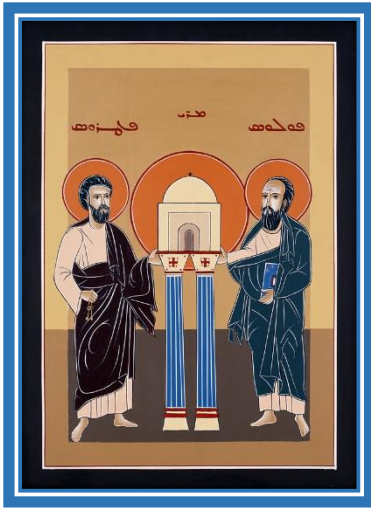


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

July 2, 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:** Suzanne Paré
Pastoral Council Members: Suzanne Paré, *Chair*; Jeanne Thomas, *Secretary*; Steve Crate, *Religious Education*; Ira Mandel, *Legion of Mary*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Almoner*; Judith Metzger, *Finance Committee*

This Day's Gospel¹

Saint Matthew 16: 13-20

When Jesus came to the region
of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples,
"Whom do men say is the Son of Man?"
And they said, "Some say John the Baptist;
others, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah,
or one of the prophets".

And He said to them, "But whom do you say I
am?"

Simon *Kepha* replied, "You are Messiah,
the Son of the living God".

Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon,
son of Jonah, because flesh and blood
have not revealed this to you,
but my Father in heaven.

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

And I say to you, you are *Kepha*,
and on this rock² I will build My Church,
and the gates of *Sheol*
shall not prevail against it.
I will give you the keys
of the Kingdom of Heaven;
whatever you bind on earth
shall be bound in heaven,
and anything you loose on earth
shall be loosed in heaven.”

Then He ordered His disciples
to tell no one that He was the Messiah.



*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)³

ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

You, O Christ, are the Kingdom of Heaven;
You, the Land promised to the gentle;
You, the grazing Lands of paradise;
You, the Hall of the Celestial Banquet;
You, the ineffable Marriage Chamber;
You, the Table set for all;
You, the Bread of Life;
You, the unheard of Drink;
You, both the Urn for the water
and the life-giving Water;
You, moreover, the inextinguishable Lamp
for each one of the saints;
You, the Garment and the Crown
and the One Who distributes crowns;
You, the joy and rest;
You, the delight and glory;
You, the gaiety; You, the mirth.
Your grace,
the grace of the Spirit of all Holiness,
shall shine like the sun within all the saints;
and You, inaccessible Sun,
shall shine in their midst and all shall shine brightly,
to the degree of their faith, their asceticism,
their hope and their charity, their purification
and their illumination by Your Spirit.⁴

Judgement, truth, balance, measurement, justice:
these are ideas throughout the world associated
with death. In modern Irish the expression used to
indicate that someone is dead is, “she/he is in the
place of Truth now”.

The Christian notion of *Heaven* is not a “where”,
but rather a “who” and a “how”. It is not
something that happens after death if it is not
something that already begun here and now in the

² *Kepha*

³ *Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”*

⁴ Symeon the New Theologian, from the eleventh century.

present. Nothing magical happens in human death; we just die. The material body ceases to support the life-force of the spirit. The life that we live engenders the death we experience and the judgement we encounter.

Death itself is simply another event, albeit permanent, in the course of human existence; it is the “who” and the “how” involved in that human life span that give purpose and meaning to it. They prepare and form the individual’s moment of death. Their presence, or absence, gives meaning and worth to human life. Death merely sets that life “in the place of Truth”. Death, in itself, cannot give meaning to life. Life must be molded and transformed beforehand so that it may set a desirable here after.

Too many today seem to consider existence after death as some form of “happy hunting grounds” where the dead go simply by the fact of being dead. Or perhaps one might use the stranger phrase in modern lingo: “she’s gone to a better place”. What is it about dying that is supposed to place a human being “in a better place”? This is, even if not intended to be such, pure superstition and mere wishful thinking.

In fact, during most of the vast history of mankind the knowledge of what takes places after death has been murky. Often it has been a generic notion of some form of existence continuing as it had when the individual was alive – “the Otherworld”. Usually this entailed some form of vague idea about a place or condition filled with the spirits of the dead and little more – “the dwelling of shades” – at times having an equally vague idea about punishment in some form for the very wicked or some form of bliss for the extraordinarily good. The rest of us were left in ignorance.

This hazy awareness of death, its effects, the grave, and the continuing shadowy existence afterward were all bundled up and labeled under the word “sheol” in the Orient. Even among the Jews, to this day, the idea of existence after life on earth remains unclear. Focus rather is placed on life here below and how it should be lived. The Muslim world, subsequent as it is to Christianity and influenced

by it, does have a concept of paradise or punishment.



For Christians, as mentioned earlier, “Heaven” is *not* a “where” first and foremost. It is certainly not this in the sense of some kind of voyage for the dead, although it must be noted that the Syriac tradition in antiquity has portrayed the passage of the dead as traversing a sea of fire, but this is about the judgment and measuring to which every human being is subject at death. “Heaven” means an ultimate union with the divinity, but a union that begins by grace while we are living, or it does not exist at all. It *is* a “where” in the sense that all spirits/souls have a natural existence in some location, and this will be even truer after the resurrection of the body.

What the Lord God has revealed to mankind, in the Person of the Messiah, is that there is a change possible to each person. In the Resurrection, God offers each person supernatural love in a divine relationship that surpasses even the sublime condition in which the human race was once created in Paradise. When this friendship is freely accepted, existence is transformed. This is the radical meaning of “heaven” and “salvation”. Because this love is initiated and originates from Divinity, it is more than simple affection and sentiment – it is supernaturally transformative. As mankind is profoundly wounded in so many ways, this divine friendship also heals.

What we call “heaven” begins in time, and it starts now, when each allows God’s grace to work within and transform his spirit, mind, and body. It is this latter element that points us to hope ultimately in the resurrection of the dead. For now, death is simply the last moment terminating the earthly stage of this divine friendship. Absent this divine friendship, death is simply death and nothing more. There is nothing intrinsically different or exceptional to breathing one’s last distinct from any other moment of breathing. Life simply ends, and one enters the “place of Truth”.

Now Our Lord changed all this as He taught about “the Kingdom”, a reality that He stated had begun with the preaching of Saint John the Baptist.⁵ This was a monumental change for humanity. As God Himself, the Rabbi of Nazareth taught that He had come to announce this inner kingdom of charity. This was to be a relation of grace leading to definitive healing and ultimate glorification of humanity – if they should accept it and freely respond. “He who loves Me keeps My commandments.”⁶ Our Lord spoke of having His disciples “be where He was”⁷ and that in the presence of the Hidden Father “there were many dwellings.”⁸ Through these and similar teachings, Our Lord God and Savior made it clear that response to His initiative would transform a man beginning in this life and continuing after death. In this, we await the Resurrection.

This is how mankind developed an idea of life after death that was entirely different from those that had gone before. The lingering notions that surround us today of “a better place” or “being without pain” following death are traces that remain of what had once been a Christian culture, but without the Faith this is now based on mere sentiment and feeling, a rootless “hope” that in itself is vain. For this reason, the once hopeful sentiment surrounding death has degenerated into a form of superstition.

No one becomes better by simply dying. We die the way we live, and an indifferent or selfish life

terminates in a correspondingly isolated and insular death wrapped in ego. Only a renewed and transformative life can lead one to a renewing and life-giving death. Such a life is that which was proposed by Our Divine Lord to His disciples, that is, should one wish to respond to this offer and enter the Kingdom and rediscover God’s original intent “in Paradise”.⁹

It is through this renewed and transformed death that we are meant, as Christians, to enter the Divine Embrace that is called the “Beatific Vision” – or as written above by Saint Symeon describing Our Lord Himself – the eternal delight in “the Marriage Chamber,” the “Kingdom” and the “grazing Lands of Paradise”.

This postmortem “where” exists only because of the “Who” and His renovating “how” in “the place of Truth”.

Schedule of Readings

SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
July 2, 2023

II Cor 11: 21-30 St. Matthew 16: 13-20

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
July 9, 2023

II Cor 3: 1-6 St. Luke 10: 1-7

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	July	2	Anne Marie Mathieu
Sun	July	9	Suzanne Paré
Sun	July	16	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	July	23	Ira & Catherine Mandel
Sun	July	30	Maureen Martin
Sun	Aug	6	Dean & MaryAnn Carter
Sun	Aug	13	Steve & Allison Crate

⁵ St. Matthew 11: 12
⁶ St. John 14: 21-24
⁷ cf St. John 12: 26
⁸ St. John 14: 2

⁹ Here it would be appropriate to read **chapter 17** of the Gospel of **Saint John**, where the communication of divine life, union, sanctification, and glory are received in the knowledge of the “the Name” of God in a Sacramental and Eucharistic context.

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	2	Diane Wyder
Sun	July	16	Ira Mandel
Sun	July	30	Jody Lachance
Sun	Aug	6	Sava Nappi
Sun	Aug	20	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Sep	3	Jeanne Thomas



*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.*

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*

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun	2	9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph 11:00am †Edward Serwin (Mary Ann Carter)
Mon	3	-----
Tue	4	†John Marietta and Paul Thomas (Pam & Dan Casavant)
Wed	5	†Elizabeth Serwin (Mary Ann Carter)
Thu	6	†Windy Bizier (Daja Gombojav)
Fri	7	†Linda Armstrong (Mary Ann Carter)
Sat	8	NAM Convention and Priests' Convocation No Ramsho and No Masses today
Sun	9	9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph 11:00am †Linda Armstrong (Mary Ann Carter)
Mon	10	-----
Tue	11	Fortieth Day for Cindy Elias (Michael & Gayle Misner-Elias)
Wed	12	†Mary Theresa Huebner (Audrey Yotides)
Thu	13	Michael & Teresa Paré (Suzanne Paré)
Fri	14	†Linda Armstrong (Mary Ann Carter)
Sat	15	10:00 †Joseph Smus (Paula, David, & Patricia) 4:30pm Sunday Vigil Private Intention
Sun	16	9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph 11:00am Elijah Misner-Elias (Gayle Misner-Elias)
Mon	17	-----
Tue	18	†Joan Gottardi (Donna-Jo Mitchell)

Wed 19 Romona Phillips
(same)

Thu 20 Legion of Mary
(Mary Nicholas)

Fri 21 †Theresa Casavant
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Sat 22 10:00 †Veilleux Family
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

4:30pm Sunday Vigil
Private Intention



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**.

*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: Mary Maroon, 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 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.



Presentation on the Legion and more information will be available at **coffee socials** scheduled **after each Sunday Mass on July 16th** – Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel – and again on **August 20th**.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted weekly: \$3,500.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$1,464.00

(Running Budget Deficit, 2023: **\$27,370.00**)¹⁰

Special Collection last week, **Peter's Pence:**
\$185.00

May the Good One bless and richly reward
the generous of heart who can and choose
to help offset these latest parish expenses:

Expenses still outstanding for:

Video Camera: \$811.21

Rectory Refrigerator: \$975.00

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: \$00.00¹¹

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

The end of the month is always a bit difficult
financially for everyone. We often scrape the
bottom of the proverbial barrel. For the parish
collection this month, this was true. *Ouch!*
Nevertheless, we do have happier recognition in
the fact that someone has covered the costs for the
new video camera -- **\$811.21** -- that is used to record
the Sunday Liturgies that are posted on our
website.

And another **\$50.00** was contributed this week to
offset the expense of the rectory's refrigerator.

Well done, and thank you to the donors of both
gifts.

For the camera, I was asked not to do a full-blown
"acknowledgement" but that I am allowed to
mention that a "snowbird" taking rest in Maine for
the month of June left this golden egg behind. For
this, we are grateful; and, as a reward, may the God
of all beauty make this snowbird into a true bird of
paradise according to His good pleasure.

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

July 2nd:

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

July 9th:

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

July 16th:

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

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

You can begin to use the new address listed on the
front of the bulletin: MarYoussef3@outlook.com.

¹⁰ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59 / Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00 / Deficit
2021: \$35,178.00 / Deficit 2022: \$29,423.00

¹¹ 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**.

For those who are able, and may wish to do so, contributions will be gratefully received in the parish to cover the costs incurred in the replacement of the rectory's **refrigerator**. The amount remaining can be found in the "financial box" above.

The Luminous One reward your continuing generosity in this, our shared apostolic endeavor.

! :Priest
 مَلِكًا حَلَجْهْ

Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

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

! :People
 هَحْمَ وَهْمَا وَحَرْ

w'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

p. 562

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 Maria Goretti

Martyr of Chastity

July 6th