

# Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



## Sunday of the Most Holy Rosary

October 1, 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."* 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

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### This Day's Gospel<sup>1</sup> Saint Matthew 24: 21-31

For then there shall be great tribulation,  
such as has not occurred  
since the beginning of the world,  
nor shall ever happen again.

If those days were not shortened,  
no flesh would survive;

but for the sake of the elect  
those days shall be cut short.

At that time, if anyone says to you,  
"Look! The Messiah is here or there,"  
do not believe it.  
For false Messiahs shall arise,  
along with *the prophets of falsehood*,  
and they shall supply great signs

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

so as to deceive – if this were possible –  
even the elect.

Behold, I have told you ahead of time.

So if they tell you, “Look, he is in the desert”,  
do not go out;  
or “Look, he is in an inner room”,  
do not believe it.  
For just as lightning goes out from the East  
and is visible as far as the West,  
so shall be the coming of the Son of Man.

Wherever the body is,  
there the eagles shall gather.

Immediately after the suffering of those days,  
the sun shall grow dark,  
and the moon shall not show its light.  
The stars shall fall from the sky  
and the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

At that time the sign of the Son of Man  
shall appear in the sky,  
and then all the generations of the earth  
shall mourn,  
and they shall see the Son of Man  
coming on the clouds of the sky,  
with power and great glory.

He shall send out His angels  
with a great trumpet,  
and they shall gather His elect  
from the four winds,  
from one end of the heavens to the other.



*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**

In prophecy, it is often the case that several realities, historical and otherwise, are telescoped. We considered this in last week's reflections. All creation and revelation is that of the ineffable divinity, the Hidden One. He communicates to us by nature and by revelation. All existence both in nature and in grace is meant to communicate the divine reality of the Creator and Origin of all. The Loveable One is made manifest through His epiphanic actions and creative work.

Among intelligent beings, men and angels, there is a further and more profound communication. God communicates *according to our* nature and thus speaks to us as it were in an intelligent and rational manner. He uses words, terms, culture, and historical concepts that men are able to grasp.

God communicates in human terms as it would be completely impossible for us to receive the Eternal Word in its infinite clarity and splendor.<sup>3</sup> Because

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<sup>2</sup> Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”

<sup>3</sup> Exodus 33: 20

of this, the Syriac Fathers saw all existence, nature and prophetic revelation, to be one, but in different modes and lessons directed toward one purpose and goal.

Everything has been created to manifest and glorify the Divine Goodness and, subsequent to the sinful fall of mankind, to bring redemption and return of all to God. Redemption requires that we be healed of our sins and our sinfulness, but *the purpose is union with God*. We must move supernaturally, transformed by grace, from the state of sin and alienation, toward union with the Living One.

Throughout the Old Testament, all things announce and foreshadow the coming of the Messiah. This prophetic word announced through *types* the coming of the true Presence of God in the Christ. The historical Jesus of Nazareth is the “Anointed”, the Messiah, or in our Syriac, *m’sheeHo*, Who revealed that Presence to the world, and in so doing revealed the lovability of Hidden Goodness. As the Divine Word, the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus is the fullness of God’s communication to the world.

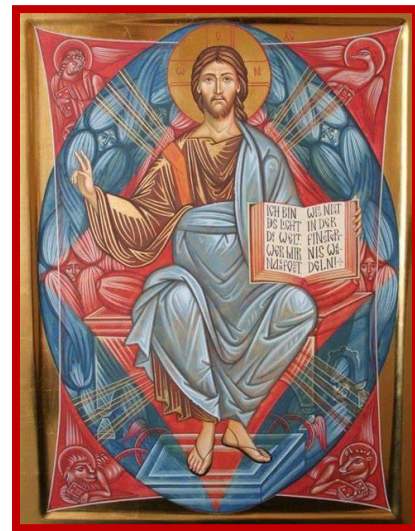
We are meant to live in that Presence and we are saved by that Presence through our incorporation into the Church – the extension in time and space of the Messiah. This prophetic mode lies at the heart of our Syriac love of *types* and *antitypes*, that is, in the foreshadowings of persons and events in the Old Law and in the Prophets that pointed to the Christ. This understanding grounds the poetry of our theology.

And yet in the Gospel, Our Lord speaks of a further manifestation when He will *return* “on the clouds of glory”.<sup>4</sup> This is less about a physical return as if travelling from one place to another, as if the Lord were now absent somehow, but is the **Parousia**,<sup>5</sup> or the full manifestation of the Messianic Presence that is already among us, a presence hidden now but active in grace and in the Mystery of the Body of Christ.

The Parousia will shine like lightening in an instant and all created things will remain transfigured in that Light. The moment of epiphany will be the consummation of all things, and of time, a creature among creatures, which will also be transformed.

It is to this moment of epiphany, splendor, and revelation that all creation and all history are directed.

When the Compassionate One reveals Himself in all the radiance possible for creation to bear, then created time as we know it will end. This is what makes our Lord’s “coming” the “Last Day”. This is the meaning of “the powers of the heavens shall be shaken”<sup>6</sup> when all creation will be transformed and renewed in the light of Christ.



Destruction and devastation are not the purpose of the Last Day, although it *will be the effect* in a natural world that is not disposed to receive grace and divine life. Our Lord said that He had come to give life and to give it more abundantly.<sup>7</sup> Vitality, animation, and life will be given to all whether creation and men wish it or not, but it is only those previously disposed by grace who will receive the fullness of the gracious life of God, and only these will be able to enter the fullness of the Kingdom. All others will be animated by the presence of eternal life, but this vital force will be received in an oppositional and conflicted manner. Having been

<sup>4</sup> St. Mark 13: 26

<sup>5</sup> From the Greek “para”, meaning “beside”, and “ousia”, “being”: “being alongside”, or “presence”.

<sup>6</sup> St. Luke 21: 26

<sup>7</sup> St. John 10: 10

previously rooted in mortally sinful choices, opposed to the life of grace, the damned will receive this divine life in oppositional hatred.

The catastrophic description of our Lord in the Gospel is not to announce fear, but to indicate the convulsions of a world that has been afflicted by original sin and that has rejected the saving grace of the Redeemer beforehand. Hence the horror of that long-expected Day when men will call to the mountains “to fall on us”<sup>8</sup> as if they could hide from the glory of the Lord in His majesty.

The **indifference** of men and their willful **rejection** of grace that had been proposed to them in life are the reasons why there shall be such human and created tragedy within what is otherwise glorious: *the universal and cosmic triumph of the Christ in glory in His Manifestation*. The consequences for those willfully stubborn creatures will be eternal.

We now live in the “last days”,<sup>9</sup> the final age of creation as it awaits the fullness of redemption<sup>10</sup> and the manifest presence and glory of the Compassionate One.

**Wrath is the “other side” of scorned love.** Divine justice is the effect of willfully rejected charity and grace. This is the result of the free choice made by men, *for those who chose not to love correctly and justly*.

While we have time, let us each seek this true life of God while it is now offered gently, compassionately, meekly, and with patient mercy. This is, after all, the true intent of God and His desire to love. *All creation and redemption are meant to be, after all, the revelation of the Sacred Heart.*

When we embrace that grace, and receive that redemption; when we confess well our sins before the All Holy, we are reoriented to union with Triune Charity in the intimacy of gracious friendship. Could there be anything more beautiful?

**Maranatha!**

<sup>8</sup> St. Luke 23: 30

<sup>9</sup> I Cor 10: 11

*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:** 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.*

**Schedule of Readings**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS**  
October 1, 2023

**Phil 3: 17 – 4: 1     St. Matthew 24: 23-31**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS**  
October 8, 2023

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

<sup>10</sup> Romans 8: 22-30



## VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Oct	1	Steve & Allison Crate
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

*and otherwise labored to make such a success of yesterday's festival.*

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

*It is beautiful to see all work together as one.*

**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	1	Ira Mandel
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

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*

## *Saint Joseph's Mediterranean Food Festival*



*Thank you to all the generous souls  
who cooked, served, constructed,  
cleaned, prepared, raised up, took down,*

This year, the second Sunday of October, the 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.

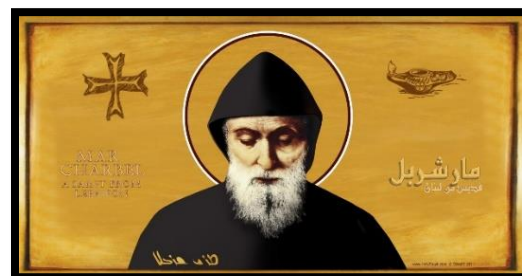
In the past few years, there has been a great renewal of interest in the Order, and there are now hundreds who support

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: \$2,026.00

(Running Budget Deficit, 2023: **\$39,914.00**)<sup>11</sup>

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

This month's fuel collection to date: **\$000.00**<sup>12</sup>

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

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

<sup>12</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. Our annual propane costs for the kitchen: **\$800.00**.

## SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

### October 1<sup>st</sup>:

9:00am: Lorenzo Michaud / Nathanael Carter

11:00am: Sava Nappi / River Gombojav

### October 8<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: Rocco Nappi / Michael Carter

11:00am: Patrick Carter / Ihbeleg Gombojav

### October 15<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: Rocco Nappi / Lorenzo Michaud

11:00am: Sava Nappi / River Gombojav

### October 22<sup>nd</sup>:

9:00am: Michael Carter / River Gombojav

11:00am: Ihbeleg Gombojav / Patrick Carter

### October 29<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: Lorenzo Michaud / Nathanael Carter

11:00am: River Gombojav / Sava Nappi

### November 5<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: Rocco Nappi / Michael Carter

11:00am: Ihbeleg Gombojav / Patrick Carter

### November 12<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: Nathanael Carter / Lorenzo Michaud

11:00am: River Gombojav / Sava Nappi

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

9:00am: Michael Carter / Rocco Nappi

11:00am: Patrick Carter / Ihbeleg Gombojav

Fri 6 †Lucas Thomas  
(Aunt Pam & Uncle Dan and family)

Sat 7 10:00 Gabrielle Blais  
(Suzanne Paré)

4:00pm Ramsho and Sunday Vigil  
Private intention

Sun 8 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph  
11:00am Sarah Grace Misner-Elias  
(Gayle Misner-Elias)

Mon 9 -----

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

## INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 1 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph  
11:00am †Sandra Lord Sturtevant  
(Pat Sturtevant and family)

Mon 2 -----

Tue 3 Gantumur Gombojav  
(Israel Gombojav)

Wed 4 †Carolyn Yovic  
(Barbara Joseph)

Thu 5 †Lucas Thomas  
(the LaChance family)

# The Third Sunday after Holy Cross

p. 606

!مُكَلِّمًا خَدَجَهُ :Priest

*Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!*

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

!هَـحْمَ وَهْمًا وَكُـرَ :People

*w'am rouHoh deelokh!*

(literally: and with spirit your!)

**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'shmaya*

**Recessional:** SB *Alleluia*



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**.



## Saint francis of Assisi

*Confessor*

*October 4<sup>th</sup>*