you.  
For I long much to see you;  
and to impart to you the gift of the Spirit,  
whereby ye may be established;  
and that we may have comfort together,  
in the faith of both yourselves and me.



*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)<sup>2</sup>

## **SCHEDULE OF READINGS**

### **THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS**

December 18, 2022

**Rom 1: 1-12      St. Matthew 1: 1-17**

### **THE GLORIOUS NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

December 25, 2022

**Heb 1: 1-12      St. Luke 1: 1-20**

## **ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS**

What does it mean to be in a "genealogical line"? Why is it important to know our roots? The word "genealogy" simply means the *discourse, or treating of origin*. It comes from an awareness of origin and source within a family.

The Gospel today is central in importance. In it, relatively briefly, Saint Matthew records the human origins of the Messiah, His link with the husband of the Blessed Virgin, the extension of Israel into the Incarnation, and the adoption by Saint Joseph (son and heir of King David) of the Child born to Mary. In this text it is shown how the unique Son of God, born of a Virgin, can be part of the Davidic line of kingship necessary to fulfill the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament.

<sup>2</sup> Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

The Gospel listing of genealogy is not “boring”; it is subtle recitation of the glories, and defeats, of the people of Israel in their kings as these are raised up to be redeemed in the Messiah, Who has now arrived among men.

Today’s commemoration is to call to mind that the Word Incarnate has a history on earth, a history that is elevated into the Eternal One through the Incarnation, and that there is a locatable historical origin of Christianity (unique among the religions of the world). These truths are extolled in Saint Joseph’s act of adoption of the Eternal Word made flesh.

It is natural for someone to be proud of their family, treasure its memories, cherish its mementoes, and, as a result, to wish to know even more about her family’s roots. Sadly, it is often too late in life when we realize these things, living distractedly as we do in the illusions of youth, and when it happens that we would like to ask more questions about family, those who could have answered them are already gone. This is why doing genealogy and ancestry research is the second most popular hobby in the United States (gardening is number one).

For these reasons, the notion of “tradition”<sup>3</sup> has always been fundamental to human beings – no matter where they are in the world or from which culture they may come. To receive from our parents and ancestors means to cherish what we receive from them *because they* are our “roots”. They define us and so help us to know ourselves better. Old men tell and retell stories not because they are babbling, but because human beings are innately geared to recount the last generations’ stories to the next and younger generation. Necessarily born in ignorance, we are all born into a family and a history that is already a work in progress. We all have roots, whether we want them or not; it is a most simple and deep love to embrace them. We are pious by nature.

We must all learn the heritage that is ours by birth (as well as that which comes to us spiritually in the birth received by grace in faith) in order to know who and what we are. From the nursery rhymes

and fables told to us when we are infants and children, to the stories recounted about the last generation, we are creatures who grasp reality, define ourselves, and look to the future through stories. This is true all the more when it comes to the heritage of faith and grace. We are “born from above” into another history and another lineage that is already “a work in progress” set in motion on the morning of the Resurrection.

It is important for us to treasure our origins firstly because this is the **virtue of piety**. Recognition of our origins in both the natural and supernatural orders is imperative; we must possess this virtue as it shows honesty of existence – we all come from somewhere. By contrast, to know this is to know the true meaning of “impious”.

*Impious* does not mean that one is evil, but it does mean that one does not possess the virtue of piety, and that one has a disregard of one’s “story” and origin. The impious person is therefore almost certainly also self-centered and selfish. As a result, the impious lack a sense of honor or obligation toward those around them. A world filled with the impious is a world without unity of culture or shared purpose of goal (because it is filled with selfish individuals) and thus is a world that is either in anarchy, or on the verge of becoming so.

The modern rebellion against tradition, therefore, is completely unnatural, impious, and self-destructive. A people without roots are a *rootless* people, and a people without a heritage is blind. Understanding this, we can rightly say that our future is in our past. When the rejection of tradition affects religion the results are catastrophic, for the faith itself is then rejected as it is precisely the Catholic Faith that can only be “handed down” to us. Everyone has received that faith through someone who had already possessed it.

If we do not know or appreciate where we come from we are left unmoored in this life, and rudderless in the voyage of life. It also means that we must “invent” ourselves in this moment, define ourselves in only one life-time, and, as usually happens, collapse into ourselves solipsistically,

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<sup>3</sup> *Tradition* comes from the Latin word “to hand over”, thus the word quite literally means “the action of handing over, transmitting to another”.

which can only foster egoism and an exaggerated sense of self-importance. *The rejection of tradition makes all things ephemeral.* In the religious world it fosters a loss of faith and a misunderstanding of divine revelation.



One of our liturgical books is called the *Fenquitho*, a Syriac adaptation from the Greek meaning a “jewel box”, indicating our Maronite faith is a tradition to treasure and preserve, and a heritage from

our ancestors and the martyrs that must be embraced. ***Beit Maroun is a people of tradition, or it is nothing at all.*** Without our Maronite tradition we are no longer a Church; we would not be distinguishable from the Syrian Church of Antioch. Influenced and formed by both the Western and Eastern Syriac Churches, our history and tradition are unique among the Syriac Churches.

Without our Maronite tradition we are not a people as we would have no heritage or treasure to pass on to our children. To be heirs requires us to transmit that treasure and heritage to others; to be the children of Saint Maron means we must communicate the Catholic Faith to others. It is one thing to possess the Catholic Faith, but another to possess its redemptive power within the Church of **Beit Maroun**. This is the witness of the martyrs and ancestors that has been bequeathed to us at St. Joseph's parish.

We are not Catholics who just happen to have a history rooted in the Near East; this is not a story of mere ethnicity. We are children of our Father Saint Maron, heirs of the martyrs, and disciples of the great defenders of the orthodox, apostolic, and catholic faith – or we are nothing; good for nothing but to be trampled under the feet of man and beast<sup>4</sup> and to disappear.

That we are here means that we have work to be done. We must be *pious* in our cherished origins and faithful children of that tradition. Those who have come to serve the Good One more recently in the Maronite Church are as welcome to this tradition and responsibility as are those who have been born to it.

So Genealogy Sunday is here to glory in the treasures that have been given to us by our ancestors. We glory because we know this to be the path of God; and we know this further because He has followed the very same ancestral path in His Incarnation and Nativity.

Our Lord is pious in the fullest sense of the word. He formed the people who were His origin, and loved those from whom He came. From all eternity He created in time, and He loved those whom He chose to create. He formed the People of Israel, bringing them from bondage and slavery into a relationship that He nurtured for two millennia. Then, in the fullness of time, He chose to come among those whom He had formed, and finding His origin among them in time, He cherished “His story”, one that He had created as God, but one that He had inherited as Man.

Imitating the Incarnate Word, may we all treasure our tradition, cling to our story, honor those who have gone before us, especially in the matters that touch the apostolic faith which we have been blessed to receive by the merciful hand of God.

For those who have the light to see, and the hearts to cherish, everything in the end is *fenquitho*.

The hymns and prayers of the **Maronite Christmas Novena** are available in short videos uploaded to the internet by our Maronite Sisters.



The Nativity Fast and the Christmas Novena coincide on the same days.

<sup>4</sup> St. Matthew 5: 13





The Sanctuary Lamp  
burns in December  
in memory of *Edmund &  
Lucille Paré*  
at the request  
of Suzanne Paré.

*May their memory be eternal!*

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## The Glorious Nativity of Our Lord



**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>:**

**4:00pm Ramsho and  
Vigil Liturgy**

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>:**

**10:00am Mass of Christmas Day**

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### VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Dec	18	Anne Marie Mathieu
Sun	Dec	25	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Jan	1	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Jan	8	Ira & Catherine Mandel
Sun	Jan	15	Dean & MaryAnn Carter
Sun	Jan	22	Michael & Gayle Misner
Sun	Jan	29	Steve & Allison Crate

*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:** Celina Knippling,  
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 Nativity Fast

**December 15-23<sup>rd</sup> inclusively**

As we were reminded by our Patriarch in his recent  
Lenten Letters, it is our tradition to fast in  
preparation for the great feasts, and all are  
encouraged to do so faithfully, *par.* 25:

*This fast is known as "The Fast of the Nativity",  
during which the faithful abstain from eating  
meat, dairy products, and eggs, from December  
16<sup>th</sup> and ends December 24<sup>th</sup>.*

**NB: for the faithful in the USA, who celebrate  
Christmas Eve much as Christmas, the dates are  
15<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> December inclusively.**

We are reminded in *paragraph 21* of the same  
letter that "a fast" is **to go without all foods  
from midnight to noon**, after which we  
abstain from animal flesh and almost all  
animal products – this is most similar to a  
"vegan" diet as one would call it these days.

When a fast day falls on a Saturday or a

Sunday (as will be the case this year on **December 17-18<sup>th</sup>**) one can eat as they wish throughout the day, but should still abstain from all animal flesh and animal products, although, by tradition, shellfish may be eaten on these days, but no fish.

These observances are **for all who have attained the age of the use of reason**, *par.* 22.

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$1,092.00

Collection of the **Immaculate Conception**: \$465.00

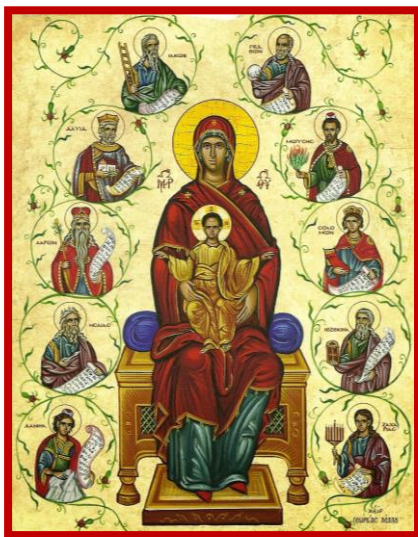
(Budget Deficit 2022: \$27,937.00)<sup>5</sup>

Donations to date to install **next heat-pumps** in the church to burn cleaner, more efficiently, and lower fuel-oil costs: **\$11,035.00<sup>6</sup>**

**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.*



### INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 18 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph

11:00am †Joan Gottardi  
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

Mon 19 -----

Tue 20 †Violet Elhilow  
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)

Wed 21 †Carmen Guzman  
(Jodi Gosselin)

Thu 22 †Harry and Hannah Mitchell  
(Paula & Larry Mitchell)

Fri 23 Feldman Family  
(Ira & Catherine Mandel)

Sat 24 Saturday, 10:00 am  
†Anthony G. Nappi  
(Sava Nappi)

**4:00 Ramsho and Christmas Vigil**  
Private Intention

Sun 25 10:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph

Mon 26 -----

Tue 27 †Darrell Mitchell  
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

Wed 28 †Scott Seelig  
(Ed & Marjorie Laabs)

Thu 29 †Dr. Joseph & Ruth Bellamah  
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)

Fri 30 Susan B. Mitchell  
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)

Sat 31 Saturday, 10:00 am  
†Ralph Nappi  
(Sava Nappi)

**4:00 Ramsho**  
**and Vigil of the Circumcision**  
Private Intention

Sun 1 10:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph

Mon 2 -----

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

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

<sup>6</sup> The next twelve-month contract for heating oil is set to cost over \$30,000.00. The projected cost for these heat-pumps

Tue 3 †Chris, Betty, Jo-Jo & Mike Joseph  
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)

Wed 4 †Anthony G. Nappi  
(Sava Nappi)

Thu 5 † George & Jean Deeb  
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)

**5:30 Ramsho**  
**and Vigil of the Glorious Epiphany**  
*Private Intention*

Fri 6 10:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph

*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*

### December 18<sup>th</sup>:

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

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

### December 25<sup>th</sup>:

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

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

### January 1<sup>st</sup>:

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

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

### January 8<sup>th</sup>:

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

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

### January 15<sup>th</sup>:

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

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

### January 22<sup>nd</sup>:

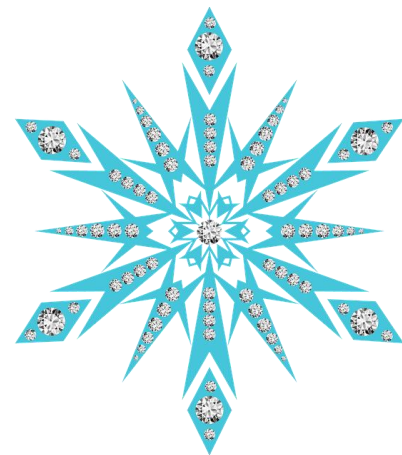
9:00am: M. Carter / A. Michaud

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

### January 29<sup>th</sup>:

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

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



## *Updated Personal Contact Information Needed*

St. Joseph's Church would like to keep all  
parishioners and visitors up-to-date with weekly  
bulletins and periodic announcements.

To notify, verify, or update St. Joseph's Parish  
about your contact information, please contact Ira  
Mandel

email: [iragmandel@gmail.com](mailto:iragmandel@gmail.com)

or phone/text: 207-701-1575

with your current email address and phone  
number.



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!*

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *I'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

Saint John Maron: p 897

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *Father of Truth; Praise God*

Recessional: SB *Joyful, Joyful*

!مُكْمَلْ حَقْبَه! :Priest

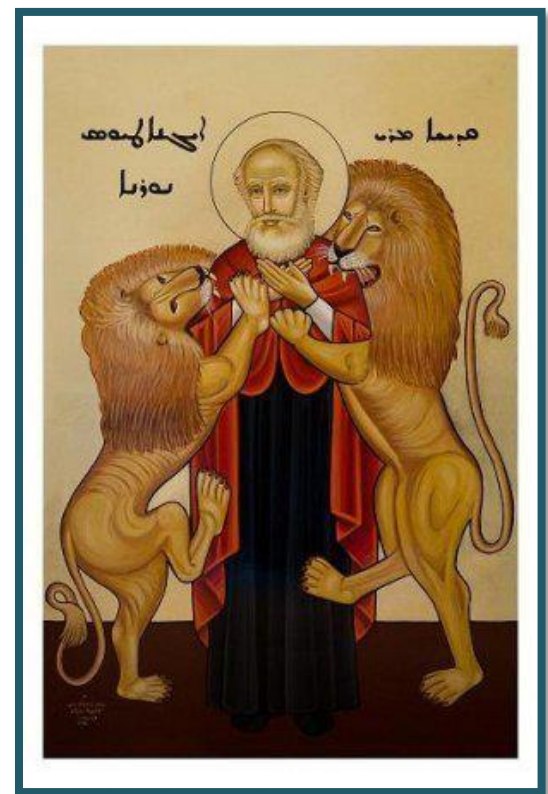
*Shlomoh I'koulkhoun!*

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

!هَؤْمَرُ وَهْمَا وَكْر! :People

*w'am rouHoh deelokh!*

(literally: and with spirit your!)



*Saint Ignatius the Light-bearer,  
Patriarch of Antioch*

*Martyr*

*December 20<sup>th</sup>*

# Sunday of the Genealogy of Jesus

p. 66

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *fsheeto* 233

Glory: SB *al majdu*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *toobaik 'eedto* 234

Creed p 748