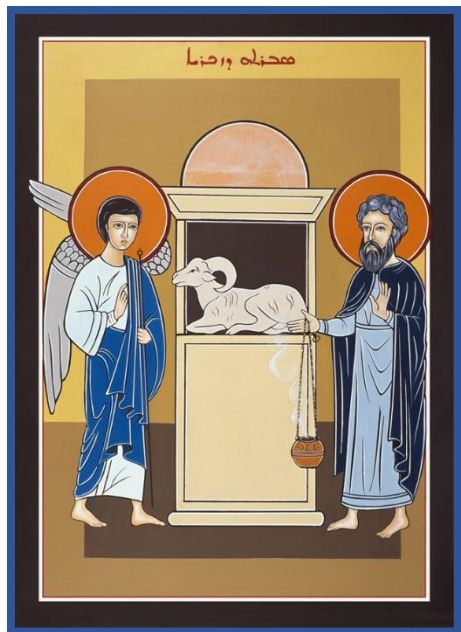


# Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



## Announcement to Zechariah

November 19, 2023

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful heritage of Antioch

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

**Pastor:** Rev. Fr. James Doran, KCHS

**Subdeacon:** Mr. Stephen Crate

**Website:** <http://www.sjmaronite.org>

**e-mail:** [MarYoussef3@outlook.com](mailto:MarYoussef3@outlook.com)

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*"Be zealous to assemble more frequently to celebrate Eucharist ... for when you meet frequently, the powers of Satan are destroyed and danger from him is dissolved in the harmony of your faith."*<sup>1</sup>

**Qourboneh:** Sunday: (Vigil, Sat. 4:30pm) Sunday Morning 10:00a.m.; Tues. – Fri. 9:00a.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 \$40; Altar Bread \$35; Sacramental Wine \$55

**Catechism:** Steve Crate, Director    **Legion of Mary:** Sir Ira Mandel, KHS, President    **Pastoral Council Chair:**

**Choir:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG, Director Emerita    **Almoner:** Ruth Lunn

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### This Day's Gospel<sup>2</sup>

#### Saint Luke 1: 1-25

Because many have desired  
to write accounts of those events  
of which we have become fully convinced,  
just as they were handed down to us

by those who from the first  
were eyewitnesses and ministers  
of that very word,  
it seemed to me,  
being carefully acquainted with it all,  
that I should write everything down for you  
in an orderly manner,

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<sup>1</sup> Letter to the Ephesians, 6: 13, Saint Ignatius of Antioch

<sup>2</sup> Based on The Syriac-English New Testament, Gorgias Press, New Jersey, 2020, ed. George A. Kiraz

O most excellent Theophilus,  
so that you may know the truth of the words  
with which you have been instructed.

In the days of King Herod of Judaea,  
there was a certain priest named Zechariah,  
from the priestly division  
of the house of Abijah.  
His wife was also one  
of the daughters of Aaron;  
her name was Elizabeth.

Both of them were righteous before God,  
walking blamelessly in all His commandments  
and in the uprightness of the Lord,  
but they had no child  
because Elizabeth was barren,  
and they were both *great in their days*.

Now it happened  
while he was serving as priest before God  
*in the order of his ministry*,  
it fell to him, in keeping with the custom of the  
priesthood, to offer the incense;  
so he entered the Temple of the Lord.

All the assembly of the people  
was praying outside  
at the time of the burning of the incense.

And an angel of the Lord  
appeared to Zechariah,  
standing at the right side  
of the Altar of Incense.  
When Zechariah saw him, he was disturbed,  
and *fear fell upon him*.

Then the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid,  
Zechariah, because your prayer has been  
heard, and your wife Elizabeth shall bear you a  
son. You shall call his name 'John'.  
You will have joy and delight, and many will  
rejoice at his birth, for he shall be great before  
the Lord.

He will not drink wine or liquor,  
and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit  
even while in his mother's womb.

He shall turn many of the children of Israel  
towards the Lord their God,  
going before Him in the spirit and power  
of the prophet Elijah,  
to turn the hearts of the fathers  
toward their children,  
and the disobedient  
to the knowledge of the just,  
preparing a perfect people for the Lord."

Zechariah said to the angel, "How may I know  
this, since I am an old man,  
and my wife is *great in her days*?"

"I am Gabriel," the angel answered him.  
"I stand before God and have been sent  
to speak with you  
and declare these good tidings to you.

From now on you shall be silent and unable to  
speak, until the day when these things shall  
come to pass, because you have not believed  
these words of mine,  
which shall be fulfilled in their proper time."

Now the people were standing and expecting  
Zechariah, wondering why he remained so  
long in the Temple.

When Zechariah had come out, he could not  
speak to them; and they understood that he  
had seen a vision in the Temple. He kept  
making signs to them, but he remained  
speechless.

When the days of his service had finished,  
he went to his home. And it happened after  
that time that his wife Elizabeth became  
pregnant.

For five months she secluded herself, saying,  
"The Lord had done this for me, in the days  
when He has regarded me, taking away my  
disgrace from among the people."



*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>3</sup>

## **ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS**

### **Death, a supported departure**

#### **Part III**

Beauty attracts; truth satisfies; and light expels shadow. The Lord God draws to Himself all creation by life, beauty, truth, and love. Grace allows intelligent creatures to respond and enter His love.

When there is something of value before us, a thing that is both attainable and worthy of pursuit, we desire it. This is normal and the appropriate reaction.

Anything of worth takes effort to acquire. All serious endeavors require preparation. In the

modern world, we spend at least eighteen years trying to prepare for a responsible adult life – for some that preparation might continue even further by ongoing formation and studies, sometimes another eight or ten years, finishing their goal “to begin”<sup>4</sup> only at about the age of thirty.

Physically we are free, however, to pursue a goal or not. At times, the amount of effort needed to attain some objective itself may discourage a person.

What motivates us then? What inspires our labor?

All things are done for a final goal, or ultimate purpose.<sup>5</sup> What motivates us sets our course, and our choices put us on specific paths. While we *are* free to make choices, we are not able to choose the results that follow. Each fork in the road puts us on a new path.

So it is, that what we choose, and thus *how* we act, depends fundamentally on each of us alone.

Throughout our lives we are continually confronted with the questions of how desirable is any given goal? And following upon that, then how much effort are we willing to put into attaining it?

For Catholics, this is why there are the *Sacraments* and the *Liturgical Year*. This is something for us to consider as we enter once again into a new Liturgical Year with the *Consecration of the Church*. The liturgical life and the sacred Mysteries form us as Catholics, develop us as the children of God, and make us heirs of the eternal Kingdom of Light. Without them it is impossible to be so formed.

Even as a person who may not will, or be able, to put in the long years of studying medicine will never be a physician, so the individual who will not participate in the sacred formation and pedagogy of the Church's life will never enter into the Kingdom of God – short of a miracle. We are created as radically free beings and our voluntary collaboration with grace is necessary in order to live the divine life of Christ.

<sup>3</sup> Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”

<sup>4</sup> “Commencement”

<sup>5</sup> It is said, philosophically, that the “end” is the “cause of all causes”.

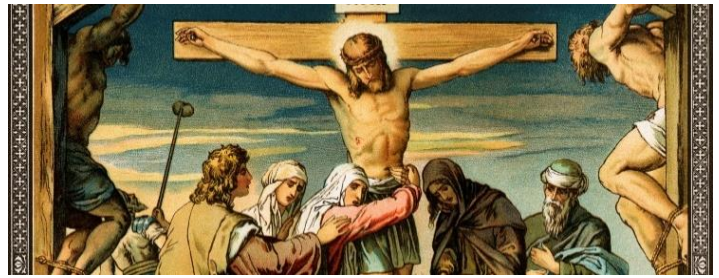
No one is brought into salvation without his will and choice to do so.

Even as we must prepare for an adult life in this world, the life of true permanence in God also requires maturity; and the path itself matures us.

*O Lord our God, make us worthy  
of Thy Dawn that does not pass away,  
of Thy Light that never dims,  
and of Thy eternal Kingdom with all the saints,  
who have labored in Thy vineyard  
from morning until night.  
To Thee be glory, now and forever. Amen.<sup>6</sup>*

The peace and grace of God offered to us, *shlomoh*, is wholeness and well-being, but it is our free choice that carries us forward into that healing. Grace offers, and finally brings us into, the “fullness of Christ”.<sup>7</sup> It elevates us into the fullness of being true disciples of the Christ and heirs of God. This is why the weekly Divine Sacrifice of the Eucharist on Sunday – the *Alohooyo Qourbonoh* – the frequent reception of the Divine Mysteries, and consciously observing the Church’s liturgical year are so essential to Christianity: they form us into mature disciples prepared to enter the Kingdom of Light at the end of our days. They are also the *easiest* means to attain that goal.

Death comes to all, but even before it arrives definitively it often shadows our days. At the end of years following Our Lord, we will be asked to come and join Him in the divine Light. It is for this reason that we were given in the Church the **Holy Rozoh<sup>8</sup> of Anointing**.



The Mystery of Anointing fundamentally heals as it prepares for union with God. It is administered to a baptized person who is in danger of death from internal causes. Although often referred to as such, in itself it is not what is called “Last Rites” – which are rather the Holy Viaticum and Apostolic Blessing – and it should not be postponed until the last minute when the person is actually dying. This would be inappropriate and not allow the person to consciously participate in the sacred rite. Also, it should be noted, the secondary purpose of this Sacrament is to restore physical health to the one who receives it if God’s Providence deems a further extension of time beneficial to the person’s well-being and spiritual health. For all these reasons, there is no mention of “death” in the administration of this Sacred Rozoh.

The sacred oil (“oil of the sick”) used in this sacrament is made solely from olives. Anointing is of course the fundamental notion in the title we give to the Savior of the world: *Messiah, Christ* – “the Anointed”; and through baptism and anointing we are made members of the Body of Christ and are individually conformed to Him in character and image. Once a year, near end of Lent, the eparchial bishop blesses the sacred oil used for the Sacred Rozoh of Anointing. Thus, a single holy oil throughout the eparchy, in each of the parishes, is used to anoint us all into the one Mystical Christ.

<sup>6</sup> Monday, *Safro*, Opening Prayer.

<sup>7</sup> Ephesians 4; 13

<sup>8</sup> Originally a Persian word for the directives of the Shah, this was adopted by the Churches of the East as an apt expression for the Mysteries of Grace that reveal to us the great workings of the true King of Heaven. Thus we use three terms for the divine Channels of Grace instituted by our God and Savior,

and they each highlight an aspect of the redemptive work of the Church: **Sacrament** (Latin), refers to the outer sacredness of the ceremony; **Mystery** (Greek) emphasizes the inner invisible and inviolable grace conferred in the ceremony; and, **Rozoh** (Persian) indicates that these channels of grace are individual revelations of God’s providence and His divine touch within the souls of each person.



This divine Mystery wipes away spiritual scars and purifies us for the future vision of divine Light. In this Rozoh, each of the senses is anointed in order to purify them of past sins and dispose them to receive the Light of God should it be our time to leave this valley of tears.

The grace of this Sacrament is to restore the garment of paradise and prepare the person for immortality. It immediately consecrates the individual in **conformity to the crucified Christ during the duration of the illness**. It also fulfills the prayer of the *Sedro* in Sunday Morning Saffro:

*O Skillful One, by Thy grace  
renew our features marred by the corruption of sin  
and sculpt us as Thine image ...  
adorn our bodies with immortality;  
clothe us with the raiment of glory  
that we may see Thee in the Light.  
We beseech Thee, O true Spouse,  
prepare us for the joy of the Heavenly Kingdom  
along with our fathers and mothers,  
brothers and sisters, our teachers,  
and all who have died in the Faith ....*

The remote preparation to receive this Sacrament was mentioned above – fidelity to the Catholic life in general, in the Sacraments and in the Liturgical Year – but the immediate preparation for this Mystery is done by properly setting up the person's room where the Sacrament is to be received. Even more importantly, the invalid person should dispose himself well to grace by a good confession in the Mystery of Penance.

The physical arrangement and preparation was described in a previous bulletin about a month ago. Next week, in the fourth part of this series, the bulletin will reprint that previous description, along with the further particulars to be had at hand for the correct and dignified reception of this great Mystery.

May the eternally Compassionate One grant that each of us be able to receive all the divine Mysteries of His Charity. May each of us have the time, will, and determination to collaborate with grace – while there is still time – and then to receive all that His Mercy has foreseen to strengthen us along this path as His faithful disciples.

The **sanctuary lamp** for November has been donated in memory of **Lucas Thomas** by **Mom, Dad, and Jack**



*May she receive light, peace, and joy  
in the fulness of the Kingdom*



*After the Divine Mysteries,  
at 10:00am,  
there is a gathering in the  
parish hall for coffee and freshly  
baked muffins on the **second**  
and **fourth Sunday** of each  
month, October through May.*

### Schedule of Leaders for the Recitation of the Rosary at **9:30 am** on the **first, third,** and **fifth** Sundays of each month:



Sun	Nov 19	Jeanne Thomas
Sun	Dec 3	Diane Wyder
Sun	Dec 17	Ira Mandel
Sun	Dec 31	Jody Lachance
Sun	Jan 7	Lorenzo Michaud
Sun	Jan 21	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Feb 4	Patrick Carter



## Schedule of Readings

### ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZECHARIAH

November 19, 2023

**Rom 4: 13-25      St. Luke 1: 1-25**

### ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE EVER-VIRGIN MARY

November 26, 2023

**Gal 3: 15-22      St. Luke 1: 26-38**

## VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Nov	<b>19</b>	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Nov	<b>26</b>	Anne Marie Mathieu
Sun	Dec	<b>3</b>	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Dec	<b>10</b>	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Dec	<b>17</b>	Ira & Catherine Mandel
Sun	Dec	<b>24</b>	Maureen Martin
Sun	Dec	<b>31</b>	Dean & MaryAnn Carter

*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:** Maeve Coughlin, Nancy Fairfield, Mary, Joseph, and Doreen Nader, Ruth Lunn, Joyce Black, Stephen Michaud, Dame Fefa, Paula Mitchell, Sheila Bonenfant, Gareth Belton, Katrina Nappi, Holly Perron, Christian Disuag, Daja Gombojav, Margaret Mae Lambert, Mary Morin, Larry Grard, Sarah Grace Misner-Elias, Barbara Joseph, Sally Derosby, Tala Poulin, Richard Karter, Rita Hikel, and all those who may suffer from illness, disease, want, or depression.

## INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

**Sun 19 10:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph**

**Mon 20 -----**

**Tue 21 Filomena Renay Trosten**  
(Abouna)

**Wed 22 Nicholas Family**  
(Mary Nicholas)

**Thu 23 †Charlotte Iserbyte**  
(Mary Nicholas)

**Fri 24 †Joe & Rachel Salazar**  
(Suzanne Paré)

**Sat 25 10:00 Arnie Filipi**  
(Michael Eagan)

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

**Sun 26 10:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph**

**Mon 27 -----**

**Tue 28 †Darrell Mitchell**  
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

**Wed 29 †Marie M. Arbour**  
(Suzanne Paré)

**Thu 30 Sara & Younes Younes**

**Fri 1 Michael Martin**  
(Maureen Martin)

**Sat 2 10:00 Nicholas Family**  
(Mary Nicholas)

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

**Sun 3 10:00am †Lucas Thomas**  
(Mom, Dad, and Jack)

**Mon 4 -----**

**Tue 5 Michael Martin**  
(Maureen Martin)

**Wed 6 Nicholas Family**  
(Mary Nicholas)

**Thu 7 †Anthony Jabar, Sr**  
(Sr. Michele, OSC)

**6:00pm Ramsho and Vigil  
of the Immaculate Conception  
Parishioners of Saint Joseph**

**Fri 8 10:00am †Roland Pelletier  
(Paula & Larry Mitchell)**

**Sat 9 10:00 Nicholas Family  
(Mary Nicholas)**

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



*The Altar Wine  
for the month of November  
has been offered  
that the Divine Sacrifice  
bring health and holiness to Ruth Lunn*

***SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR***

**November 19<sup>th</sup>:**

**10:00am: Lorenzo Michaud / Patrick Carter**

**November 26<sup>th</sup>:**

**10:00am: Nathanael Carter / Rocco Nappi**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

**10:00am: Michael Carter / River Gombojav**

**December 10<sup>th</sup>:**

**10:00am: Lorenzo Michaud / Ihbeleg Gombojav**

**December 17<sup>th</sup>:**

**10:00am: Rocco Nappi / Michael Carter**

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

**10:00am: Nathanael Carter / River Gombojav**

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

**10:00 am: Patrick Carter / Ihbeleg Gombojav**

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

**10:00am: Rocco Nappi / Michael Carter**

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

**(Budgeted weekly: \$3,500.00)**

**Regular Collection Last Week: \$2,248.00**

**(Running Budget Deficit, 2023: \$48,375.00)<sup>9</sup>**

**Collection for the Patriarchal Charities:  
\$279.00**

\*

**Revenue from the Fall Bazaar: \$3,582.00**

\*

*Many thanks to all for the success of these events  
and collections toward charity and those in need.*

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

**This month's fuel collection to date: \$135.00<sup>10</sup>**

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

<sup>9</sup> Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59 / Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00 / Deficit 2021: \$35,178.00 / Deficit 2022: \$29,423.00

<sup>10</sup> Jan: \$670.00 / Feb: \$345.00 / March: \$729.00 / April: \$30.00 / May: \$444.00 / June: \$405.00 / July: \$422.00 / August: \$548.00 / September: \$260.00 / October: \$587.00. Our annual propane costs for the kitchen: **\$800.00.**



The standing apostolic meeting of the **Praesidium Mary, Queen of the Clergy** is at **10:30am each Friday** in Saint Jude's chapel. All Legionaries must attend and all Auxiliaries are invited to do so.

All **men** and **women**, practicing Catholics, being called by the Holy Mother of God into this work of Catholic Action and Marian Apostolate may acquire more information from **Ira Mandel**, its president, or from its vice-president, **Daja Gombojav**.

!مُحَمَّدًا حَقِّقْهُ :Priest

***Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!***

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

!وَهُمْ وَهُمْ وَهُمْ :People

***w'am rouHoh deelokh!***

(literally: and with spirit your!)

## Announcement to Zechariah

p. 18

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

**Entrance Hymn:** LB *fsheeto p*

**Glory:** SB *al majdu*

**Qolo/Hymn:** LB *toobaik 'eedto p*

**Creed** p 748

**PRE-ANAPHORA:**

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

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

**ANAPHORA:**

**Saint James the Brother of the Lord:** p 794

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

**Communion:** SB *Father of Truth;  
Aboun d'b'shmayo*

**Recessional:** SB *Alleluia*



## Saint Catherine of Alexandria

*Martyr*

*November 24<sup>th</sup>*