

# Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



## The Visitation of the Holy Mother of God to Elizabeth

**November 27, 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>  
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*"For us, the men and women of the East are a symbol of the Lord Who comes again."* *Oriente 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*

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### This Day's Epistle<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 1: 1-14

Paul, a *legate* of Jesus the Messiah by the pleasure of God, to them who are at Ephesus, sanctified, and believing in Jesus the Messiah:

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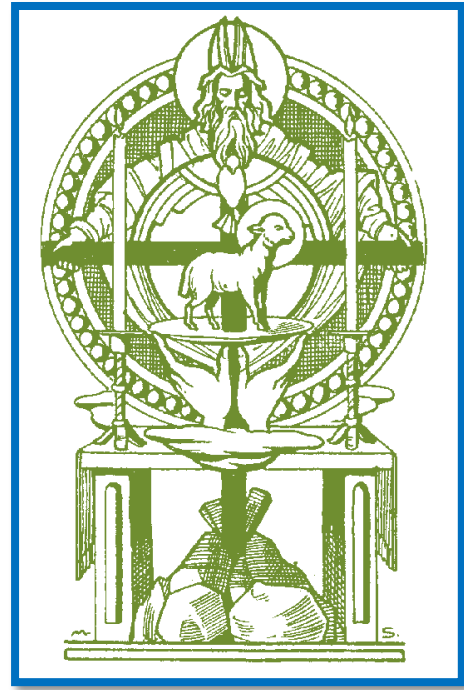
<sup>1</sup> Based on *The New Testament, translated from the Syriac Peshitto Version*, Gorgias Press, New Jersey, 2001, translated by James Murdock, STD, 1893

Peace be with you, and grace from God our Father, and from our Lord Jesus the Messiah. Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus the Messiah, Who hath blessed us with all blessings of the Spirit in Heaven, by the Messiah:

according as He had previously *chosen* us in Him, before the foundation of the world, that we might be holy and without blame before Him;  
and, in charity, predestinated us for Himself; and adopted us for sons, in Jesus the Messiah, as was agreeable to His pleasure:  
that the glory of His grace might be glorified, which He poured upon us by His Beloved One; by Whom we have *redemption*,  
and the forgiveness of sins by His Blood, according to the riches of His grace, which hath abounded in us,  
in all wisdom and all spiritual understanding.

And He hath made us know the Mystery of His pleasure, which He had before determined in Himself to accomplish,  
in the dispensation of the fullness of times; that all things might again be made new in the Messiah, things in heaven and on earth.

And in Him we *are elected*,  
according as He *predestined* us and willed, Who worketh all things  
according to the counsel of His pleasure; that we should be they  
who first hoped in the Messiah,  
to the honor of His glory.  
In Whom, ye also have heard the word of truth, which is the Gospel of your *life*,  
and have believed in Him;  
and have been sealed with the Holy Spirit, Who was promised,  
Who is the earnest of our inheritance,  
until the redemption of them that are *alive*,  
and for the praise of His glory.



*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>

## **ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS**

It is clear that the Creative Spirit of God is at work among us. Hearts having been touched, there are profound conversions taking place among many in our midst. It is a beautiful thing to behold, and we must be grateful before such divine generosity. Would to God all our hearts be conformed to the Sacred Heart in His fullness.

When we understand the depth of the Church's teaching on the Mystical Body, it is striking to see that all things come through Mary. The baptized members of Christ make up one mystical person with Him, and this is why His Death and Resurrection can become our own. Only by entrance into the Mystery of Christ – hidden from the foundation of the world – can the individual

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

find salvation. This is the meaning of Saint Paul in his Letter to the Galatians. The Promise of Life was made to Abraham, but its fulfillment and perfection was given to “the Seed” Who is Christ. The Divine Logos entered the world through Mary, in the fullness of time, and being born of a woman came under the Law of Israel; but the Law was turned inside out by this action so that Faith might be revealed and the Life promised so many centuries beforehand might be made manifest.

The Incarnation, and thus the fulfillment of the Promise, was accomplished through the free collaboration of Mary of Nazareth. Christ and His members, those who have “put on Christ”<sup>3</sup> in Baptism and faith, form together but one single Mystical Person. “In Christ” then one finds healing and salvation. The oneness of this mystical person is the reason that Christ could suffer for all men and expiate the sin of the world – sin which He Himself never committed. This expiation then is applied to the individual who converts, embraces faith, and is baptized into the One Body. And through Mary this Body of Christ came to be.

The Church is called the Body and the Plenitude of Christ.<sup>4</sup> Hence, when the Son of God, the Divine Logos, presented Himself to the Blessed Virgin in the Annunciation, He did so with all those souls destined to receive Life in Him. The Blessed Virgin, in receiving the Power of the Most High (conceived in her stainless womb) thus received all the elect along with the One Who was to be born of her as the Messiah. In this fundamental understanding Mary is the Mother of all, and Mother of the Church.

Christ and Mary are indissociable: to find the One is to find the other, even as to come into the hands of Mother of God is to come into the saving Presence of the Christ. The simple narrative of the Visitation recounts this mystery of Presence, that is, the Mystery of the Church.

We note in the Visitation that it is the presence of the Mother of God in the home of her kinswoman which carries revelation, sanctification, and joy. The Forerunner is roused in the presence of the Spirit of Holiness, he recognizes before his birth the Messiah, and to his mother revelation is given to

recognize the “Mother of my Lord”, and thus the Lord Himself present in her home.

That the Blessed Virgin is Mother of the Living is true whether one recognizes it or not, but it is only in recognition that that Life takes root. To believe the teachings of the Church establishes the *link* to eternal life, but it is only in the response of faith, and in the acknowledging acts of worship, that that Life can *flourish*. The Mother of God is the true Mother of the Christian soul. To understand the Blessed Virgin, then, one must understand the doctrine of the Mystical Body.

It is by Mary that Christianity came to the world, and it is thus through her that all our actions are made Christian acts. Without Mary, therefore, none of this is possible.

To believe, but not to worship, or enter the Mysteries, or pray, is to be a person *who lives without memory*. She says one thing, but lives in another way, without connection to those revealed truths. A senile resident in a nursing home may be in the presence of her grandchildren and yet remember none of them. The reality is there, but there is no conscious and vital connection. This is the state of the Christian who says she believes, but who does not worship, does not adore, and does not pray.

It is not our acknowledgement that makes Mary our Mother; she is so whether we know this or not, whether we believe this or not, but without this knowledge we are in effect orphans: ignorant and lost as to our purpose in life. The Mother of God remains always faithful, with her Son, even in the face of repudiation, ignorance, or thoughtlessness; but the life of grace that only she can offer becomes part of our life only to the degree that we consciously receive it. The life of holiness enters our veins as it were in proportion as those veins expand to receive that life blood of salvation.

The more that we collaborate in the work of Christ’s redemption, the more that we receive life eternal. Salvation and holiness require complete cooperation with *Jesus through Mary*.

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<sup>3</sup> Galatians 3: 27

<sup>4</sup> Ephesians 1: 23

The hand of the Mother of God becomes more and more evident in our parish. She is moving many hearts, sometimes through sorrow, but always in a way that “thoughts may be revealed”.<sup>5</sup>



There are a number of parishioners who have asked that the **rosary be recited publicly**, as a parish, each month. This is a beautiful idea, and, as with every endeavor, when we have the teamwork of persons to take leadership we shall do so. It will have to begin precisely at **10:30am** on Sunday. For the moment, **Suzanne Paré** has stepped forward to be among those who will lead these Sunday prayers and the “crown of roses”.

Anyone interested in honoring the Mother of God in this way can contact Sue so their name can be added to the list of leaders. When we have, minimally, at least two other volunteers to lead the prayers, we will begin to have the Rosary recited publicly on the first, third, and (when occurring) the fifth Sunday of the month. The minimum of three names will be scheduled and listed in the bulletin in the same way that we do with the young men who serve the divine altar.

Another Marian endeavor of life being established in the parish is a **Praesidium of the Legion of Mary**. This organized and apostolic life of the laity within the Church has shown its vibrancy and fruitfulness for over a century now. We will begin on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, **December 8<sup>th</sup>**, following the Mass of the day.

The first weeks of praesidium meetings will be dedicated to our consecration to the Holy Spirit through the hands of Mary according to the teachings of Saint Louis de Montfort. All are welcome to attend. For some this will be a renewal of their consecration, and for others this will be an initiation into the stunningly beautiful world of divine life consciously lived through the hands of the Mother of God.

This will be a month-long preparation, hence the first weeks will be hour-long meetings to cover the teachings of the saint, develop our Syriac understanding of Mary, and prepare our hearts by the prayers Saint Louis de Montfort so wisely taught.

The first meeting will be on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, but each subsequent meeting will be on Fridays, following the morning Divine Liturgy: **December 16, 23, 30**, and so on.

We will make the **Consecration to the Holy Spirit in the hands of Mary** on the great Solemnity of the **Epiphany** on **Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**.

After the Epiphany, the Praesidium will have its hour-and-a-half meetings each Friday to develop the apostolic life and work of the parish. Anyone interested in this labor of Marian love should contact **Ira Mandel** for more information.

The Creative Spirit stirred over the abyss in the first creation, and so He descended in the new creation overshadowing the Holy Virgin of Nazareth bringing forth the Savior of the World; He enlightens us in the holiness of faith; He initiates us into the Promise of Life; He overshadows us in His sacred hovering in the Epiclesis and the Divine Qourban; He transforms us in all the Divine Mysteries; and now He asks us to take steps forward, to embrace holiness, model our lives on the New Eve, and manifest His transforming grace to the world. Could any vocation be more loveable?

Will we all respond generously to such a call of charity?

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<sup>5</sup> St. Luke 2: 35



*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!*

### **SCHEDULE OF READINGS**

#### **THE VISITATION OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD TO ELIZABETH**

November 27, 2022

**Eph 1: 1-14**

**St. Luke 1: 39-45**

#### **THE NATIVITY OF JOHN, THE FORERUNNER**

December 4, 2022

**Gal 4: 21 - 5: 1**

**St. Luke 1: 57-66**

## **The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**



**Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>:**

**5:30pm Ramsho and  
Vigil Liturgy**

**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>:**

**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!*

## VOCATION ICON

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

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
Sun	Jan	8	Ira & Catherine Mandel

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection Last Two Weeks: \$5,561.00

(Budget Deficit 2022: \$34,554.00)<sup>6</sup>

November 13<sup>th</sup>, Special Collection for the  
**Maronite Patriarchal Charities: \$ 697.00**

(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: **\$11,035.00<sup>7</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 27 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph  
11:00am †Darrell Mitchell  
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

<sup>6</sup> Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59/Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00/Deficit 2021:  
\$35,178.00

<sup>7</sup> The next twelve-month contract for heating oil is set to cost  
over **\$30,000.00**. The projected cost for these heat-pumps

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)

Sat 10 Saturday, 10:00 am  
Gayle Misner-Elias  
(Michael Misner-Elias)

**No Sunday Vigil**

Sun 11 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph  
11:00am Tony Miklaszewski  
(Virginia Miklaszewski)

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

Mon 12 -----  
 Tue 13 †Lolo Salazar  
 (Audrey Yotides)  
 Wed 14 †Albert & Rose Bellamah  
 (Paul & Stephen Maroon)  
 Thu 15 Angelica Gosselin  
 (Jodi Gosselin)  
 Fri 16 Kayla Mandel  
 (Ira & Catherine Mandel)

! مَحْلًا حَضْرَةً :Priest

*Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!*

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

! هَحْمَرُ وَهَسَا وَحُرْ :People

*w'am rouHoh deelokh!*

(literally: and with spirit your!)

*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 27<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: C. Gombojav / N. Carter  
 11:00am: S. Nappi / I. Gombojav

### December 4<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: M. Carter / A. Michaud  
 11:00am: J. Gamble / P. Carter

### December 11<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: C. Gombojav / N. Carter  
 11:00am: I. Gombojav / S. Nappi

### 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

## The Visitation of the Holy Mother of God to Elizabeth

p. 38

**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

**PRE-ANAPHORA:**

**Transfer of Gifts:** LB *The Lord Reigns*

**Incense Hymn Offertory:** SB *I'maryam yoldat*

**ANAPHORA:**

**Saint John the Evangelist:** p 815

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

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

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

## Calling all Volunteers!



**In Preparation for the Glorious Nativity, the generous of heart will make a thorough and deep cleaning of the church to beautify the House of God**

**(bring your buckets and your favorite cleaning tools)**

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**, following the 10:00 am Saturday Mass, to be organized by our indomitable sacristans.

Contact Sue Paré for further details.

As a result, there will be **no Sunday Vigil** Liturgy on that day.

After 12 years of an interminable Calvary, the Syrian people have descended into silence .... It is a silence which says much about the suffering of the heart. Whilst listening to this silence it is possible to read on people's sad faces just what they are suffering:

- 1) A melancholy look: this replaces their former joy in life and shows all the weight they are carrying with this never-ending crisis.
- 2) A worried look: which reflects the different shortages - of fuel, of electricity, of bread, of medicines, of gas, of petrol - and the time they are obliged to queue for things 24/24.
- 3) A look of uncertainty: thinking about the lost future, all the blockades, and the indifference of the world which appears to have forgotten Syria.
- 4) A look of worry of the future: caused by the dispersion of families to the 4 corners of the world, ready to be drowned on these paths of exodus.
- 5) A look of distress: because of the fall in value of the local money, inflation, rise in prices, a rapid lack of available jobs or work, poverty and suffering which has no foreseeable end.

*Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord!*  
*Ps. 129*

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***A Letter from Damascus***  
***Listening to the silence:***

Announcements 2022

+*Samir Nassar*

Maronite Archbishop of Damascus





# *Saint Andrew*

Apostle

November 30<sup>th</sup>