

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Commemoration of the Deceased Priests

January 29, 2023

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful heritage of Antioch

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Waterville, ME 04901
Office Phone: 207-872-8515

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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* **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*; G, *Secretary*; Steve Crate, *Religious Education*; Ira Mandel, *Legion of Mary*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Almoner*; Judith Metzger, *Finance Committee*

THIS DAY'S EPISTLE¹ I Timothy 4: 6-16

If thou shalt inculcate these things
on thy brethren,
thou wilt be a good minister of *Jesus Messiah*,

being educated in the language of the faith,
and in the good doctrine which thou hast been
taught.

But the silly tales of old women, shun thou;
and occupy thyself with righteousness.

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

For, exercising the body is profitable a little while;
but righteousness is profitable in every way
and hath promise of the life of the present time
and of that to come.

This is a faithful saying,
and worthy of reception.

For on this account, we toil
and suffer reproach;
because we trust in the living God,
Who is *the life-giver* of all men,
especially of the believers.

These things teach and inculcate.

And let no one despise thy youth;
but be thou a pattern for the believers,
in speech, and in behavior, and in love,
and in faith, and in purity.

Until I come, be diligent in reading,
and in prayer, and in teaching.

Despise not the gift that is in thee,
which was given thee by prophecy,
and by *the laying on of the hand of eldership*.

On these things meditate;
give thyself wholly to them:
that it may be obvious to all
that thou makest advances.

Be attentive to thyself, and to thy teaching;
and persevere in them.

For in doing this,
thou wilt procure life to thyself
and to them who hear thee.



*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

We are blessed in *Beit Maron* to celebrate the Christian priesthood in such a unique way as we do with the **Week of Deceased Priests**. It is one of the most attractive practices of our Maronite Church. It exemplifies our monastic and sacerdotal history and appreciation as a Church.

In Christianity, there is only one priest, one only sacrifice. Our Lord is *the* Priest of the New Covenant and His Sacrifice on Calvary was accomplished only once for the redemption of a new humanity.³ Promised from the beginning in Eden, the Messiah was to restore friendship and intimacy between God and man.

The Messiah fulfilled the words of the prophets who had foretold His coming for over a millennium. He was announced as **priest, prophet, and king**, and all three of these "offices" or "tasks" come together in the one incarnate Person of Jesus Christ.

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

³ Hebrews 9: 12

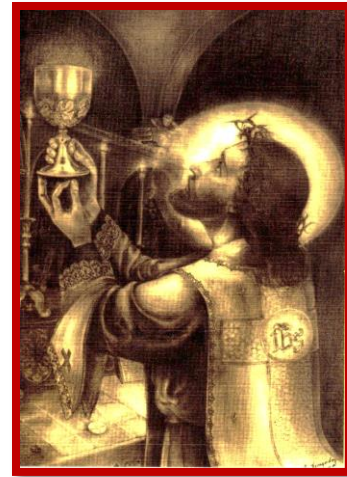
"Priest" is to sanctify, restore, and consecrate humanity to perfect union with the Divine and Infinite Persons. This a work purely of divine mercy and grace.

"Prophet" is to lead the free individual to this transcendent and redemptive union through teaching, illuminating the mind and spirit. The prophetic office re-orders and directs human life through instruction. Christianity leads and guides primarily by teaching.

All human societies require unity and order of purpose; this is the necessity of "authority". As an "author" is the source of an ordering and writing that gives the world writing and books, so "authority" within human societies is the source of ordering that gives purpose and goal within that social order. Perhaps better said, for social "oneness" to occur there must be a unified goal and purpose in a community, it is this that necessitates authority. Without a unified identity and goal, community would disintegrate with all parts pulling in different directions of purpose. Therefore, the office of **"king"** is part of the Christ and His work of redemption, by it He governs in good order the discipleship of the redeemed. His authority as "king" is shared out hierarchically within His Church.

Our Lord is Messiah as eternal **Sanctifier**, definitive **Teacher** of God, and benevolent **Ruler** of redeemed humanity in the Church, His Body. Moreover, He is King over creation as Creator of all and Victor over death, sin, and the devil by His Blood.

Our Lord's office as Sanctifier (priest) is the work of uniting mankind to God, and it is directly linked to the supreme offering of His life on Calvary. This Sacrifice's value is extended through time and space, applied to souls as merit and grace through the Alohoyo Qourbonoh and the other Divine Sacraments.



Terms should be clarified. In the first generations of the Church, the sacred writers avoided using the Hebrew word *cohen* (*cohno* in Syriac) to speak about the priests of the New Testament so as to avoid confusion in the minds of the faithful with the temporal sacrifices of the Law of Moses and the services of the Temple in Jerusalem. They chose rather to speak of their leaders as **"elders"** (possibly reflecting more the idea of the Sanhedrin in position) thus came about our word "priest".⁴

In English, the word *priest* is taken directly, but transformed (mutilated) over centuries of use, from *presbyter* in Greek meaning "elder". Such has been the extensive and fundamental presence of Catholicism in the Western world that this word *presbyter* eventually came to be applied in the opposite direction: all sacred office, even pagan, came to be called *priesthood*, although in English we have retained the Latin word *sacerdos*,⁵ using it in *sacerdotal* - "pertaining to priestly function". In this instance, *sacerdos* would be the Latin equivalent to the Hebrew *cohen*.

Only in God are authority and person identical. Only in the Word Incarnate is Priesthood - *what* He does - identical with *Who* He is as the God-Man. We call this incarnate reality and action of the Divine Logos *theandric* in His epiphanal incarnation. Every action of Our Lord even as man is an action of God. He is, in His incarnation, the union of God and man in His Person. By His incarnation, therefore, Our Lord is priest.

For all others, the authority of an office and the person who holds that authority are completely

⁴ Acts of the Apostles 15: 2

⁵ "the one who confers sacred things"

distinct. Office and authority can be natural or supernatural. In the natural order it is established in political power, and in the supernatural order it is established by God and His power.

The word *authority* is drawn ultimately from the Latin *auctoritas* meaning “advice, opinion, influence, or command”. It is used, for example, in “authoritative text” or “authorities” meaning that a specific text or powers or opinions are deemed credible and should be believed and followed. When we speak about authority in an office we mean the power that one exercises in that office to be heard, listened to, and followed in its directives.

Position, authority, and office, then, are not the same thing as the person who holds the office, and to exercise authority (contrary to contemporary opinion) is not the same thing as to be *authoritarian*. For those vested with responsibility and office, it is an obligation to exercise authority. Only when an office-holder identifies himself with the office, or sees himself as the source of that power, can one speak of him as “authoritarian”. This self-deception and authoritarianism can happen from either the “right” or the “left” politically.

The **Week of the Deceased Priests** is a time for us to honor all the men who have been consecrated over the centuries into the Eternal High-Priest, extending sacramentally His saving redemption. It is a time for us to reflect on this great work of salvation and to be grateful for these men’s vocational acceptance to embody the Apostolic Tradition and Faith by which we are saved, and in turn to pray for them.

Priesthood is **vocation** in the fullest sense of the word. It is the Lord Himself Who calls these men to His likeness and service in the **Divine Rozoh of Holy Orders** and He shares His Life with them in the most intimate manner possible. His words become their words, and His actions become their actions:

*O Christ, the Only Eternal Priest,
You wished to share Your priesthood
with those
whom You Yourself had chosen.*

*May those among them,
who repose in Your mercy,
having faithfully served You,
and fought the good fight,
obtain the reward of the good servant
and the faithful steward.⁶*

The men who are consecrated into the unique Priesthood of the Lord Jesus are like the wheat, grapes, bread, and wine that are consecrated into the Living Body and Blood of Our Lord in the Divine Eucharist. These men have been made instruments of His divine work and become His closest collaborators in order to bring eternal life to the world.⁷

As consecrated and conscious instruments of Wisdom Incarnate, Catholic priests occupy a divine office and exercise supernatural authority; they are not that authority themselves. This means that a man, by his ordination and consecration in the Divine Sacrament of Holy Orders, is *no longer a purely private individual*. By this Mystery, they are eternally transformed into the likeness of Christ the Priest in a unique manner; they are consecrated as “other Christs”, and as such *they occupy the offices of priest, prophet, and king* in order to shepherd the Flock in which they were baptized, from which they were called, and to which they belong.

Priesthood is the mystery of mysteries in Christianity. Being consecrated and anointed into the Incarnate Word Himself, priests are able to confect the Sacraments, feed the Flock, sanctify the spirit, edify the Inheritance, guide believers, and speak in His Name:

*The hands of priests
offered Your Sacrifice for sinners,
distributed Your Body and Blood
as food and drink;
on the Day of Your Second Coming,
may they bear palms and lighted lamps.*

*You have place Your word
in the mouths of Your priests,
entrusted them with Your praise,
and asked them to spread Your Truth;*

⁶ *‘Etro, Ramsho, Commemoration of Deceased Priests*

⁷ *You entrusted them with feeding Your Flock, and You sent them forth as Your Father had sent You. Sedro, Ramsho, Commemoration of Deceased Priests*

*thus, the faithful believers
have received Your Gospel.⁸*

Ordination makes them truly servants of Christ and *extensions of the Mystery of the Incarnation*. They are called to be faithful servants and stewards of the Mysteries of God.⁹

The **Week of Deceased Priests** is thus a time for us to honor the men who have gone before us, who gave their lives fully in order and in devotion to see that the Gospel of redemption continued and spread in and beyond their own generation, bringing life to the faithful in the Divine Rozeh.

We are heirs of that ordered and purposeful devotion. Let us pray for them now in grateful recognition.

*May the feet
which have tread the sanctuary
in all purity,
be with You in Paradise
on the Day of Resurrection!¹⁰*



Schedule of Leaders for the Recitation of the Rosary at 10:30 am:



Sun	Jan	29	Diane Wyder
Sun	Feb	5	Ira Mandel
Sun	Feb	19	Jody Lachance
Sun	Mar	5	Sava Nappi
Sun	Mar	19	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Apr	2	Jeanne Thomas

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Jan	29	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Feb	5	Anne Marie Mathieu
Sun	Feb	12	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Feb	19	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Feb	26	Ira & Catherine Mandel
Sun	Mar	5	Dean & MaryAnn Carter
Sun	Mar	12	Michael & Gayle Misner

Calling all Volunteers!



In our mid-winter blues, the generous of heart will make a thorough cleaning of the church **to beautify the House of God**

(bring your buckets and
your favorite cleaning tools)

Saturday, February 4th,
following the 10:00 am Saturday Mass,
organized by our indomitable sacristans.

Contact **Sue Paré** for further details.

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



The Sanctuary Lamp
burns in January
in memory of **Bob Derosby**
at the request
of Selwa Derosby.

May his memory be eternal!

⁸ *Bo'outhoh*, Ramsho, Commemoration of Deceased Priests

⁹ I Corinthians 4: 1-2

¹⁰ *Mazmouro*, Ramsho, Commemoration of Deceased Priests



*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: Joyce Black, Celina Knippling, Stephen Michaud, Dame Fefa, Kevin J. Michaud, Sheila Bonenfant, Gareth Belton, Katrina Nappi, Holly Perron, Christian Disuag, Daja Gombojav, Margaret Mae Lambert, Mary Morin, Larry Grard, Sarah Grace Misner-Elias, Cindy Elias, Barbara Joseph, Sally Derosby, Tala Poulin, Richard Karter, Rita Hikel, and all those who may suffer from illness, disease, want, or depression.



*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.*

Schedule of Readings

COMMEMORATION OF THE DECEASED PRIESTS

January 29, 2023

I Tim 4: 6-16 St. Luke 12: 42-48

COMMEMORATION

OF ALL THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE JUST

February 5, 2023

Hebrews 12: 18-24 St. Matthew 25: 31-46

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 29 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph

11:00am Joyce Black
(Mary Nicholas)

Mon 30 -----

Tue 31 †Bernard Thomas
(Nicole and Michelle)

Wed 1 Bob Lenarcik
(Ira & Catherine Mandel)

Thu 2 Chorbishop Joseph Kaddo
(Abouna)

Fri 3 Leslie Lenarcik
(Ira & Catherine Mandel)

Sat 4 Saturday, 10:00 am
†Faithful Departed of St. Joseph
(Audrey Yotides)

No Sunday Vigil

Sun 5 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph
11:00am Yvette Begin
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Mon 6 -----

Tue 7 Isaac Misner-Elias
(Gayle Misner-Elias)

Wed 8 Lindsay Lenarcik
(Ira & Catherine Mandel)

5:30pm Ramsho
and Vigil of Our Father Saint Maron
Private Intention

Thu 9 **10:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph**
 (Abouna)
 Fri 10 **Joyce Black**
 (Mary Nicholas)
 Sat 11 **Saturday, 10:00am**
Tony Miklaszewski
 (Virginia Miklaszewski)
4:30pm Sunday Vigil
 Private Intention
 Sun 12 **9:00am Bishop Gregory**
 (Paula & Larry Mitchell)
No 11:00am Liturgy
 Mon 13 -----
 Tue 14 †**Gary Violette**
 (Pam & Dan Casavant)
 Wed 15 †**Betty Serwin**
 (Jodi Gosselin)
 Thu 16 **Abouna**
 Fri 17 **Mary Nicholas**
 (Mary Nicholas)

Marfaa!



**Mardi Gras
Celebration
and luncheon**

on Cana Sunday,
February 19th,
following the 11:00am Liturgy

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,500.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$1,819.00

(Budget Deficit 2023: \$2,518.00)¹¹

Special Collection, January 22nd: \$99.00
United States' Catholic Bishops'
Worldwide Charities

Second Sunday each month is a second collection
 to cover our **monthly fuel-oil costs**. The next twelve
 months will cost us **over \$25,000.00**.

Please be as generous as you can.

This month's fuel collection to date: \$670.00¹²

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

Super Bowl Breakfast and Raffle

on Sunday, **February 12th,**
following the 9:00am Liturgy



NB: there will be **no 11:00** Liturgy
 this day.

:Priest **مُحَمَّدًا خَلِّجْهُ!**

Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

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

:People **هَؤُمَ وَهَؤُمَ وَهَؤُمَ!**

w'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)

¹¹ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59 / Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00 / Deficit
 2021: \$35,178.00 / Deficit 2022: \$29,423.00

¹² Our contractual payment each month to DownEast is
 \$2,455.00.

Holyday Schedule

For the Holy Day of Obligation

Our Father
in Christ,
Saint Maron



Wednesday, February 8th

Mass: 9:00am

Ramsho and Vigil: 5:30pm

Thursday, February 9th

Mass: 10:00am

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

January 29th:

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

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

February 5th:

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

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

February 12th:

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

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

February 19th:

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

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

February 26th:

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

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

March 5th:

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

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

March 12th:

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

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

Commemoration of the Deceased Priests

p. 147

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 Maron: p 897

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *Father of Truth; Praise God*

Recessional: SB *We Three Kings*

The
Presentation
of Our
Lord
in His
Temple



Purification of the Most Holy Mother of God

February 2nd