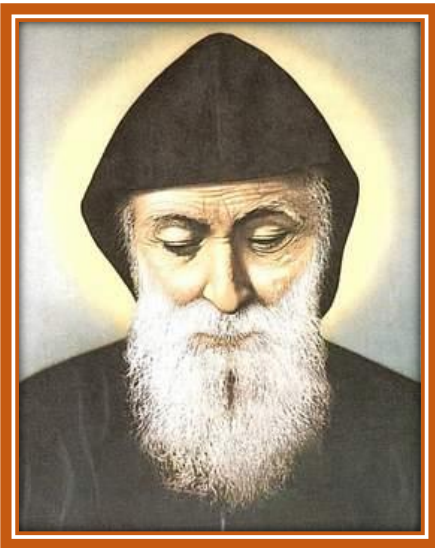


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Feast of Saint Sharbel

July 23, 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>
e-mail: MarYoussef3@outlook.com

"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:**

This Day's Gospel¹ **Saint Matthew 13: 36-43**

Then Jesus left the crowds
and went into the house.
His disciples approached Him and said to
Him, "Interpret for us the parable of the
zizoneh and the field."

He answered them, "The one who sowed the
good seed is the Son of Man,
and the field is the world.
The good seed
are the people belonging to the Kingdom,
but the *zizoneh* are the people
who belong to the evil one;
and the enemy who sowed them is Satan.

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

ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

The harvest is the end of the *age*
and the harvesters are the angels.
So just as weeds are pulled out
and burned in the fire,
so it shall be at the end of the world:
the Son of Man will send forth His angels
and they will pull up from His Kingdom
all those who cause scandal
and all wrongdoers,
and they shall throw them
into the furnace of fire,
where there shall be weeping
and gnashing of teeth.

Then the righteous shall shine like the sun
in the Kingdom of their Father.

Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.



*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

O God, number among Thy elect
the priests who sanctified Thy Name,
administered Thy Holy Mysteries
and praised Thee.³

The Church of Rome has had a number of Syrian popes. This may come as a surprise to many, but it should be kept in mind that the ancient Churches and their ecclesiastical traditions are historical and geographical realities and not ethnic, or, even less, genetic ones. Salvation does not come by birth, but by grace, faith, and free personal perseverance. The three original Patriarchal Sees are Antioch, Rome, and Alexandria, and from these three “Mother Churches” are derived all the other Churches, liturgies, rituals, and traditions.

In the first centuries of the Catholic Church we find a number of non-European popes in Rome, and this is due to the universality of the Christian Faith and the easy movement and travel possible in the ancient Roman Empire. Greek popes are also found in the seventh and eighth centuries scattered among the Syrian popes we will list below. Greek being the common language of the people in those centuries, movement among the ecclesiastical traditions was facilitated. Greek in its koine form was the foundational language of the first generations of the Church.

Pope **Saint Anicetus** was from Homs, Syria. He was pope from **AD 155** until April **168**. He was martyred under Marcus Aurelius.

However, it is with the seventh-century Islamic invasions that many who had the means to do so emigrated from their Middle Eastern home countries. Jerusalem and Damascus, cities that had been up to that point Christian populations, were both captured in the 630's. This seventh-century upheaval displaced peoples and families, even as such events do at present.

² Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”

³ **First Prayer, *Safro***, Sunday of Deceased Priests

We find a pope born in Palestine who ascends the Throne of Peter in **642, Theodore I**. He was the last pope from Palestine and he guided the Church of Rome for a bit more than six years.

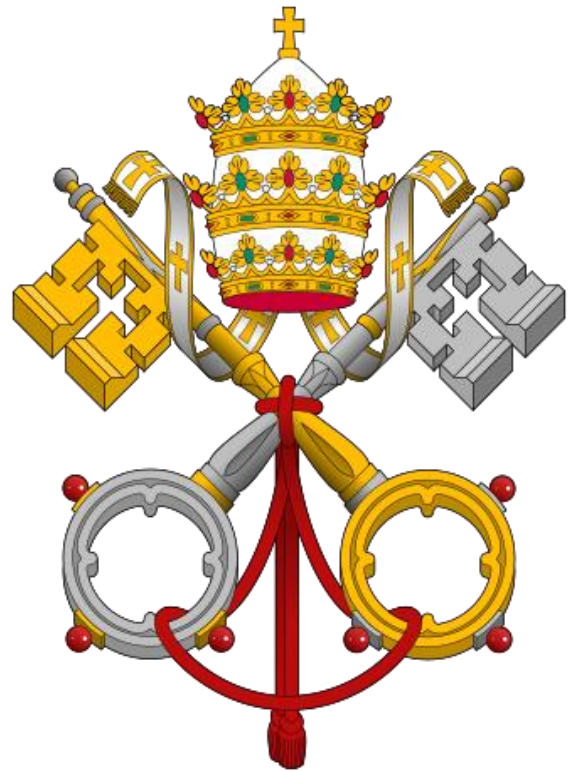
Around forty years later, in **685**, we have our first Syrian-born pope, **John V**, who shepherded the Latin Church for one year.

The saintly pontiff who instigated this little historical discourse was **Saint Sergius I**, whose Feastday we celebrate on January 23rd. Although he was born in Palermo, Sicily, his parents had been immigrants from Syria. His family was an Antiochene Syriac one, but the language he spoke in Sicily was Greek. It is possible that he spoke Aramaic at home with his parents. Nevertheless, he entered service in the Latin Church and eventually became the Cardinal-priest of the parish of Saint Susanna in Rome. As an interesting aside, this parish still exists thirteen centuries later and serves as the official “American parish” in Rome.

Saint Sergius succeeded to the papal office in **687 AD**, and he governed for thirteen years. During his pontificate he introduced the singing of the “Agnus Dei” in the Roman Mass. This is one of things he did in response to the Byzantine opposition to portrayal of the Savior as the “Lamb of God”, which itself was an early example of the Eastern Imperial and “Greek” opposition and controversy against the Roman Church that would build over the next four centuries. In addition to this, Saint Sergius responded by restoring the mosaics (three centuries old at that time) on the façade of the Constantinian Basilica of Saint Peter; mosaics that represented the life-giving Lamb of God.

Saint Sergius encouraged missionary work in what are now the countries of France, Britain, and Ireland. He baptized the king of Wessex, Caedwallon.

And, lastly, we can note that Saint Sergius was a contemporary to Saint John Maron, the first of our Maronite Patriarchs. Each serving his Church in the same years.



Following two Greek popes, we arrive at Pope **Sisinnius** in **AD 708**, but he occupied the Roman See for only twenty-one days. He too was a Syrian.

Pope Sisinnius was succeeded by the longer reign of **Constantine I**, who guided the Roman Church for seven years beginning in **708 AD**. He, too, was born in Syria. Constantine was the last pope to visit Greece before John Paul II did so in 2001.

Our final Syrian Roman pope was **Saint Gregory III**. He was a Benedictine monk and bore the same name as his predecessor, in this case Saint Gregory II. Saint Gregory III was a great supporter of mission work; he more thoroughly organized the religious mission in the evangelization of the peoples that now form Germany. To this end he supported the mission work of Saint Boniface in the Germanies and elevated him to the rank of Metropolitan, enabling him more easily to organize the Church in its development.

Through Pepin the Short, Saint Gregory obtained political sovereignty for Rome and the so-called Petrine Patrimony of the central Italian peninsula.

This independence and political autonomy remained in place for more than a millennium until 1870, when the revolutionary forces of Garibaldi overthrew it. Gregory III captained the Church of Rome from March 18, 731 until November 28, 741. He was the last non-European pope to be elected until Pope Francis in 2013.

A final thing to note – especially for those who may be surprised to see this number of popes having come out of Syrian stock – is that in antiquity the province of Syria was of great importance in the Roman world. Even an emperor, probably the first Christian one, **Philip the Arab**, came out of Syria in the mid-third century. Beirut was famous for its preeminent school of law in the Roman Empire.

Although it is now mostly arid desert land and arid, for much of its history, and even well into the Middle Ages, Syria contained large grassland and was prime hunting country. The agricultural richness of the land made Syria a major “breadbasket” to the Empire.

Now mostly forgotten, the riches of Syria (its political importance and its vast and ancient history) along with the upheavals of the wars with Persia *and* the Muslim invasions encouraged and enabled Syrians of the ancient Church of Antioch to travel to the West. As we have seen, some of them served as “Latins” in the ancient Church of Rome, but this further shows that the glory of our faith is Catholic and universal.


May the Hidden God of Majesty be continually praised for having enriched His Church with such lavish treasures, holy and talented saints, and a vast splendor in riches among her traditions, faith, popes, and peoples.



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 30	Jody Lachance
Sun	Aug 6	Sava Nappi
Sun	Aug 20	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Sep 3	Jeanne Thomas
Sun	Sep 17	Diane Wyder
Sun	Oct 1	Ira Mandel

VOCATION ICON

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

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
Sun	Sept	3	Daja Gombojav & Family

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE FEAST OF SAINT SHARBEL
July 23, 2023

Rom 8: 28-39 St. Matthew 13: 36-43

THE TENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
July 30, 2023

I Cor 12: 1-11 St. Matthew 12: 22-32

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*



*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 Gard,
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.

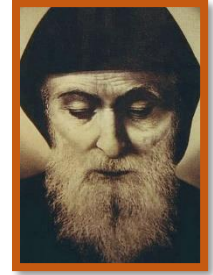
INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sun 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**
- Sun 6 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph
11:00am Theresa Casavant
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

- Mon 7 -----
- Tue 8 †Deacon Peter and Pat Joseph
(Allison & Steve Crate)
- Wed 9 Theresa Casavant
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- Thu 10 †Paul LaVerdière
(Audrey Yotides)
- Fri 11 Nicholas Family
(Mary Nicholas)
- Sat 12 10:00 Poulin Family
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- 4:30pm Sunday Vigil

This book is available online at the parish website and from the sacristy directly after Mass.

*Brand-new beautiful
hardcover edition,
with dust jacket, only
\$25*



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted weekly: \$3,500.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$3,027.00

(Running Budget Deficit, 2023: \$29,256.00)⁴

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: **\$332.00**⁵

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

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

July 23rd:

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

July 30th:

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

August 6th:

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

August 13th:

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

August 20th:

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

August 27th:

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

September 3rd:

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

September 10th:

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

Tell your friends and family of the wonders of the Maronite tradition through her saints – on this feast of Saint Sharbel! We still have available Chorbishop Eid's wonderful introduction to **Saint Sharbel**, now updated and in its fourth edition.

Chorbishop Joseph Eid was Vice-Postulator for the Beatification of Mar Sharbel, and originally he wrote this work to introduce the great hermit to an American audience.

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

⁵ 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.



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 a **coffee social** scheduled **after each Sunday Mass on August 20th**.

⁶ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59 / Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00 / Deficit 2021: \$35,178.00 / Deficit 2022: \$29,423.00

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The Fast of the Dormition

The Assumption of the Ever-Virgin Mary into Heaven, body and soul (August 15th)

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 7th until August 14th inclusively.

⁷ 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.

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 12-13th 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*

! :Priest
مَلِكًا حَلْبَةً

Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

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

! :People
وَهُمْ وَكُورًا

w'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)

feast of Saint Sharbel

p. 718

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 *toobaiik 'eedto* p

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;*
Aboun d'b'shmayo

Recessional: SB *Alleluia*

*Parish Barbecue to
Commemorate our pastor's
anniversary to the priesthood.*

35 years!

This Friday, July 28th

6:00pm



*All parishioners who share in this festivity
will be dispensed that day
from the normal Friday fast.*



Saint Martha of Bethany

The Sister of Lazarus

July 29th