

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

August 27, 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 \$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 10: 38-42

And it happened
while they were traveling on the road,
He entered a village
where a woman named Martha
welcomed Him into her house.
She had a sister named Mary,

who came and sat at our Lord's feet,
listening to His words.

Now Martha was busy with all the serving,
and she went and said to Him,
"My Lord, is it of no concern to You
that my sister has left me to serve on my own?
Tell her to help me".

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

“Martha, Martha,” Jesus answered her,
 “you are bothered and worried
 about many things, but one thing is necessary.
 Mary has chosen for herself
 the better part,
 which shall not be taken away from her.”



*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

The fundamental meaning of “grace” is “gift”. As the mysterious and personal interaction of the Good One with his intelligent creation, it is both known and unknown. It is known because we experience its effects; unknown it remains, because it both hides and reveals the Persons of Hidden Trinity.

² Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”

³ Friday Ramsho, Hoosoyoh/ *Proemion* “Praise, glory and honor to the Light, Whose radiance has revealed the Father of Light;

Grace heals and elevates. By learning to see “more,” and transcendently, we can respond to being more, and acting in what the Church calls “a heroic manner”. The martyrs are our guides to perfect discipleship. Sometimes “being greater” is not our initial choice at all but may come with exceptional sufferings and difficulties in life that force us to go beyond, and even more importantly, to make us see that we are capable of so much more.

The theory is simple, but the practice is not *facile*. The success of grace’s seed depends upon its receiving terrain. Our Lord portrays in the Parable of the Sower the many possibilities in the outcome of grace’s arrival in human life and its resulting “fruition”, especially as that grace comes to us in the Gospel: word and catechesis. How do we believe, what do we think? These orient our lives and direct our actions – fruitful or sterile.

Grace means “gift” in its basic sense. It is a divine gift originating in the eternal light of the Hidden Creator. Although a creature itself, it is a personal likeness to elevate, and it allows us to be joined with the Uncreated and Unique Self-Existent One.³ Thus, it heals and elevates those receive it. Grace in varying degrees comes to every human being throughout life, but each one remains free to respond, ignore, or repudiate it.

Fundamentally, grace is an illumination to the mind and heart, which allows the person to see and judge all things *from the perspective of eternity*. It makes us to go beyond the limits of mere human experience. This divine gift strengthens the human spirit in “heart”, that is, the presence of divine charity enables one to love beyond oneself and the natural bonds of affection. Grace is necessary to create within us the *shafyo leboh*, the “clear” or “translucent heart” spoken of in last week’s Gospel in the Parable of the Sower.

to the Brightness, Whose splendor has drawn us to the threshold of Light;
 to the Wise One, Who in divine generosity has offered us the treasures of wisdom;
 to the living and life-giving One, Who in His kindness has led us to the Source of Life.”

Lastly, grace brings the wholeness of redemption and salvation, *shlomoh*, to heal and bring human life (even in its material dimension) into the nobility of spirit, drawing it up into the divine Spirit of God.

To *acknowledge* and *recognize* grace begins a new life in that response. To *ignore* it becomes, in time, repudiation, with all the resulting detrimental results; and this is the sad state of non-practicing, or “lapsed” Catholics. They distance themselves from the Living One, and by so doing risk definitive death. The Hand of God has touched their lives and they turn away to other “things”, choked by the cares, pleasures and concerns of this world.

Finally, to *repudiate* grace directly is to entrap one’s life into its own self-centeredness and ignorance: our default setting by original sin as the children of Adam. This, short of a miracle, leads to an eternal existence of permanent isolation that is damnation.

So, while it is true that religion is not first or foremost morality and devotion, these are things that logically do flow from the healthful and healing presence of grace when the divine light of the Hidden One is allowed to work in our lives.


The fullness of this presence is that we come to see all of God’s creation – human society, family life, and our own personal lives – within a single vision and sight that is inspired, illuminated, and strengthened in the gratuitous light of the Hidden One.⁴ This is the “one thing necessary”.

May we readily respond to the divine and gracious touch. May we be given the strength to step ever more deeply into the Divine Light.

⁴ See the article in the Knights of Columbus’ *Columbia* magazine from July 2017: **Christian Truth in a Democratic**



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	Aug	27	Suzanne Paré
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

World. It is an excellent overview of the real-life drama of Catholicism’s present struggle in an increasingly un-Christian and anti-Christian world.

Schedule of Readings

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

August 27, 2023

I Thes 2: 1-13 St. Luke 10: 38-42

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

September 3, 2023

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



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



*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 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.

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 27 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph

11:00am †Darrell Mitchell
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

Mon 28 -----

Tue 29 James Yotides
(Audrey Yotides)

Wed 30 Ferdinand and Antoinette Mathieu
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Thu 31 Susan LaVerdière
 (Audrey Yotides)
 Fri 1 Gantumur Gombojav
 (Israel Gombojav)
 Sat 2 10:00 †Charlie Reed
 (Pam & Dan Casavant)
 4:00pm Sunday Ramsho and Vigil
 Private intention
 Sun 3 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph
 11:00am †Ferris Ferris,
 Lennon & Bennett DeCreny
 (the Ferris Family)
 Mon 4 -----
 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)

⁵ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59 / Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00 / Deficit
 2021: \$35,178.00 / Deficit 2022: \$29,423.00

Sat 16 10:00 James Yotides
 (Audrey Yotides)
 4:30pm Sunday Vigil
 Private intention

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted weekly: \$3,500.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$3,063.00

(Running Budget Deficit, 2023: \$34,092.00)⁵

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: \$453.00⁶

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

⁶ Jan: \$670.00 / Feb: \$345.00 / March: \$729.00 / April: \$30.00 /
 May: \$444.00 / June: \$405.00 / July: \$422.00. Our contractual
 payment each month to DownEast is \$2,455.00.

Catholic Action and Marian Apostolate may acquire more information from **Ira Mandel**, its president, or from its vice-president, **Daja Gombojav**.

The Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost "A"

p. 425

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 the Apostle: p 815

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *Father of Truth;
Aboun d'b'shmayo*

Recessional: SB *Alleluia*

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

August 27th:

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

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

! :Priest
مُكْمًا حُكْمًا

Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

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

! :People
وَهُمْ وَكَمْ

w'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)

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 on 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 - SAVE SOULS



**The Beheading of Saint
John the forerunner**

Martyr to the Holiness of Marriage

Forerunner and Martyr

August 29th