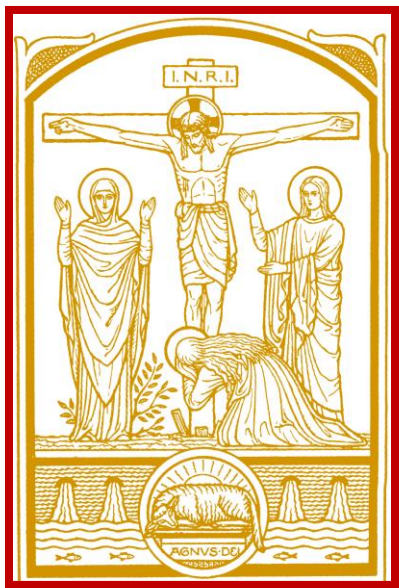


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Second Sunday after Holy Cross

September 24, 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 \$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: 1-14**

And Jesus left the Temple in order to set off,
and His disciples approached,
showing Him the building of the Temple.
And He said to them,
"Look, do you see all these?
Amen, I say to you,

stone upon stone shall not be left here
that will not be pulled down".

While Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives,
His disciples approached
and said to Him privately,
"Tell us, when will these things happen,
and what is the sign of Your coming
and of the end of this age?"

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

Jesus replied to them,
"Beware that no one deceives you,
for many will come in My Name and say,
'I am the Messiah', and many will be deceived.

You are going to hear of battles
and the report of wars.
See that you are not troubled,
for all these things need to happen
yet it is still not the end.

For nation shall rise against nation,
and kingdom against kingdom,
and there shall be famines, and plagues,
and earthquakes in many places.
But all these things
are but the beginning of the sorrows.

Then they shall hand you over
to experience sufferings and they shall kill you.
You will be hated by all nations
on account of My Name.

At that time many will stumble,
hating each other and betraying one another.
Many false prophets shall arise,
and they will deceive many.

Due to the increase of wrongdoing,
the love of many shall grow cold;
but whoever endures to the end shall live.

And these good tidings of the Kingdom
shall be proclaimed throughout the world
as a testimony to all the nations.

Then the end shall come.



*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

Just under forty years following Our Lord's Ascension into Heaven, the Holy Temple of God in Jerusalem was destroyed. The Temple of Herod that had taken almost fifty years to build was laid waste in 70AD.

At the time of the destruction, the Jewish people had been in rebellion against the Roman Empire for decades; the obliteration of Jerusalem was the final act in the long-drawn-out drama that had been their pursuit of political freedom.

Although the Roman authorities had ordered that the temple complex be preserved for the sake of its architectural and artistic beauty, it was nevertheless destroyed completely in the frustration, fury, and hatred that resulted after so many years of fighting rebellion and insurrection.

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

The only thing remaining to this day is the so-called “Wailing Wall,” and that is not even a part of the actual temple; it is only one of the retaining walls of the esplanade that once supported the Temple.

Although Julian the Apostate attempted to do so in the 360s, the Temple has never been rebuilt.

Following the final and disastrous revolt of Bar Kokhba in 132AD, Jerusalem was completely destroyed, and a Roman colony was established there under the Emperor Hadrian in 135AD. Judea was renamed *Palestina*, the Jews were expelled from the city, forbidden to return, and the place of the Temple was destroyed. Jerusalem was renamed *Aelia Capitolina* and refashioned as a thoroughly pagan city.

Over the ruins of the Temple, a pagan temple dedicated to Jupiter was constructed.³ The Romans saw the Christians as simply another sect of the Jews, so they erected another pagan temple over the Tomb of Our Lord. They destroyed the Christian memorial that had been erected there and raised up a temple dedicated to Venus.

While this was a devastating result for the Jewish people, the Christians for the most part had already left from the Holy City and fled north to **Pella** in the **Decapolis**. The Jewish persecutions of the Christians following the martyrdom of Saint Stephen in the first century forced many to leave, and many others simply followed Our Lord’s prophecies concerning the destruction of the Temple and had left the doomed city. The Church Historian Eusebius comments in the fourth century that the names of the earliest bishops in Jerusalem had been Jewish, but that those following 135AD were non-Jewish names, so a small Christian community did remain in Jerusalem after the establishment of the Roman colony.

As an aside, the building of the temple of Venus is the reason that we are completely certain of the placement of Our Lord’s Tomb: the pagan temple stood there for two and a half centuries unwittingly marking the place. The mother of Constantine,

Saint Helena, merely had to return to the city empowered by the authority of her imperial son and have the pagan temple razed. To this day parts of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher include sections of this structure.

As events have played out over the centuries, and most especially today, the Jews wish to rebuild the temple – two thousand years later. For the Fathers of the Church, nevertheless, the construction of this building will be one of the signs of the advent of the Anti-Christ and the coming Day of Judgment, the end of time, the *Day of the Lord*.



In the Gospel today, our Lord responds to the Apostles glorying in the Temple of Herod by foretelling its doom that “no stone should be left upon a stone.” They were dumbfounded by His reply. When they ask about when this will all take place, they link the destruction of the temple complex to the return of the Son of Man, and the end of this age. Our Lord thus speaks simultaneously of His Epiphany at the end of time and the impending destruction of Jerusalem. They are, in a sense, both the same.

There are in fact three things involved here: 1.) the destruction of Jerusalem; 2.) the return of the Son of Man in judgment; and, 3.) the end of the world as we know it, and the initiation of the “new heaven and new earth”.⁴ At first these three things may seem unrelated, but they do all possess one common thing: each exists for a unique purpose which is to receive the presence of the Word Incarnate. In our Lord’s reply, these three realities are thus *telescoped* as it were.

³ The name of the new colony comes from the title *Jupiter Capitolina*. *Aelius* being the family name of Hadrian.

⁴ II Peter 3: 13

The Temple in Jerusalem existed to receive the Messiah.⁵ This arrival was accomplished by Our Lord's presentation in the Temple on the fortieth day after His Nativity. He of course returned there numerous times during His life.

The Church on earth exists to receive all those who are predestined to eternal glory, the children of God who will be gathered into the Beatific Vision of the Hidden One,⁶ that is, those who are called the "elect".⁷

Lastly, all creation was brought into existence for the sake of God's glory. Creation is a manifestation of His eternal Goodness, and the elect are the created and free response to that glorious and divine goodness.⁸ So it is that when each of these three realities fulfills its *raison d'être* and serves its purpose it will no longer be of use and will be brought to an end.

Thus, the events are overlapped and telescoped:

- a.) the **Temple** will now be destroyed because the Messiah has arrived;
- b.) the divine Savior will return in **glory** and in **justice** when the last of the elect has been born into the world and baptized;
- c.) and, finally, all creation itself will be "rolled up"⁹ and "dissolved by fire"¹⁰ bringing an end to its natural state. Creation will react to the glory of the Lord, and it will enter into the eternal transformation of the New Heaven and New Earth. The descent of the perfect and heavenly **Jerusalem**¹¹ from the Unseen Triune One, will crown the totality of renewed creation – both the first and second creations.

What was initiated in **goodness** many, many centuries ago, is now being healed and restored in grace and **mercy** through the Church, but this will all be perfected and purified in **justice** by the

Manifestation of the Messiah in power, bringing an end to "this age".



So it is, that the liturgical season of the Holy Cross is dedicated to consideration of the end-times and the eschatological truths concerning creation, *and* how our individual lives must figure within that reality. We now have seven weeks to reflect on grace, goodness, mercy, justice, time, **the shortness of life**, death, purgation, heaven, and damnation. How these things come to influence and transform each individual human life is ours to consider, ponder, contemplate, and pray on.

Whether we wish it or not, we are all actors in this truly cosmic drama. Being in part immaterial in our constitution, we know that we shall always exist. Whether this existence is to eternally glorify mercy or to manifest eternal justice is ours to choose. Will it be for us beatitude or damnation?

May the Compassionate One strengthen us in all our endeavors; and may our labors be directed toward His majestic honor and glory – and benefit our salvation in the eternal Temple of the New Jerusalem.

⁵ Malachi 3: 1

⁶ St. John 11: 52

⁷ II Tim 2: 10

⁸ II Timothy 2: 10-13

⁹ Isaiah 34: 4

¹⁰ II Peter 3: 10-12

¹¹ Apocalypse 21: 1-5

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 |

VOCATION ICON

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

| | | | |
|-----|------|-----------|------------------------|
| Sun | Sept | 24 | Dean & MaryAnn Carter |
| 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 |

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS

September 24, 2023

I Cor 15: 19-34 St. Matthew 24: 1-14

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS

October 1, 2023

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

Saint Joseph's Mediterranean Food Festival



*Authentic Lebanese
and American Fare,
and so much more!*

**Saturday, September 30th
11:00am ---- 5:00pm**

UNDER THE TENT AT HEAD OF FALLS

This is a rain or shine event!

The sanctuary lamp for September
has been donated in memory
of **Patricia Thomas**
by **Nicole & Michelle**



*May she 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: 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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted weekly: \$3,500.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$2,407.00

(Running Budget Deficit, 2023: **\$38,440.00**)¹²

Several contributions came in last week
toward the new kitchen mixer *and* the costs of
propane for the next twelve months: **\$7,541.06**

*Many thanks and gratitude to these generous souls,
especially to **Dr. Ira and Catherine Mandel** who
contributed the full amount for the new mixer:
\$6,720.00.*

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

This month's fuel collection to date: \$250.00¹³

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

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

¹³ Jan: \$670.00 / Feb: \$345.00 / March: \$729.00 / April: \$30.00 /
May: \$444.00 / June: \$405.00 / July: \$422.00 / August: \$548.00.
Our annual propane costs for the kitchen: **\$800.00.**



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**.

!مُكَلِّمًا خُدَّجَه! :Priest

Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

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

!هَحْمَ وَهَمًا وَكُحْر! :People

w'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 24 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph

11:00am †Edmond & Lucille Paré
(Suzanne Paré)

Mon 25 -----

Tue 26 †Al and Rose Bellamah
(Dame Fefa)

Wed 27 †Darrell Mitchell
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

Thu 28 †Cynthia Elias
(Martha Paterson)

Fri 29 †Lucas Thomas
(Aunt Pam & Uncle Dan and family)

Sat 30 10:00 †Lucas Thomas
(the LaChances)

4:30pm Sunday Vigil
Private intention

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)

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

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

September 24th:

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

October 1st:

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

October 8th:

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

October 15th:

9:00am: Rocco Nappi / Lorenzo Michaud
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

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*



The Second Sunday after Holy Cross

p. 606

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

Saint Vincent de Paul

Confessor

September 27th