

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost

September 3, 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
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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 \$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 Luke 7: 36-50

One of the Pharisees came
and asked Him to have dinner with him,
so He went into the Pharisees' house
and reclined to eat.

There was a sinful woman in that town,
and when she found out
that He was reclining to eat

in the Pharisees' house,
she took an alabaster jar of perfume.
Standing behind Him at His feet, she wept,
and began to wet His feet with her tears.
She wiped them with the hair of her head,
kissing His feet
and anointing them with the perfume.

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

Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he thought to himself,
“If this man were a prophet,
He would know who she is
and what her reputation is – that this woman,
who has touched Him, is a sinner”.

Jesus responded to him,
“Simon, I have something to say to you”.
He said to Him, “Speak, *my Rabbi*”.

“There were two debtors
who owed money to a certain creditor;
one owed 500 denarii and the other 50 denarii.
And since they had nothing to pay,
he forgave them both.
So which of them will love him more?”
Simon answered, “I suppose the one
who has been forgiven the most”.
Jesus said to him, “You have judged correctly”.

He turned to the woman and asked Simon,
“Do you see this woman?
I came into your house,
and you gave Me no water for My feet,
but this woman has wet My feet with her tears,
wiping them with her hair.
You did not kiss Me,
but from the very moment she entered,
this woman has not stopped kissing My feet.
You did not anoint My head with ointment,
but this woman has anointed My feet
with perfumed ointment.
For this reason, I tell you,
her many sins have been forgiven her,
because she has loved much.
But whosoever is forgiven little loves little”.

He said to the woman,
“Your sins are forgiven you”.

The guests began to say among themselves,
“Who is this, that He even forgives sins?”
But Jesus said to the woman,
“Your faith has saved you; go in peace”.

² Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”



*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

Coinciding with the feast of Saint Isaac of Nineveh, and thus leading to some confusion, there is recounted the plight of another “Syrian Isaac”: **Saint Isaac Syriani**. His commemoration in the **Synaxar**³ is a good point of reference when we consider the plight of refugees: there has been an endless flow of them throughout the centuries.

In the fifth century, the time of Saint Isaac's move from Syria to Italy, was a devastating period of religious controversy over Christian orthodoxy and expression. The ecclesial splits and schisms over the Holy Councils of **Ephesus** and **Chalcedon** remain with us to this day, although happily there were agreements and statements of understanding

³ The **Synaxarion**, the liturgical book that lists the commemorated saints throughout the year. This is equivalent to the Latin Church's **Martyrology**.

signed by representatives of the “Nestorian” and anti-Chalcedonian Churches in the 1990s with the Catholic Church.

We commemorate the Council of Chalcedon (AD 451) on September 9th. It is this Council that gave rise to the crisis that sent Saint Isaac westward.

In the world of the fifth century, most of the Aramaic/Syriac Christian people of the Middle East, as a group, opposing either the Council of Chalcedon or that of Ephesus, went into schism. The debates were over the manner best to express the reality and relation of the human nature, divine nature, and the divine person of the Logos in the Christ. The resulting religious turmoil caused great difficulty for those who wished to remain faithful to the apostolic and catholic faith of the Apostles.



The Maronites, as we know them today, descend from Saint Maron,⁴ from out the ascetic path he established, and established in the monastery of Saint Maron founded by the emperor Saint Marcian

in the 450s, following the Council of Chalcedon. Gathered as the faithful were around their religious and monastic establishments, the disciples of Saint Maron found it easier to preserve the apostolic purity of the Christian Faith than other Syrians who might have wished to do so. In general, the Syrian Christian population identified with their parishes and eparchies throughout the country, which, almost in their entirety, rose in opposition to the Council of Chalcedon. It was in this religious crisis that Isaac left his homeland for Italy.

Saint Isaac had judged that he could not remain faithful to Catholic doctrine *and* stay among his Syrian compatriots. He relocated to a Catholic country to preserve his faith, and he established himself in the area of Spoleto in Italy, where he became a hermit. As a hermit he became known as a miracle-worker especially gifted with clairvoyance. He died in **550** and is commemorated in both the eastern and western Churches.

Here it can be noted that a major part of the glory of the Antiochene Syriac *Maronite* tradition is that it is a Catholic Church which has remained always faithful to her Syriac roots – remaining both Catholic and Syriac. In fact, the Maronite Church is the only Catholic Church that has no heterodox version;⁵ it is the only Church (of the twenty-three Catholic Churches that exist) to do so.

Many of the Syriac peoples who had held fast to the orthodox Catholic Faith later adopted the rites and ceremonies of the Byzantine Church: these are now known as *Melkites*.⁶ They are a Church who share the same faith and culture as the Maronites but who worship in the “Hellenic” fashion of Constantinople. For this reason, the Melkites have been historically especially close to us Maronites as brothers and sisters in the Faith.

Many of our ancestors who came to America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries would have remembered the civil unrest and modern persecutions committed by the Muslims and Druze, and, perhaps among the older immigrants, the devastating massacres and civic unrest of 1859-1860. It was in these massacres that the Blessed

⁴ Our Father died in 410 AD.

⁵ Such as Protestants are to Roman Catholics.

⁶ The word itself comes from the Aramaic, *malko*, “king”, thus meaning the “King’s people”.

Massabki Brothers were martyred for the Faith in Damascus in 1860.

We can understand only with difficulty, in our age of easy transport and communication, the effort it took Saint Isaac to immigrate to Italy. We can look back on him and appreciate the fidelity and sacrifice he demonstrated by doing so. It was better for him, he had judged, to leave homeland and family rather than renounce the apostolic Faith in its orthodoxy. To have remained in Syria would have been to leave himself in a situation where he might lose his faith and be caught up in the religious debates that surrounded the people of the East. This was not an acceptable option for Saint Isaac; his homeland had become to him, he judged, an occasion of sin. The Catholic Church concurs with him in this decision by his canonization, and God Himself confirmed his life and choices through the miracles that surrounded his life as a hermit.

Of course, given such an example, each of us is asked to examine himself as to how well he cherishes this same Catholic Faith in its orthodoxy and integrity that was *taught* by the Council of Chalcedon and was *exemplified* in the heroic sacrifices made by Saint Isaac Syriani. Would we make similar sacrifices, leaving family and homeland, to preserve it?

In present-day Maine it is a simple matter to practice our faith, but how well do we do so day after day? Being in comfort we might become lax, misled, and duped. Does this easiness become for us a source of complacency or even a cause for loss of faith? For some, persecutions were exactly what was needed. It increased the seriousness of the Faith. By their gravity and danger, attacks against the Faith have brought salvation to many throughout the centuries.

May the devotion and example of Saint Isaac Syriani strengthen us and may his intercession and prayers before the Hidden and Compassionate One be a rampart to us all.

Schedule of Leaders for the Recitation of the Rosary at 10:30 am on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of each month:



Sun	Sep	3	Jeanne Thomas
Sun	Sep	17	Diane Wyder
Sun	Oct	1	Ira Mandel
Sun	Oct	15	Jody Lachance
Sun	Oct	29	Sava Nappi
Sun	Nov	5	Suzanne Paré

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Sept	3	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Sept	10	Ira & Catherine Mandel
Sun	Sept	17	Maureen Martin
Sun	Sept	24	Dean & MaryAnn Carter
Sun	Oct	1	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Oct	8	Anne Marie Mathieu
Sun	Oct	15	Suzanne Paré

Schedule of Readings

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

September 3, 2023

I Thes 1: 1-10 St. Luke 7: 36-50

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

September 10, 2023

Rom 8: 18-27 St. Luke 18: 9-14

The parish gives a hearty thanks to Patrick Carter, Simon Misner, and Tava Nappi for organizing and financing the new acolyte candle sticks for the Divine Lourbench.



These candlesticks are a beautiful addition to the sacristy and an admirable sign of these young men's devotion to the holiness of the Mass and to their parish in which the Divine Liturgy is offered, served, and received.

The Uncloaked Bright One grant unto them and their families the fullness of grace and the radiance of His blessing!

The sanctuary lamp for August 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: \$2,103.00

(Running Budget Deficit, 2023: \$35,489.00)⁷

Next Sunday, Special Collection, September 10th:
Catholic University of America and for our
Maronite Seminary

(25% is for academic scholarships at CUA, and 75%
is used for our Maronite Seminary in Washington)

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: \$000.00⁸

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



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

⁷ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59 / Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00 / Deficit
2021: \$35,178.00 / Deficit 2022: \$29,423.00

⁸ Jan: \$670.00 / Feb: \$345.00 / March: \$729.00 / April: \$30.00 /
May: \$444.00 / June: \$405.00 / July: \$422.00 / August: \$548.00.

president, or from its vice-president, **Daja
Gombojav**.

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

September 3rd:

9:00am: Lorenzo Michaud / Nathanael Carter

11:00am: River Gombojav / Sava Nappi

September 10th:

9:00am: Rocco Nappi / Michael Carter

11:00am: Ihbeleg Gombojav / Patrick Carter

September 17th:

9:00am: Nathanael Carter / Lorenzo Michaud

11:00am: River Gombojav / Sava Nappi

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

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 3 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph

11:00am †Ferris Ferris,
Lennon & Bennett DeCreny
(the Ferris Family)

Mon 4 -----

Our contractual payment each month to DownEast is
\$2,455.00.

Tue 5 **Ferdinand & Antoinette Mathieu**
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
 Wed 6 **Bruce LaVerdière**
(Audrey Yotides)
 Thu 7 **Gantumur Gombojav**
(Israël Gombojav)
 Fri 8 †**Cindy Elias**
(Gayle Misner-Elias)
 Sat 9 10:00 **James Yotides**
(Audrey Yotides)
 4:30pm **Sunday Vigil**
Private intention
 Sun 10 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph
 11:00am **Bruce LaVerdière**
(Audrey Yotides)
 Mon 11 -----
 Tue 12 **Gantumur Gombojav**
(Israel Gombojav)
 Wed 13 †**Patrick Phillips**
(Abouna)
 Thu 14 †**Lucas Thomas**
(Badiha Spencer)
 Fri 15 †**Cindy Elias**
(Gayle Misner-Elias)
 Sat 16 10:00 **James Yotides**
(Audrey Yotides)
 4:30pm **Sunday Vigil**
Private intention
 Sun 17 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph
 11:00am †**George and Jean Deeb**
(Dame Fefa)
 Mon 18 -----
 Tue 19 **Gantumur Gombojav**
(Israel Gombojav)
 Wed 20 †**Sam and Lottie Deeb**
(Dame Fefa)
 Thu 21 †**Elaine Eberlein**
(Abouna)
 Fri 22 **Laya and Nada Joseph**
(Abouna)

Sat 23 10:00 †**Monica Connors**
(Mary Bawcum)
 4:30pm **Sunday Vigil**
Private intention

:Priest
 مَعْلًا حَاجَهُ !

Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

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

:People
 هَحْم وَهْمَا وَحَر !

w'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)

The Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost "B"

p. 492

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*



The Legion of Mary, Queen of the Clergy, Praesidium

Presents

*A Celebration
of the Nativity
of the ever-virgin
Holy Mother
of God*

The parish's praesidium of the Legion of Mary, Queen of the Clergy, *cordially invites you* to join together in honoring the Feastday of Our Lady, for a social event of fellowship, prayers, music, and refreshments this Saturday, September 9th in the parish hall.

2:00 – 4:00pm

For more information, contact:

Daja Gombojav at 207-530-1886

SUNDAY VIGIL LITURGY
will be as usual at 4:30pm

**JOIN THE LEGION - GLORIFY GOD -
SAVE SOULS**



**The Nativity of
the Ever-Virgin Mary**

The Holy Mother of God

September 8th