

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Fourth Sunday after Holy Cross

October 8, 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
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." *Oriental 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 24: 45-51**

Who, then, is the faithful and wise servant,
whom his master has appointed
over the *children of his household*,
in order to give them food at the proper time?

Blessed is that servant
whom his master finds so doing
when he arrives;
amen, I say to you, he will appoint him
over all that he has.

But if the bad servant
should say within his heart,

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

“My master is slow to come”,
and should start beating his fellow servants,
eating and drinking with drunkards,
that servant’s master shall arrive
on a day he does not expect
and at an hour he does not know.

He shall cut him off
and assign him a place among the hypocrites,
where there shall be weeping
and gnashing of teeth.



*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

Life is short, and this liturgical season reminds us all of the fragility of life. In God’s benevolent love, we each need to receive the strength and grace of the Divine Mysteries to see us through life. The God of all consolation offers to each His personal presence.

*Shlomô l’baitô hono!*³ with this greeting a priest enters a house. From the days when Our Lord sent His disciples out to prepare His arrival, these words have echoed down through the ages. *Shlomô*: peace, wellbeing, wholeness, health. What more could one wish upon another? So it remains to this day when a priest brings the Holy Mysteries to the flock of Christ. As an apostle of the Savior, he brings the peace of Christ that is intrinsic to the sacred priesthood, and when he enters bearing the divine and substantial reality of the Body of Christ to distribute in Holy Communion to the sick or housebound this *shlomô* penetrates the household and establishes it even more firmly.

How are we to receive this divine peace and this sacred presence?

As can happen, without periodic reminders, we easily forget what details there are that compose our Christian lives. Please bear with me as we consider what we are to do when receiving Christ, Our Lord, into our homes.

Catholics have always enriched their lives with what the Church calls *sacramentals*: objects blessed as channels of grace such as rosaries, holy water, icons, blessed palms, etc. As the Eternal One of all Holiness chose to appear among men as a Man, and as He made it a point to manifest Himself in visible flesh, so it is that the Church blesses and enriches its life by the blessing of objects and foods to act as tangible manifestations of grace. These things demonstrate our fundamental belief that the Hidden One chose to manifest Himself historically in a visible manner.

Matter and material creation, held in isolation, especially in a materialistic vision, leads to sin; but matter and material creation elevated and oriented to the service of God raise us up along with them in their use. From the moment of the Incarnation, time and all visible reality were given the potential to participate in a renewed creation.

Anything not used for sin can be blessed and sanctified so that its usage becomes a channel of grace, blessing, and thanksgiving. Candles, rosaries, holy water, and palms we know, but clothing, flowers, and even the bed linens of the

² Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”

³ Saint Luke 10: 5. “Peace be to this house.”

sick can be blessed and sanctified. The Incarnation is meant to infuse every aspect of human life.

There has always been the custom to keep blessed candles in our homes for use in prayer, especially when there is a member of the family who is sick or dying. The candle's light and warmth are natural reminders to us of the divine light and the fire of divine charity with which we are touched by God's compassion. We should think on this and keep at least a small supply of blessed candles in our homes, along with our holy water and rosaries.

Preparation must be made when we receive the Most Blessed Sacrament into our homes. It is, after all, Christ Himself Who comes among us. TVs, stereos, and all noise, music, and commotion should be silenced. At least in the vicinity of the one being visited, silence should reign, prayerful, and churchlike. The priest arriving with the Blessed Sacrament is *met at the door with a lighted candle*. When he enters, it is in truth the Sovereign Lord and Redeemer, the Divine Presence, Who brings peace: "*Shlomô l'beitô hono.*" The one greeting the priest then escorts him and shows him to the room of the sick person.

In this room there should be setup a small "altar", that is, a clean table where the Blessed Sacrament can be placed and, for Anointing, a place for the oils when necessary. This table to receive Our Lord should be covered by a clean white cloth. On it there should be a crucifix and two candles – much like an altar – along with a small cup of water (for the purification of the priests' fingers after Holy Communion is distributed) and holy water. The water used in the ablutions will be poured into the ground after the ceremony.

If the sick person is to be anointed in the Mystery of Anointing, then there should also be four/six *cotton balls*, a small slice of *bread* and, when possible, a slice of *lemon* or a small amount of lemon juice. This last item may seem unusual, but the lemon juice is used to cut the sacred oils left on the priest's fingers and the bread absorbs it all afterward. The priest will take with him the cotton and the bread when he leaves and they will be burned and properly disposed of later at the church. Ideally, a small empty dish can act to

receive these items during the ceremony once they have been used.

This photo shows how all this should look. Of course, if Holy Communion is the only thing for the visit that is to be done, then the white covered table, holy water, crucifix, small cup of water and two candles are the only things necessary.



Perhaps to some, this may all seem burdensome, but the observance of these types of details shows (and develops and forms) a properly religious spirit devoted to Our Lord and His sacred Mysteries. This is an exercise of **the virtue of religion**. Our ancestors in the Faith possessed these sentiments and knew these details, which is how the Faith has survived and come down to us. In turn, our fidelity is needed so that others may find salvation. Every Catholic home should have these items reserved and prepared for the eventual visits of the priest and the Holy Mysteries.

There are crucifixes available in religious goods stores and suppliers that can be bought that hold within themselves the minimal necessary to properly setup for what is called a "sick-call" – when the Blessed Sacrament is brought to the invalid for Holy Communion. The face of the crucifix slides off and the back acts as a box that holds two candles, holy water, and cotton. The



crucifix itself is set into the slotted box to stand upright and the arms of the cross contain holders for the two candles. This is the simplest way to set up the table.

May the Compassionate and Merciful One grant to us all a spirit of piety and devotion that allows us to stand in reverent awe before the divine realities within which we are allowed to act and touch. They manifest God's love for us and bring us His presence.

After all, to receive the Incarnate God within our home is a divine gift not given to all.

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Oct	8	Anne Marie Mathieu
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

*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.

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



*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.*

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS

October 8, 2023

I Thes 5: 1-11 **St. Matthew 24: 45-51**

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS

October 15, 2023

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

Saint Joseph's Mediterranean Food Festival



*Thank you to all the generous souls who
cooked, served, constructed, cleaned, prepared,
raised up, took down, and otherwise labored to
make such a success of our festival.*

Especial thanks to *Badiha* and her culinary expertise and to *Ruth* for her excellent oversight in having brought together *27 others* so successfully!

The Food Festival brought in \$2,413.00 to the parish. This is an excellent result for our first try at Head-of-Falls.

Thank you: it was beautiful to see all work together as one.

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

Today is designated as “The Order of Saint Sharbel Sunday”. We should seriously consider joining this admirable organization that aids in the training of seminarians and the maintenance of the old priests who have served well their years in the Vineyard of the Lord.

The Order was founded in 1980 by parishioners and priests of multiple parishes, as a response to Archbishop Francis Zayek’s plea for help for the Seminary.

The Order of St. Sharbel is dedicated to our priests: past, present, and future. This is an organization of laypeople and clergy who have pledged their spiritual strength and their financial support to educate our Maronite seminarians, pay the operating costs of the

Maronite Seminary in Washington, and to support a dignified retirement for our priests who have finished their services to the Lord in the expansion of His Kingdom.

Our seminarians study at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary in Washington, D.C., the only Maronite seminary outside Lebanon. Having a Seminary in the United States is a sign of permanence of the Maronite Church in America, and brightly signifies a new chapter, an American chapter, in the history of Beit Maroun.

Founded in 1961, our seminary continues to play a vital role in educating our priests. The Order is the largest contributor to the seminary, covering over half of its costs each year. The seminarians we support today will be the priests of tomorrow that will serve us and preserve our Maronite Church in America. They are destined to be the apostolic sons of our beloved Father.

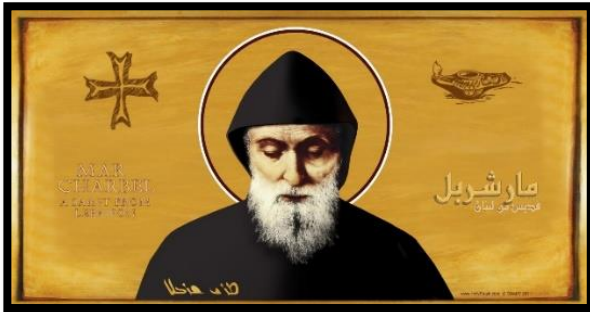
The Order holds its annual meeting in conjunction with the National Apostolate of Maronites Convention. Members are distinguished by the cross and ribbon they wear whenever the Bishop is present. They serve as his official Honor Guard.

In the past few years, there has been a great renewal of interest in the Order, and there are now hundreds who support the Maronite apostolic endeavor in this way. But new recruits are always welcome.

When he canonized Saint Sharbel on October 9, 1977, Pope Paul VI emphasized the role of the family in fostering vocations to the priesthood. The financial support for our seminarians depends on the generosity of our Church family, of which you are a member.

There are brochures with more information, and enrollment forms available at both entrances of the church.

Please consider membership in the Order of St. Sharbel, and remember the Order as part of your charitable giving.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted weekly: \$3,500.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$2,620.00

(Running Budget Deficit, 2023: \$40,794.00)⁴

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

This month's fuel collection to date: \$000.00⁵

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

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

⁴ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59 / Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00 / Deficit 2021: \$35,178.00 / Deficit 2022: \$29,423.00

of one or another of the deceased members of our families.

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

October 8th:

9:00am: Rocco Nappi / Michael Carter

11:00am: Patrick Carter / Ihbeleg Gombojav

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

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 8 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph

11:00am Sarah Grace Misner-Elias

(Gayle Misner-Elias)

Mon 9 -----

⁵ 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.

Tue 10 Connor Blume
(Gayle Misner-Elias)

Wed 11 †Delores C. Salazar
(Suzanne Paré)

Thu 12 Gantumur Gombojav
(Israel Gombojav)

Fri 13 †Sandy Lord
(Nancy Karter)

Sat 14 10:00 †Cindy Elias
(Suzanne Paré)
4:30pm Sunday Vigil
Private intention

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

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 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**.

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 Mark the Evangelist: p 835

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

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

Recessional: SB *Alleluia*

!مكلماً كلَّكم :Priest

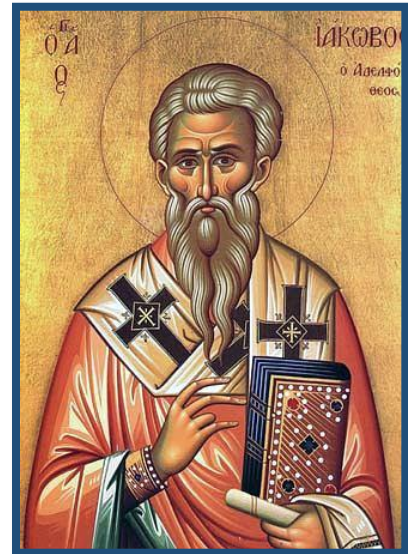
Shlomoh l'koukhoun!

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

!وهمنا وكم :People

w'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)



**Saint James,
the Brother of the Lord**

Apostle

October 9^b

**The Fourth Sunday
after Holy Cross**

p. 606

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