

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Fifth Sunday after Holy Cross

October 15, 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
Subdeacon: Mr. Stephen Crate
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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 \$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

This Day's Gospel¹ Saint Matthew 25: 1-13

Then the Kingdom of Heaven
shall be like ten virgins, who took their lamps
and went out to meet the groom and the bride.

Five of them were wise, and five were foolish.
The foolish ones took their lamps,
but did not take any oil along with them,
but the wise ones took oil in vessels
along with their lamps.
When the groom delayed,
they all became tired and fell asleep.

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

In the middle of the night, there was a shout:
“Look! The groom is coming;
come out to meet him!”

Then all the virgins got up
and prepared their lamps.
The foolish ones said to the wise ones,
“Give us some of your oil,
since our lamps have gone out.”
The wise virgins replied,
“No, lest there not be enough
for us and for you. Go to those who sell oil
instead, and buy some for yourselves.”

While they were gone to buy oil,
the groom arrived.
And those who were prepared
went in with him
into the place of the wedding feast,
and the door was shut.

At last, the other virgins also came, saying,
“Our lord, our lord – open the door for us!”

And he answered them,
“Amen, amen, I do not know you.”

So, be watchful,
for you do not know the day or the hour.



*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

It becomes evident that *agapè*
is not a human love.
Only God can love with such fullness,
(He alone) can give
with such immensity.³

It should be clear to us what grace is meant to do in human life. Christian love, charity, is not simply another form of human love; it does not rank merely first in a list of human affections. Charity is altogether different and it is not a human love either in origin or in mode.

While the expressions of Christian love may resemble other types of human love, its modality is completely other. Simply put, the gift of charity allows a person to participate in the eternal divine love and then love through that divine charity. It changes everything for the person responding to that love.

As the illumination of the faith permits us to “see with the Eyes of God”, so charity allows us to “love with the Heart of God”. Divine in its origin, supernatural in its manner, charity is our adoption as the children of God by the way **it modifies our human existence, by expanding its capacities and elevating one's motivations and purpose.**

There is nothing more precious among men than charity. Charity is the only virtue that **connects directly to God as infinite goodness**, and in this life it begins a transformation of the individual that

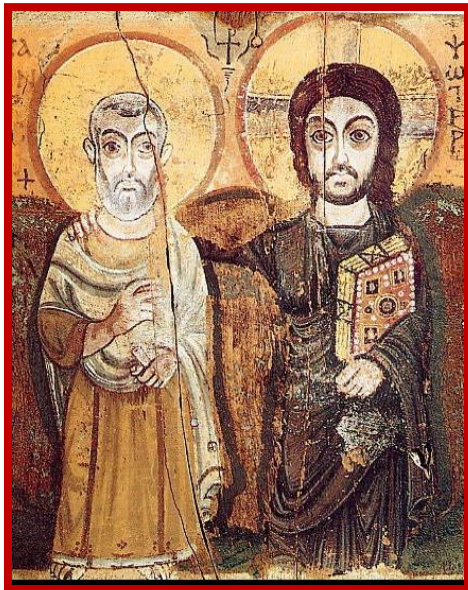
² Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”

³ From **Charity and Liberty** by Rev. Fr. Ceslaus Spicq, OP

continues essentially the same into eternity. Charity's presence is the very definition of the "state of grace".

Without grace, we are not the beings we were intended to be from all eternity. Grace makes us children of the Light, disciples of our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ – *Yeshua Msheeho* – and it allows us to become the men and women that we were meant to be in the creation of Paradise. Charity is the origin of this grace. Without charity and grace, we fall short of all these things, and remain among those who "sleep" in the darkness,⁴ unclear as to the meaning, purpose, and goal in life.

The Christian virtue of charity – "queen of all the virtues" – without which it is impossible to attain salvation, is something that can only be given by the Hidden One of Eternal Light. The initiative is His, and the fruit of the Spirit's presence is charity.⁵ Once proposed to us in grace, we must receive that love in order to return a fitting and appropriate love before God that encompasses both God and neighbor. In that charity, we return love to God, and we love our neighbor in that same love. Charity transforms all by its presence, enlarging the human will by the purpose and direction it gives, orienting lives to the infinitely Loveable One.



In our Eastern traditions of spirituality, there is great emphasis placed on the collaboration of the creature with the Redeemer. This mutual response and reciprocated love in grace is called *synergism*.⁶ The root of this is gracious love. The God of all Consolation saves us only in us, through us, and with our free collaboration. We must freely engage with His loving grace. Once this is "tasted",⁷ all other earthly loves pale in comparison.

God is Charity⁸ and only the Hidden Source can make Himself present in human life by grace. That presence brings familiarity with God, because *likeness brings knowledge and experience*, and *charity brings the divine likeness into human life*. Friends and lovers always tend toward assimilation – rooted in mutual love, they become more and more like one another.

Commenting on St. John's first epistle, Saint Bernard notes that **charity is identified with the knowledge of God**: man has nothing in himself of what God is in His essence, thus man is incapable of knowing God *in Himself*. Charity is the virtue that opens human capacity to love God *as He is in Himself* (not simply for what He creates or gives to us) and in that charity the renewed human heart comes to know God truly. Even the pagans recognized the type of goodness that is about "what we 'get'" from nature, but they never knew "who" divinity as such might be.

The Gospel and its grace allow us to see God directly for Himself, and not just in His effects. Reasoned from limited effects in existence, a philosophical knowledge is open to all, a naturally knowable truth – even to those who have no faith – that there is an ultimate and singular origin of all things. The virtue of charity, on the other hand, anchors the individual in the infinite love that is God, and then moves him to see those around him in that same love: "I love my neighbor as myself for the love of Thee".⁹ This is a completely different knowledge of God.

⁴ I Thessalonians 5: 7-8

⁵ Rom 15: 30

⁶ From the Greek carrying a meaning of "cooperating energy" or "combined force".

⁷ Psalm 34: 8

⁸ I John 4: 8

⁹ From the **Act of Charity**.

Charity is also the virtue that strengthens us and allows us to readily *forgive the injuries done to us*.

Charity is the virtue that strengthens us in humility and truth that moves us *to seek forgiveness when we have wronged or injured others*.

The union with God that we call “heaven” or “the fulness of the Kingdom” is the result of charity in one’s life. It is a **personal union of friendship with God**, definitively so in Heaven, and without charity here below that definitive union is simply impossible. Without charity, no one can be saved.

Charity is a gift and as such is freely given. It cannot be merited by anyone; and because it is freely given by God, we speak of charity as being *infused* into the human spirit.¹⁰ Latin in origin, this word means that charity is *poured into* the human spirit. We do not “attain” charity, as if by our own power, or by natural striving, or by “thinking about it”; charity is given to us from above.

The condemnation in judgement portrayed in the Gospel¹¹ for the last Sunday of this month is that **the damned “do not see”**, they are blind to the presence of the Christ in their lives. Firstly centered on themselves, they reject divine love, remain closed within themselves, they are indifferent to divine love when perceived, and, so, focused on themselves, they do not see others; thus *they lack the vision of the whole of reality that only charity can give*. Logically, from this willful blindness they descend into damnation.

Charity thus has an infinite Origin – God; it is freely given by the Father of Lights¹² – God; and it operates as presence on a level that transcends all normal and purely natural human actions. It raises man up to a fuller existence and knowledge. Charity is the virtue which alone animates the supernatural organism that we call “the state of grace”.

Charity is not a “feeling”,¹³ it is a mystical transformation into the Divine.

Without grace and charity, then, we cannot be pleasing to our Lord, because without it we are not as He wishes us to be. While the Hidden Creator does bring forth creation by His own free choice, intelligent beings must correspond freely to grace so that *friendship* might flourish between God and man.

This is salvation: **divine intimacy**.

*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.



*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.*

¹⁰ Rom 5: 5

¹¹ The Seventh Sunday after Holy Cross: St. Matthew 25: 31-46

¹² St. James 1: 17

¹³ Although it is most definitely an experience.

Schedule of Readings

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS

October 15, 2023

Phil 2: 12-18 St. Matthew 25: 1-13

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS

October 22, 2023

Gal 6: 1-10 St. Matthew 25: 14-30

The sanctuary lamp for October
has been donated in memory of Cindy Elias
by Dame Fefa



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

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Oct	15	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Oct	22	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Oct	29	Ira & Catherine Mandel
Sun	Nov	5	Maureen Martin
Sun	Nov	12	Dean & MaryAnn Carter
Sun	Nov	19	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Nov	26	Anne Marie Mathieu



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted weekly: \$3,500.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$2,511.00

(Running Budget Deficit, 2023: **\$41,783.00**)¹⁴

**Next Sunday, October 22nd, Special Collection
for World Mission Sunday**

(91% of this collection goes to the Society for the Propagation
of the Faith, and 9% to the Catholic Near East Welfare
Association [CNEWA])

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

This month's fuel collection to date: \$357.00¹⁵

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

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



Sun	Oct	15	Jody Lachance
Sun	Oct	29	Sava Nappi
Sun	Nov	5	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Nov	19	Jeanne Thomas
Sun	Dec	3	Diane Wyder
Sun	Dec	17	Ira Mandel

¹⁴ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59 / Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00 / Deficit
2021: \$35,178.00 / Deficit 2022: \$29,423.00

¹⁵ 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. Our annual propane costs for the
kitchen: **\$800.00**.

To keep you all abreast of some of our individual parish expenses:

At this time of the year, when preparation is made for the coffee and muffins that we enjoy from October to May, we purchase our supplies.

This year our costs for muffin supplies is **\$864.00** and new bins purchased for the kitchen were **\$398.00**.

As always, generous and good souls may step forward to help the parish with these costs, making alms, for example, in the name of one or another of the deceased members of our families.

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

October 15th:

9:00am: Rocco Nappi / Nathanael Carter

11:00am: Sava Nappi / River Gombojav

October 22nd:

9:00am: Michael Carter / River Gombojav

11:00am: Ihbeleg Gombojav / Patrick Carter

October 29th:

9:00am: Lorenzo Michaud / Nathanael Carter

11:00am: River Gombojav / Sava Nappi

November 5th:

9:00am: Rocco Nappi / Michael Carter

11:00am: Ihbeleg Gombojav / Patrick Carter

November 12th:

9:00am: Nathanael Carter / Lorenzo Michaud

11:00am: River Gombojav / Sava Nappi

November 19th:

9:00am: Michael Carter / Rocco Nappi

11:00am: Patrick Carter / Ihbeleg Gombojav

November 26th:

9:00am: Lorenzo Michaud / Nathanael Carter

11:00am: Sava Nappi / River Gombojav

December 3rd:

9:00am: Rocco Nappi / Michael Carter

11:00am: Patrick Carter / Ihbeleg Gombojav

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 15 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph

11:00am †Ronda Deibele

(Molly Klein)

Mon 16 -----

Tue 17 †Kelvin Karuga Paré

(Suzanne Paré)

Wed 18 †Joan Gottardi

(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

Thu 19 †Cindy Elias

(the Lachances)

Fri 20 Gantumur Gombojav

(Israel Gombojav)

Sat 21 10:00 †Cindy Elias

(the Lachances)

4:00pm Ramsho and Sunday Vigil

Private intention

Sun 22 **9:00am** Parishioners of Saint Joseph

~~11:00am~~ Please Note that there will be only one Qourbonoh today at 9:00am

Mon 23 -----

Tue 24 †Lucas Thomas

(Aunt Pam & Uncle Dan)

Wed 25 Peter and Kim Paré

(Suzanne Paré)

Thu 26 †Cindy Elias

(Mike & Maureen Martin)

Fri 27 Darrell Mitchell

(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

Sat 28 10:00 †Lucas Thomas

(Aunt Pam & Uncle Dan)

4:00pm Ramsho and Sunday Vigil

Private intention

Sun 29 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph

11:00am Matthew Sawicki

and Maria Constantino

Mon 30 -----

Tue 31 Sava Nappi
(Abouna)
6:00pm Ramsho
and **Vigil of All Saints**
Parishioners of Saint Joseph

Wed 1 **10:00am** Michael and Gayle Misner
(their children)

Thu 2 †Lucas Thomas
(Mike & Maureen Martin)

Fri 3 †William Wyman
(Mike & Maureen Martin)

Sat 4 10:00 Arnie Filipi
(Michael Eagan)

4:30pm Sunday Vigil
Private intention



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**.

Parish Mission by the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light

Friday, October 20th

6:00pm Pot Luck Family Night (all invited)
7:00pm Meet and Greet (Sisters share their vocations stories and spirituality)

Saturday, October 21st

10:00am Divine Liturgy
11:00am Day of Reflection for Adults, #1
12:30pm Lunch (provided by the parish)
1:30pm Presentation #2
2:30pm Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration
3:00pm Concluding Remarks
4:00pm Ramsho and Sunday Vigil

Sunday, October 22nd

9:00am Divine Qourbonoh
10:30am Meet and Greet with all
12:30pm Young Adult Gathering and Lunch

The Fifth Sunday after Holy Cross

p. 606

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*

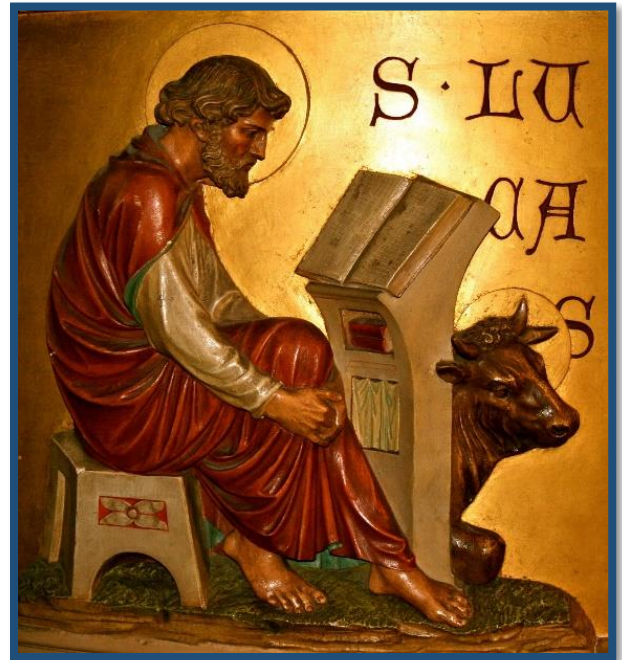
ANAPHORA:

The Twelve Apostles: p 754

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

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

Recessional: SB *Alleluia*



Saint Luke, the Evangelist

Evangelist to Saint Paul

October 18th

! مَعْلًا حَقْبَه :Priest

Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

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

! هَحْم وَهْمَا وَحْر :People

w'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)