

# Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



## The Glorious Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 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> Hebrews 1: 1-14

In many ways, and many forms,  
God anciently spoke with our Fathers, by the  
prophets:

but in these latter days, He hath conversed  
with us, by His Son;  
Whom He hath constituted heir of all things,  
and by Whom He made the *worlds*;  
Who is the Splendor of His Glory, and the  
Image of His Being, and upholdeth all by the  
energy of His word;

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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

and by Himself He made a purgation of sins,  
and sat down at the right hand of the Majesty  
on High.

And He is altogether superior to the angels, as  
He hath also inherited a Name which excelleth  
theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
*Thou art My Son,  
this Day have I begotten Thee?*<sup>2</sup>

And again,  
*I will be to Him a Father,  
and He shall be to Me a Son?*<sup>3</sup>

And again, when bringing the First-Begotten  
into the world, He said:  
*Let all the angels of God worship Him.*<sup>4</sup>

But of the angels He thus said:  
*Who made His angels a wind,  
and His ministers a flaming fire.*<sup>5</sup>

But of the Son He said:  
*Thy Throne, O God, is forever and ever;  
a righteous scepter  
is the scepter of Thy Kingdom.  
Thou hast loved rectitude, and hated iniquity;  
therefore God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee  
with the oil of gladness  
more than Thy associates.*<sup>6</sup>

And again,  
*Thou hast from the beginning  
laid the foundations of the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of Thy hands:  
they will pass away, but Thou endurest;  
and they all, like a robe, wax old;  
and like a cloak, Thou wilt fold them up.  
They will be changed;  
but Thou wilt be as Thou art,  
and Thy years will not be finished.*<sup>7</sup>

And to which of the angels did He ever  
say:

*Sit Thou at My right hand,  
until I shall place Thy enemies  
a footstool under Thy feet?*<sup>8</sup>



*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>9</sup>

## **ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS**

Divine Wisdom's eternal desire is to share His  
goodness and to bring us to Himself. He loves us  
first, and so creates freely. Each creature reflects  
His goodness. Incarnate, God embraces His work  
and is both Giver and Given. Radiant in love, His  
goodness moves all things so that we might be  
adopted as children of the Light.

<sup>2</sup> Psalm 2: 7

<sup>3</sup> II Samuel 7: 14

<sup>4</sup> Deuteronomy 32: 43 (LXX)m Psalm 97: 7

<sup>5</sup> Psalm 104: 4

<sup>6</sup> Psalm 45: 6-7

<sup>7</sup> Psalm 102: 25-27

<sup>8</sup> Psalm 110: 1

<sup>9</sup> Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

Receiving wisdom is an illumination of the mind, an ordering of the will, and an elevation of the spirit. The healing of the spirit redounds upon the body, and this prepares for the resurrection of glory. Faith initiates this wisdom. It is why faith is necessary to salvation. *Without faith it is impossible to please God.*<sup>10</sup>

Eternal Wisdom came among us in time, born in Bethlehem, born of the spotless Virgin, so that incarnationally present among other human beings He might touch us all as a Man among men. We perceive and receive wisdom through our spirits and minds. Faith perceives, charity enlightens, hope stabilizes, and wisdom orders all things in the light of God. The Luminous One was born to us as a Child, so that we would have no fear to believe and approach Wisdom Incarnate, contact with Whom is restorative.

Saint Augustine taught that *unless one believes, one will not understand*, to which we might add that unless charity is also present understanding itself is muted.

For Saint Augustine, this understanding of gracious wisdom as it comes among men regards not only the ultimate object – God Himself, Divine Wisdom – from a speculative and theoretical point of view, but from its highest point of view. It fundamentally arranges (and re-arranges in us) all human knowledge hierarchically, sometimes dramatically, according to each's respective value in wisdom's light. When divine grace is present, it enflames everything by the presence of charity.

While there are diverse forms of knowledge that can be called "wisdom", there is ultimately only one for Saint Augustine, and that one, true wisdom, is *infused wisdom*. In the saints, this gift of wisdom may use the normal means of human knowledge's expression and reasoning, but it is truly, as the gift of God, the human reflection of Divine Wisdom Itself. God was born Man, so that we might be restored fully as men both naturally and supernaturally.

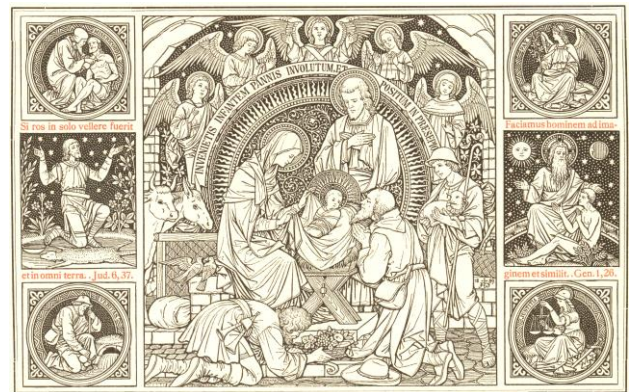
Our Lady is the first human person to respond perfectly to Wisdom's call, and as such she brings Wisdom Incarnate into the world. She is thus the

Mother of Wisdom, and the Wise and Prudent Virgin. Her action makes us dependent on her for redemption.

Salvation, then, is nothing other than the reception of Divine Wisdom's love. This is the healing of mankind, the restoration of one's dignity, and the repair of the distorted divine image in each of us. Faith received from the Luminous One initiates this healing. Wisdom/faith is the work that God has accomplished among men since the beginning of time – following the Fall in Paradise – and one that He continues to do through His charity and His desire for all to be saved. Our response is adoration before such goodness and generosity.

As Maronite Catholics, we are recipients of such stunningly beautiful gifts! Eternal Love lavishes grace upon us; all we need do is stand, listen, and receive. Receptivity is the key. Open hearts begin the course of healing, allow us to hear the voices of angels that bring us out of the cold field of this world in order to see, but now in the light of the wise. This is the purpose of the Miracle of Bethlehem.

Come, let us adore Him!



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

*May their memory be eternal!*

<sup>10</sup> Hebrews 11: 6



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.

#### VOCATION ICON

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

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
Sun	Feb	5	Anne Marie Mathieu

#### SCHEDULE OF READINGS

##### THE GLORIOUS NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 25, 2022

Heb 1: 1-12

St. Luke 1: 1-20

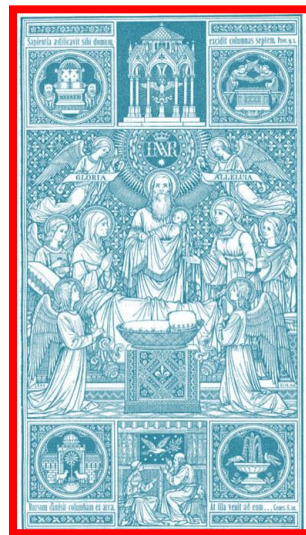
##### THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD

January 1, 2023

Eph 2: 11-11

St. Luke 1: 21-24

## The Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord



**Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>:**

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

**Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>:**

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

### 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

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$1,614.00

(Budget Deficit 2022: \$29,423.00)<sup>11</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>12</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 QOORBONEH (MASSES)

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 -----

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

Sat 7 Saturday, 10:00 am  
†Malcolm Spencer  
(Badiha Ghosn Spencer)

**4:30pm Sunday Vigil**  
*Private Intention*

Sun 8 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph  
11:00am †the Faithful Departed  
of Saint Joseph's  
(Audrey Yotides)

Mon 9 -----

Tue 10 Gayle Misner-Elias  
(Michael Misner-Elias)

Wed 11 Tony Miklaszewski  
(Virginia Miklaszewski)

Thu 12 Joseph N. Gosselin  
(Jodi Gosselin)

Fri 13 Alexandra Lenarcik  
(Ira & Catherine Mandel)



<sup>11</sup> Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59/ Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00/ Deficit 2021: \$35,178.00

<sup>12</sup> 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.

## *Servers of the Divine Altar*

### 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

### February 5<sup>th</sup>:

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

## The Glorious Nativity of Our Lord

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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*

**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*

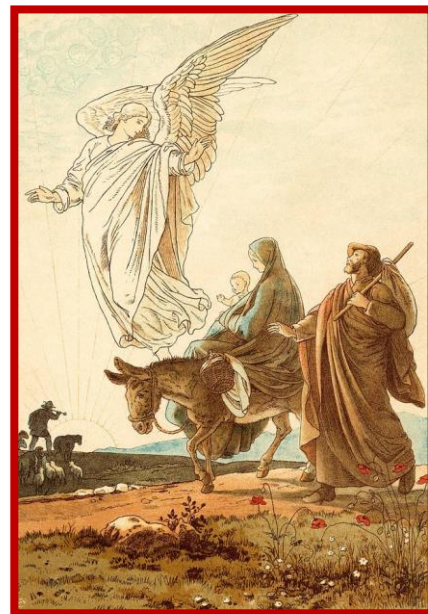
### ANAPHORA:

**Saint John Chrysostom:** p 876

**Sign of Peace:** SB *tou ba*

**Communion:** SB *Father of Truth; Praise God*

**Recessional:** SB *Joyful, Joyful*



The  
Flight  
into  
Egypt

and Return  
from Exile

December 29–30<sup>th</sup>

!مكمل حلقه :Priest

*Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!*

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

!هكم وهما وحر :People

*w'am rouHoh deelokh!*

(literally: and with spirit your!)