

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 23rd, 2022

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful heritage of Antioch

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Waterville, ME 04901
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"For us, the men and women of the East are a symbol of the Lord Who comes again." *Oriental 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 3: 1-16

And there was a man of the Pharisees there, whose name was Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. And he came to Jesus by night, and said to Him:

*Rabbi, we know that
Thou art a teacher sent from God;
for no one can work those signs which
Thou workest, unless God be with him.*

Jesus replied, and said to him:

*Amen, amen, I say to thee,
that unless a man be born anew,
he cannot behold the Kingdom of God.*

Nicodemus said to Him:

*How can an old man be born?
Can he enter a second time
into his mother's womb, and be born?*

Jesus replied, and said to him:

*Amen, amen, I say to thee,
that unless a man be born*

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

*of water and the Spirit,
he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.
That which is born of the flesh, is flesh;
and that which is born of the Spirit,
is spirit.*

*Be not surprised that I said to thee,
ye must be born anew.*

*The wind bloweth, where it chooseth;
and thou hearest its sound,
but knowest not whence it cometh,
or whither it goeth:*

so is every one, that is born of the Spirit.

Nicodemus answered, and said to Him:

How can these things be?

Jesus answered, and said to him:

*Art thou a teacher of Israel,
and knowest not these things?*

*Amen, amen, I say to thee:
we speak, what we know;*

*and we testify to what we have seen;
but ye receive not our testimony.*

*If I have spoken to you of things on earth,
and ye believe not;
how will ye believe,*

if I speak of things in heaven?

*And no one hath ascended to Heaven,
but He that descended from heaven,
the Son of Man Who is in Heaven.*

*And as Moses raised up the serpent
in the wilderness,*

*so must the Son of Man be lifted up:
that everyone who believeth in Him,*

may not perish, but may have life eternal.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but should have life eternal. For God sent not His Son into the world, to condemn the world; but that the world might live by His hand.



*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 magnificent accomplishments of the Jesuits throughout history are undeniable. The sixteenth-century Congregation established by Saint Ignatius of Loyola has worked wonders over the centuries and was prodigious in its apostolic work for the salvation of souls. It has been a great glory to the Catholic Church.

These wonders of grace were achieved by the formation the men received, especially in the first centuries of the Company's mission. Saint Ignatius developed the fundamental formation of his associates by modeling it on his own conversion experience and leading them through the process as he lived it at Manresa. This spiritual renovation became the "Spiritual Exercises", and, as developed by Saint Ignatius, it became the cornerstone of the Jesuits.

Properly speaking, the Exercises are done in a **Thirty-Day format**: one month of silence, prayer, penance, contemplation, conversion, and opening the spirit to the transformative charity of the Sacred Heart. The Exercises have been a monumental achievement both in the men who have followed them and in the recipients of their resulting apostolic endeavors. They worked untold wonders of grace over the centuries.

Having proven their value over five centuries by their incomparable support to those on the path of holiness, the Spiritual Exercises have been lauded by the popes of the twentieth century. Pope Pius XI dedicated an encyclical to the subject in **Mens Nostra**.³ The same pope also established the preaching of the Exercises for the Papal Household's retreats. On the fiftieth anniversary of this encyclical, Pope John Paul II stated that "the Christian is aided by the strong dynamism of the

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

³ December 20, 1929

Exercises to enter into the ambit of the thoughts of God, of His plans in order to trust in Him Who is Truth and Love, and thus to make decisions committed to the following of Christ, considering clearly his gifts and his own responsibilities".⁴

To those who may not have a full month to retreat into silence and prayer, these same Exercises can be done in a five-day format that has been tried and true for over a century. Monday through Friday, the Exercises lay the groundwork and establish the structure that aid a man not only in his ongoing conversion to the Lord, they spur him on in a more serious pursuit of holiness. They also teach him **how to pray** and how to be subtly docile in the recognition and discernment of the spirits at work in their lives and in the world, both good and evil. The Exercises encourage the Catholic to pursue wisdom and to construct his life in a better form for the future. They sustain him afterward as he re-enters the world in the midst of its noise, distractions, confusion, and disorientation.

In short, the Spiritual Exercises give a man the weapons and armor necessary to truly live the Christian life of the Gospel, to seek the glory of God with courage, and to fortify his intent upon the true development, healing, and salvation of his own soul. The Exercises set a man more firmly on an honest path to pursue goodness and virtue as goals, and to accomplish good for his neighbor – all this directed to the greater glory of God, **AMDG**.

This Spring we will make a first essay into the realm of conversion, prayer, spiritual discernment, and the pursuit of wisdom under the tutelage of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. The Exercises are open to **all men who are at least 18-years-old**. They are scheduled for **May 9-13**, in Biddeford, at the **Marie Joseph Retreat Center**.

Pamphlets with further information and sign-up forms are available at the entrances of the church.

With men properly leading the way along the path of the Gospel (as God has created the sons of Adam to do) traversing the path of grace in triumph and

without fear, we can look forward to great things in the future under the providential guidance of the Hidden Father.

Trusting that this experiment will be a success, we will organize the same Exercises for women next year.

Take up the challenge, men, enter Manresa, and become the men of God that you are called to be. You will never regret the decision.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

January 23, 2022

Gal 3: 23-39 **St. John 3: 1-16**

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

January 30, 2022

Rom 7: 1-6 **St. John 4: 5-26**

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$2,634.00

(Budget Deficit 2022: \$1,936.00)⁵

Second Collection this week, January 23rd:
United States' Catholic Bishops'
Worldwide Charities

(This combines four collections:
*Central and Eastern Europe, the Church in Latin America,
the Church in Africa, and the Catholic Relief Services.*)

**An additional \$000.00 has come in this week
toward the needed construction collection of
\$39,000.00.⁶**

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

⁴ Angelus Address, December 16, 1979

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

⁶ 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.

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

A heartfelt “thank you” for your generosity to the pastor this Christmas season, for all the Masses, prayers, novenas offered, gift cards, books, baked goods, citrus, gifts, food, more gifts, and, well, even more food – this kindness is all the more noteworthy, appreciated, and outstanding in these difficult times.



May the Unending Dawn and Fragrance of Creation illumine your days and raise up your spirits into His radiant light all throughout this new year of grace!



INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 23 9:00am For the Members of the Parish
11:00am †Joe & Rachel Salazar
(Suzanne Paré)

Mon 24 -----
Tue 25 †Muriel Vigue
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
Wed 26 †Charles Blake
Thu 27 †Darrell Mitchell
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)
Fri 28 Emily Carlisi
(Gombojav Family)
Sat 29 †Mary Bellamah
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)
Sunday Vigil, 4:30 Private Intention
Sun 30 9:00am For the Members of the Parish
11:00am †Joseph & Ruth Bellamah
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)
Mon 31 -----
Tue 1 †Bernard Thomas
(Nicole & Michelle)
Wed 2 †Violet Elhilow
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)
Thu 3 †Wayne Thomas
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
Fri 4 †Albert & Rose Bellamah
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)
Sat 5 Lolo Salazar
(Steve & Allison Crate)
Sunday Vigil, 4:30 Private Intention
Sun 6 9:00am For the Members of the Parish
11:00am †John Marietta & Paul Thomas
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
Mon 7 -----
Tue 8 †Sam, Latifa, and George Deeb
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)
Wed 9 †Wayne Thomas
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
Thu 10 †Siblings of Paul Maroon
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)
Fri 11 Kathleen Baginski
(Abouna)

! مَلِكًا حَقِيقًا :Priest

Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

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

! هَوَّامٌ وَهَمًا وَمَكْرًا :People

W'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)

Third Sunday after Epiphany

p. 107

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *msheeHo natareh* 81A

Glory: SB *glory*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *bo'outho d'mor ya'qoub*
(Epiphany) 82

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns (Epiphany)*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'maryam yoldat*

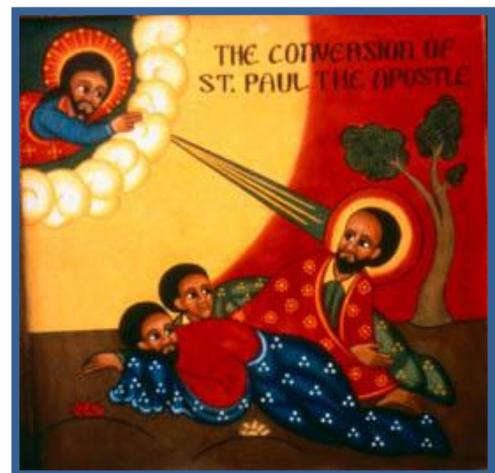
ANAPHORA:

Saint John Maron: p 897

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *O Lord I am not worthy; Seek ye*

Recessional: SB *We three Kings*



The Conderision of Saint Paul⁷

January 25th

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Jan	23	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Jan	30	Sue Paré & Lolo Salazar
Sun	Feb	6	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Feb	13	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sun	Feb	20	Dean & MaryAnn Carter
Sun	Feb	27	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Mar	6	Michael & Gayle Misner

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, Maureen Martin, Fr. Bill Bartoul, Margaret Mae Lambert, Mary Theresa Huebner, Mary Morin, Larry Grard, Sarah Grace Misner-Elias, Catherine Mandel, Cindy Elias, David Bourque, Barbara Joseph, Madeleine Dombroski, Sally Derosby, Tala Poulin, Richard Karter, Lolo Salazar, Charlotte Iserbyte, Rita Hikel, and all those who may suffer from illness, disease, want, or depression.

⁷ This is a pleasant example of Ethiopian iconography

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

January 23rd:

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

January 30th:

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

February 6th:

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

February 13th:

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

February 20th:

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

February 27th:

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

As the **Ascent of Our Lord to His Temple** (February 2nd, aka *The Presentation*) coincides with the Wednesday of this year, the Fast of the Ninevites will encompass only Monday, **January 31st** and Tuesday, **February 1st**.

This fast was first instituted in the seventh century by **Mar Sabrisho**, bishop of Beit Garmai,⁸ who ordered the three days of prayer and fasting in response to an epidemic that had ravaged his eparchy. Later, these penitential days became universal practice throughout the Syriac Churches.

Fasting *elevates* the spirit and *cleanses* the mind, as well as *purifying* the body. It fosters a healthy spirit of **repentance** and calls down upon us the grace of God. It strengthens the mind to focus first to the things of God, and to relegate the concerns of this earth to their proper place – subordinated to the things of God. In the Gospel, our Lord speaks to Nicodemus about a new life of grace and of baptism, and He asks rhetorically whether the one who does not properly judge the things of earth can ever come to understand the things of heaven.

A clouded intellect is never disposed to know the things of God, and worldly ignorance blinds the mind to divine realities; so, we fast.

Fasting norms:

We are reminded by our Patriarch that “a fast” is **to go without all foods from midnight to noon**, after which we abstain from all flesh meat and all dairy products – this then is similar to a “vegan” menu, as one would call it these days.

These traditional observances are **for all who have attained the age of the use of reason**.

Fast of the Ninevites

Within the Syriac tradition, both east and west, during the first days of the final week following the Epiphany, and coming just before the weeks commemorating the dead, we observe *The Supplication of the Ninevites*. This is a transitional fast on *Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday* that moves us from the festivities surrounding the Glorious Nativity and Denho toward the Great Lenten Fast that approaches.

⁸ Region east of the Tigris in north central area of what is today Iraq. Christianity flourished there very early. In 318 two brothers, *Adurpawa* and *Mihrnarsé*, with their sister *Mahdoukh*, were martyred there. In the **fifth century**, under King Yezdegerd II (438-57), the "History of the city of Beit-

Slokh" makes mention of hundreds and thousands of martyrs slain in this city (Moesinger, *Monumenta Syriaca*, II). The "Synodicon Orientale" (Paris, 1902, 674) mentions nine metropolitans of Beit-Slokh who assisted at various councils between 410 and 612.

Extract from the Catholic Encyclopedia, 1913