

# Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



## The Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

July 16, 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, KHS  
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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 11:00a.m.; Tues. – Fr. 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 \$35; Altar Bread \$30; Sacramental Wine \$55  
**Catechism:** Steve Crate, *Director*    **Legion of Mary:** Sir Ira Mandel, KHS, *President*  
**Choir:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG, *Director Emerita*    **Pastoral Council Chair:**

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### **This Day's Gospel<sup>1</sup>** **Saint Matthew 12: 14-21**

The Pharisees went out and conferred together about Him regarding how they might destroy Him.

Jesus was aware of this and left from there.  
Large crowds followed Him,

and He healed them all. He warned them not to reveal Him, in order to fulfill what had been said through the prophet Isaiah, who said,

*Behold My Servant,  
in Whom I am pleased, My Beloved,  
in Whom My Soul is delighted.  
I shall place My Spirit in Him,  
and He will proclaim  
judgment to the nations.*

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<sup>1</sup> Based on The Syriac-English New Testament, Gorgias Press, New Jersey, 2020, ed. George A. Kiraz

*He will not be contentious or cry out,  
and no one will hear His voice  
in the street.  
A bruised reed He will not break,  
and a flickering lamp  
He will not snuff out,  
until He brings judgment forth  
unto victory.  
In His Name the nations shall hope.*



*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**

*If agapè is a marvelous type of dilection,  
it is also specifically Christian,  
indissolubly bound to the virtue of faith;*

this means that one must be on guard  
against eventual counterfeits.

The Apostles knew that the most fervent heart  
was not necessarily the purest,  
that the most heroic dedication  
was not always the most supernatural ....<sup>3</sup>

Christian charity -- *agapè* -- is distinguished from other common expressions of tenderness and from other forms of love. Much of what is called "love" today is the self-interest and pleasure of the "lover", where what is "loved" is for the sake of the "lover". St. Thomas Aquinas would call this a "love of concupiscence". This is not the love of "friendship", nor is it the *agapè* of grace. An example of this concupiscent form of "love" is when someone likes another because of that person's sense of humor or good looks. There is nothing wrong with this, especially initially, but it is rather based on the pleasure derived from looking at the person or being amused by his mirth than it is in loving the other person for his own sake. This is why it is called "concupiscent love".

Charity is, on the contrary, a **noble** love moving the lover toward selflessness, because it moves the lover toward the good of the beloved. It does not seek to absorb the beloved into itself, which breeds self-centeredness. Charity / *agapè* is directed toward others: God firstly, oneself *for the sake of God*, and one's neighbor *as oneself*.

Charity and Christian love must be without falsity or artificiality.<sup>4</sup> No simulation is to be tolerated as charity strives to attain a pure transformative reality in Christ. Charity holds evil in horror and adheres to the good. Charity gives precedence to "the other" as a mark of honor.<sup>5</sup> *Agapè* is first and foremost **a noble and respectful love**. It is inextricably linked to faith (which brings light and understanding to the mind) and to the love of truth.

*Agapè* even when it was used in the Greek world or as translated in the Old Testament contained the

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

<sup>3</sup> From **Charity and Liberty** by Père Ceslaus Spicq, OP

<sup>4</sup> Romans 12: 9

<sup>5</sup> "love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor", Romans 12: 10, and cf I Peter 2: 17

meaning of *having a great regard for another*. It designated a manifestation of *considerable attention towards another*. Thus it is easy to understand that the opposite of charity/*agapè* is not “hatred” but *scorn* or *disdain*. This was Saint Peter’s intent when he wrote about loving the brotherhood. Christian love is first and foremost respectful and attentive in its expression.

The first mark then of Christian charity is *respect* and consideration of another. This is the first and basic quality that should become apparent in our lives by grace. Raised by grace from out of disordered self-love, the individual turns outwardly as it were to the other with respect and esteem shown to all indiscriminately,<sup>6</sup> both friend and foe,<sup>7</sup> both to the pleasant or the disagreeable.

When Our Lord directs us to “love neighbor” and to “pray for those who persecute us” He is not requiring us to feel affection for them.

**Reciprocated affection** is part of friendship properly understood, and Our Lord does not command that we have friendship with all. This would be impossible, as well as the fact that reciprocity requires the free choice of at least two individuals.

No one *feels* affection for someone who has hurt them, but one can still love them in faith and charity, and in that very love begin a path of healing to that injury. This charity may result in exceptional transformation as happened between the mother of Saint Maria Goretti and her daughter’s murderer, but these types of miracles are not necessary for charity to be true charity.



Our Lord is not being unreasonable in requiring this of His disciples, nor is He demanding an impossible thing. What we are required to do in order to love our enemy is that we treat them with respect and forego the bitterness and spite that comes to us so naturally. This is *agapè* in action and practice.

As Christians, disciples of the crucified Messiah, and children of God by grace, we must imitate the mercy of God and enter the path of divine charity that does good to all, to the just and the unjust.<sup>8</sup> We must show consideration, respect and thoughtfulness to all, whether they are near and dear to our hearts’ affections or not; and we are to do good *because* it is good, not because of the “worthiness” of the recipient.

We have little control over emotions and feelings, but we can **control the expression** of those emotions through freewill, asceticism, and self-mastery. Scorn and disdain are always out of place in a disciple of the Sacred Heart. This is why Our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount asked rhetorically that if we simply love those who love us in return, what have we done differently from the pagans?<sup>9</sup> This kind of love all men do quite naturally. Grace, however, is meant to transform us and make us act supernaturally – transcending mere human sentiment and emotion.

Even toward our adversaries we are required to exhibit charitable respect. Preserving esteem for one’s enemy, even though it costs us dearly emotionally, is the hallmark of authentic *agapè*. This is easier done when we keep in mind that we are called to imitate Our Lord God and Savior in all the aspects of His life, including the agony in the garden, the betrayal by Judas, and in His Passion and Death at the hands of the Jewish and Roman authorities. Faith assures us that Resurrection will be the end result. Charity moves us from death to life.

Charity, as Saint Paul wrote, never seeks her own and loves what is true.<sup>10</sup> This is why the quotation

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<sup>6</sup> St. Matthew 5: 48

<sup>7</sup> Romans 12: 14

<sup>8</sup> St. Matthew 5: 43-48

<sup>9</sup> St. Matthew 5: 46-48

<sup>10</sup> I Cor 13: 4-7

used at the beginning stated that charity is “indissolubly bound to the virtue of faith”. Without the theological virtue of faith, enlivened by grace, true charity is impossible to practice, and charity is required for salvation – ultimately for entrance into the Divine Dwelling. Love is the measure by which we shall all be measured on the Last Day.

A decent education can make us “nice”, but only faith and grace can make us *imitators of God*. Only imitators of God are disposed and prepared to enter the Kingdom of Light.

The life and practice of charity may be painful at times, perhaps even often, but it is the path laid out by Our Lord and the standard that He set by His own example.

Charity makes us Christ-like in attitude; it is how we “put on the mind of Christ”.<sup>11</sup> This is a noble and beautiful goal to which we must devote our energies and talents in order to reach the Paradise of Light.

## Schedule of Readings

### THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

July 16, 2023

**Rom 8: 1-11**

**St. Matthew 12: 14-21**

### THE FEAST OF SAINT SHARBEL

July 23, 2023

**Rom 8: 28-39**

**St. Matthew 13: 36-43**

## VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	July	16	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	July	23	Ira & Catherine Mandel
Sun	July	30	Maureen Martin
Sun	Aug	6	Dean & MaryAnn Carter
Sun	Aug	13	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Aug	20	Anne Marie Mathieu
Sun	Aug	27	Suzanne Paré

## Schedule of Leaders for the Recitation of the Rosary at **10:30 am** on the **first, third,** and **fifth** Sundays of each month:



Sun	July 16	Ira Mandel
Sun	July 30	Jody Lachance
Sun	Aug 6	Sava Nappi
Sun	Aug 20	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Sep 3	Jeanne Thomas
Sun	Sep 17	Diane Wyder

## The sanctuary lamp for July

has been donated in memory of **Lucas Thomas**  
by **Dame Fefa**



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

<sup>11</sup> I Corinthians 2: 16





*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, October through May.*

*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:** Ira Mandel, 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 16** 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph  
11:00am Elijah Misner-Elias  
(Gayle Misner-Elias)

**Mon 17** -----

**Tue 18** †Joan Gottardi  
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

**Wed 19** Romona Phillips

**Thu 20** Legion of Mary  
(Mary Nicholas)

**Fri 21** †Theresa Casavant  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

**Sat 22** 10:00 †Veilleux Family  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

4:30pm Sunday Vigil  
Private Intention

**Sun 23** 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph  
11:00am †John Marietta and  
Paul Thomas  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

**Mon 24** -----

**Tue 25** Nicholas Family  
(Mary Nicholas)

**Wed 26** †Hank Steinmiller  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

**Thu 27** †Darrell Mitchell  
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

**Fri 28** †John Marietta and Paul Thomas  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

**Sat 29** 10:00 †Brian Francoeur  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

4:30pm Sunday Vigil

**Sun 30** 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph  
11:00am Legion of Mary,  
Queen of the Clergy  
(Mary Nicholas)

**Mon 31** -----

**Tue 1** Patrick and Romona Phillips  
(Romona Phillips)

**Wed 2** Theresa Casavant  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

**Thu 3** Rachel and Jimmy Riley  
(Sara Younes)

**Fri 4** †Ferris Family  
(Allison & Steve)

**Sat 5** 10:00 Legion of Mary,  
Queen of the Clergy  
(Mary Nicholas)

4:00pm Ramsho and Vigil  
of the Most Holy Transfiguration



The standing apostolic meeting of the **Praesidium of Mary, Queen of the Clergy** is at **10:30am each Friday**. 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**.



Presentation on the Legion and more information will be available at **coffee socials** scheduled **after each Sunday Mass** – today – on **July 16<sup>th</sup>** – Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel – and again on **August 20<sup>th</sup>**.

<sup>12</sup> Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59 / Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00 / Deficit 2021: \$35,178.00 / Deficit 2022: \$29,423.00

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted weekly: \$3,500.00)

Regular Collection Last two Weeks: \$5,587.00

(Running Budget Deficit, 2023: **\$28,783.00**)<sup>12</sup>

**Special Collection** last week, **Peter's Pence**: \$185.00

May the Good One bless and richly reward the generous of heart who can and choose to help offset these latest parish expenses:

Expenses still outstanding:

**Video Camera: \$811.21**

**Rectory Refrigerator: \$975.00**

**Second Sunday each month** is a second collection to cover our **monthly fuel-oil costs**. The next twelve months will cost us **over \$26,000.00**.

**Please be as generous as you can.**

This month's fuel collection to date: **\$152.00**<sup>13</sup>

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

In the last two weeks there have been contributions toward covering the costs of the rectory fridge: **\$1050.00**. This more than covers our remaining debt. *Deo gratias!*

Well done, and thank you to all the donors who have generously covered these latest parish expenses.

We also had a delightful surprise at the NAM Convention when a lady came up to a couple of our parishioners attending the Conference. They gave a check for **\$500.00** to our parish, thanking these two young men for the edifying and exemplary manner in which they attended Mass.

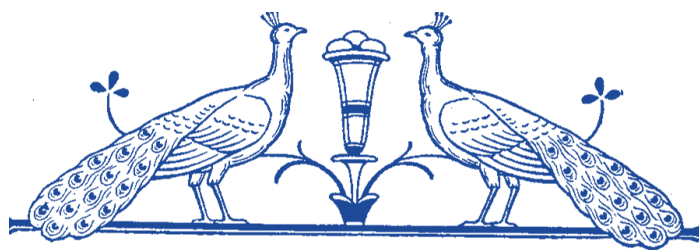
<sup>13</sup> Jan: \$670.00 / Feb: \$345.00 / March: \$729.00 / April: \$30.00 / May: \$444.00 / June: \$405.00. Our contractual payment each month to DownEast is **\$2,455.00**.

This was a beautiful and noble act of generosity from this couple and a tribute to the reverence, modesty, and virtue of religion these young men exhibited at the Divine Qourbonoh while they represented our parish at the Convention. Well done all!

Many thanks for this generous gift from our Maronite brother and sister.

And “thank you” to Steve and Allison – our NAM Delegates – and Lorenzo, and Sava – our book sellers – for admirably representing our parish at NAM.

By manning a vendor’s table all the days of the Convention, Sava and Lorenzo were able to sell Chorbishop Eid’s book on **Saint Sharbel**. These books were sold to people from all across the country, got the word out, and brought in a gross total of **\$4,230.10**.



## *The Fast of the Dormition*

*The Assumption of the Ever-Virgin Mary  
into Heaven, body and soul (August 15<sup>th</sup>)*

As we were reminded by our Patriarch in his encyclical, it is our tradition to fast in preparation for the great feasts, and all are encouraged to do so faithfully, *par.* 24:

*This fast is known as “The Fast of the Virgin”,  
during which the faithful abstain from eating  
meat, dairy products, and eggs, from August 7<sup>th</sup>  
until August 14<sup>th</sup> inclusively.*

We are also reminded in *paragraph 21* of the same letter that “a fast” is to go without all foods *from midnight to noon*, after which we *abstain from all animal flesh and most all animal products* – this is most similar, but not exactly the same, to a “vegan” diet.

When a fast day falls on a **Saturday** or a **Sunday** (as will be the case on August 12-13<sup>th</sup> this year) one can eat as they wish, but should still abstain from animal flesh, dairy, and animal products, **although shellfish is permitted**.

These observances are for all who have attained the age of the use of reason, *par.* 22

### *SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR*

#### July 16<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: Icbelig Gombojav / Lorenzo Michaud  
11:00am: Rocco Nappi / Patrick Carter

#### July 23<sup>rd</sup>:

9:00am: Nathanael Carter / Caesar Gombojav  
11:00am: River Gombojav / Sava Nappi

#### July 30<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: Michael Carter / Icbelig Gombojav  
11:00am: Patrick Carter / Rocco Nappi

#### August 6<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: Lorenzo Michaud / Michael Carter  
11:00am: Sava Nappi / Caesar Gombojav

#### August 13<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: Icbelig Gombojav / Nathanael Carter  
11:00am: Patrick Carter / River Gombojav

#### August 20<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: Caesar Gombojav / Lorenzo Michaud  
11:00am: Sava Nappi / Rocco Nappi

#### August 27<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: Michael Carter / River Gombojav  
11:00am: Icbelig Gombojav / Patrick Carter

#### September 3<sup>rd</sup>:

9:00am: Caesar Gombojav / Nathanael Carter  
11:00am: River Gombojav / Sava Nappi

! مَحْمًا حَقَّجَه :Priest

*Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!*

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

! هَحْم وَهَسَا وَكُحْ :People

*w'am rouHoh deelokh!*

(literally: and with spirit your!)

## The Eighth Sunday of Pentecost "A"

p. 425

**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*

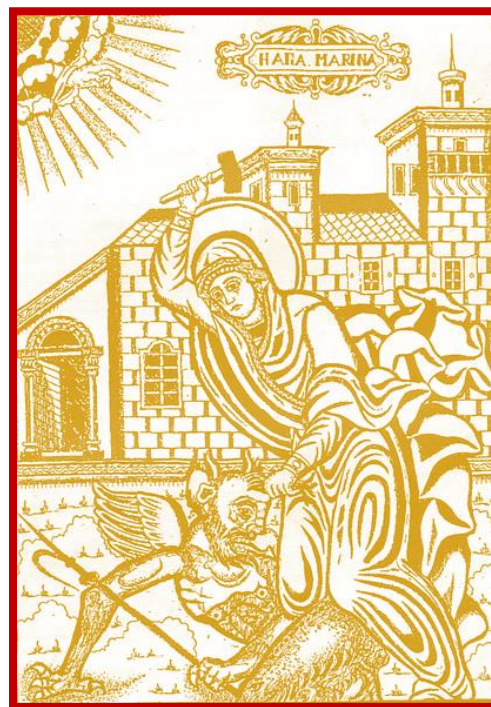
**ANAPHORA:**

**Saint John Chrysostom:** p 876

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

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

**Recessional:** SB *Alleluia*



## Saint Margaret of Antioch

*aka Saint Marina the Great Martyr*

July 19<sup>th</sup>