

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



ܬܝܢܝܢ ܕܡܪܝܢܐ

The Fourth Sunday of the Resurrection

April 30, 2023

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful heritage of Antioch

3 Appleton Street
Waterville, ME 04901
Office Phone: 207-872-8515

Pastor: Rev. Fr. James Doran, KHS
Subdeacon: Mr. Stephen Crate
website: <http://www.sjmaronite.org>
e-mail: stjoesinmaine@yahoo.com

"For us, the men and women of the East are a symbol of the Lord Who comes again." *Oriental 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 EPISTLE¹ Hebrews 13: 18-25

Pray ye for us;
for we trust we have a good conscience,
that in all things
we desire to conduct ourselves well.

Especially do I request you to do this, that I
may return to you speedily.

May the God of peace, --
Who brought up from the dead

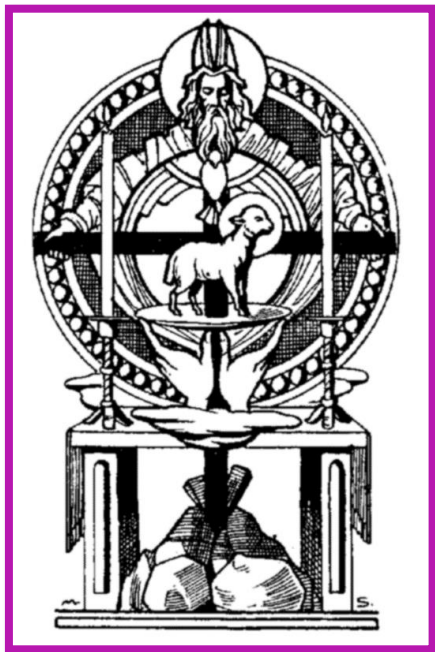
¹ Based on *The New Testament, translated from the Syriac Peshitto Version*, Gorgias Press, New Jersey, 2001, translated by James Murdock, STD, 1893

the great Shepherd of the Flock,
by the Blood of the Everlasting Covenant,
namely *Jesus Messiah*, our Lord –
make you perfect in every good work,
that ye may do His pleasure;
and Himself operate in you
that which is pleasing in His sight,
through *Jesus Messiah*;
to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

And I beseech you, my brethren,
that ye be patient
under this word of exhortation;
for it is in few words I have written to you.
And know ye,
that our brother Timothy is set at liberty:
and if he come soon, I, with him, shall see you.

Salute all your *leaders*, and all the saints.
All they of Italy salute you.
Grace be with you all. Amen.

*End of the Epistle to the Hebrews;
which was written from Italy to Rome;
and was sent by the hands of Timothy.*



*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

God is infinite Goodness, the origin of all existence, and the Creator of all. From the beginning of the Church, therefore, it was noted that what is good belonged to Christians.³ So it is that everything that was good in the ancient Law of Moses was fulfilled and elevated at the coming of the Messiah, while those things found among the pagans that were good and noble were also adopted and elevated into the preaching of the Gospel of salvation. Mankind, with all that it possesses that is good and noble, is to be brought in to the Kingdom of God. This is why so much ancient imagery from the classical world can still be found in the Church.

Although originally pagan in association,⁴ for example, the **palm tree and its branches** became the sign of the victorious martyr in Christianity.

Another of these is the “phoenix”.

Many ancient cultures had some form of story concerning a “firebird”. This was a bird, only one of its kind, which was given new life only after dying in flames, and then being reborn from the ash. Rebirth through fire was the only mode of reproduction to this unique bird.

This bird was said to live for 500 years and then build a nest for itself out of myrrh, incense, and spices, in which it would burst into flames and thence be born again. This myth among the pagans can be traced back to Hesiod in the 7th or 8th century BC.

² Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”

³ St. Justin Martyr (c. 100 – 165) taught that all truth came from the Logos, or Word, of God. Therefore, whatever was good, or whatever truth was stated by any human being at anytime, anywhere, was the result of the influence of the

immanent Logos within him/her; and was, therefore, Christian.

⁴ Palms being evergreen, the Romans associated these trees with the goddess *Victory*.

There were even rabbinical interpretations of this strange beast, in part from what seems a reference in the Book of Job:

*I said: "In my own nest I shall grow old;
I shall multiply years like the phoenix."⁵*

The phoenix was known as “ôff hachôl”, with “chôl” meaning “sand” in Hebrew. (This also explains the variation in translation of the above verse that you will find.) This bird became associated with Adam and Eve, the Garden, the Tree of Knowledge, and the Hebrew letter “aleph”.

Rabbis taught that the phoenix did not grow, but was perfect from out of its flames until it perished once again 500 years later.⁶ Ancient rabbinical lore said that after Adam and Eve ate from the Tree, following the advice of the Serpent, Eve feed the whole universe with its fruit. The only beast not to eat was the “chôl”.

The “nest” referred to in Job was interpreted as a metaphor for the Garden of Eden, the act of eating signified development and growth as a result,⁷ and as the “chôl” had not eaten of the Fruit it never developed into decrepitude. It never had to leave the state of Eden. In this interpretation, the phoenix was the only creature to retain the original order, justice, and simple state of atemporal existence, in the purity of the original state of creation in Eden.⁸

Understanding this, it is easy to see how an uncorrupted being, not touched by sin, freely dying so as to resurrect from the ash, came to be seen by Christians as an image of the Christ. From out of this, it was fitting to adopt the mythological image to express the Resurrection of the *Ihidoiyoh*,⁹ the Cross,¹⁰ and even the Virgin Birth.¹¹

The phoenix’s renewal and resurrection takes place in a nest and fire of incense and fragrance, which for us Maronites, and the Syriac tradition in general, readily signifies the *Hoosoyoh*, the Rite of Forgiveness, along with the rejuvenation and renewal that comes from the repentance and contrition for our sins signified in that rite.

The earliest Christian reference that we have to this use as an image of the Resurrection is in the *First Epistle of Saint Clement to the Corinthians*, written around 96AD:¹²

*Let us consider the marvelous sign
which is seen in the regions of the East,
that is, in the parts about Arabia....
(the description of the phoenix follows) ...
Do we then think it to be
a great and marvelous thing,
if the Creator of the universe
shall bring about the resurrection of them
that have served Him with holiness
in the assurance of a good faith,
seeing that He showeth to us
even by a bird
the magnificence of His promise.¹³*



14

⁵ Job 29: 18 from the New American Bible translation.

⁶ Midrash Rabah (19: 92-3)

⁷In antiquity, and for many still, the Garden of God was considered a reality outside of time and empirical history as we know it. Thus the Fall effects the entire history of the cosmos in which mankind’s “atemporal fall” separates and produces a form of time in which all now live, but which also separates us from the original condition of *Adom* in Eden. The phoenix being the unique being not to partake of the Fruit did not live in time as we now know it in the state of original sin.

⁸ From the Aramaic root, “Eden” means “fruitful, well-watered, pleasant”.

⁹ The Unique Word, Son of God.

¹⁰ Life coming forth from death.

¹¹ As this peculiar bird, being unique to its species, was regenerated in a singular, one could say, *virginal* manner.

¹² **I Clement 25: 1 – 26: 1** Saint Clement was a first-century successor to Saint Peter in Rome.

¹³ As was the case addressed in the Epistles of Saint Paul, at the end of the first century, the Corinthians still seemed to be struggling with the teaching of the resurrection of the dead – in their bodies.

¹⁴ “It perishes that it might live.”

Far to the East there is the sacred grove of Paradise.
It is always flooded with spring's soft sunshine.
The weather continually remains most agreeable.
Neither sorrow, nor sickness, nor death
are known there.

The grove is watered by a crystal-clear spring;
its high trees are laden with luscious fruit,
which never falls to the ground.

A Phoenix, the Bird of Paradise,
is the grove's sole inhabitant.

At the first gleam of dawn
this bird bathes in the limpid stream
and drinks from the spring.

Then it flies to the Tree of Life
and there awaits the sunrise.

It greets the first beam of sunlight with a song
more beautiful than any earthly music.

After the sun is fully risen,
it beats its wings with a ringing sound
as its wings glitter in the sunlight like a rainbow.

When a thousand years have passed,¹⁵
the phoenix senses that its course is run.

It leaves its home and paradise,
and flies into the world, where death holds sway.

Soon its wings have carried it to Phoenicia,
where it stops to rest in some remote place.

It selects the highest palm tree
and builds there a nest to serve as a grave.

Now the phoenix dies only in order that it might live,
and be created anew.

Therefore, it gathers the finest spices of every land,
beds itself therein, and dies.

The carcass, being set on fire by the sun's heat,
generates life as it burns to ashes.
For in these ashes is the germ of new life.

Soon there comes forth a milk-white egg,
which, transforming itself
like the caterpillar into a butterfly,
becomes a phoenix
and nourishes itself on heavenly dew.

Whoever sees it is amazed by its beauty.
Its plumage shimmers with beautiful colors,
its eyes sparkle like a hyacinth,
and a crown of light encircles its head.

No bird, and certainly no animal, rivals it in glory.
It is royal in appearance, and thought gigantic in size;
it flies gracefully and without effort.

Thus the Phoenix appears to admiring eyes.
The birds of the sky gather as an escort,
but the Phoenix flies back alone to its haven,
the sacred Grove of Paradise.¹⁶

Schedule of Readings

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

April 30, 2023

Heb 13: 18-25

St. John 21: 1-14

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON

May 7, 2023

St. James 3: 13-18

St. Luke 9: 23-27

¹⁵ Discrepancies are inevitable in recounting myths and legends.

¹⁶ *The Legend of the Phoenix* according to **Lactantius**, an early Christian author and poet, c. 250-c. 325, who became an advisor to the Emperor Saint Constantine the Great.



The Altar Breads and Wine for the month of April have been donated in memory of *Lolo Salazar* at the request of Suzanne Paré.

May her memory be eternal!

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



Sun	Apr	30	Ira Mandel
Sun	May	7	Jody Lachance
Sun	May	21	Sava Nappi
Sun	June	4	Suzanne Paré
Sun	June	18	Jeanne Thomas
Sun	July	2	Diane Wyder

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Apr	30	Michael & Gayle Misner
Sun	May	7	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	May	14	Anne Marie Mathieu
Sun	May	21	Suzanne Paré
Sun	May	28	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	June	4	Ira & Catherine Mandel
Sun	June	30	Dean & MaryAnn Carter

¹⁷ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59 / Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00 / Deficit 2021: \$35,178.00 / Deficit 2022: \$29,423.00

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted weekly: \$3,500.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$1,457.00

(Running Budget Deficit, 2023: **\$15,523.00**)¹⁷

**Last Week's Special Collection
for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal: \$277.00**

**We are gathering in the Bishop's Lenten Appeal
and Assessment: \$4,000.00
Collected thus far: \$1,735.00**

**Next Week, May 7th, Special Collection
for the Support of our National Shrine
of Our Lady of Lebanon.**

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: \$30.00¹⁸

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

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun	30	9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph
		11:00am Abouna James (Mike & Maureen Martin)
Mon	1	-----
Tue	2	Tony Miklaszewski (Virginia Miklaszewski)
Wed	3	†John & Anita Marchetti (Mike & Maureen Martin)
Thu	4	†Family of Sam & Nimera Marron (Paul & Stephen Maroon)
Fri	5	†James Martin, Jr (Mike & Maureen Martin)

¹⁸ Jan: \$670.00 / Feb: \$345.00 / March: \$729.00 Our contractual payment each month to DownEast is **\$2,455.00**.

Sat 6 10:00am †Celina Knippling
(Claire and Kelly Ryan)
**4:00pm Ramsho and Vigil
of our Lady of Lebanon**
Private Intention

Sun 7 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph
11:00am Simon Misner-Elias
(Gayle Misner-Elias)

Mon 8 -----

Tue 9 †Albert & Rose Bellamah
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)

Wed 10 †Charlene LaVerdière
(Audrey Yotides)

Thu 11 †Jerry Vachon
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Fri 12 †Ameen & Hoda Saad
(Barbara Atkins)

Sat 13 10:00am †Nathaniel Morrison
(Mike & Maureen Martin)
4:30pm Sunday Vigil
Private Intention

Sun 14 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph
11:00am †Michael and Bridget Kilroy
(Barbara Atkins)

Mon 15 -----

Tue 16 †Henry Ostrout
(Dan Casavant)

Wed 17 †George and Mintaha Mitchell
(Barbara Atkins)
5:30pm Ramsho of the Ascension
6:00pm Vigil of the Ascension
Intentions of the Parish

Thu 18 10:00am Solemnity of the Ascension
†Scott LaVerdière
(Audrey Yotides)

Fri 19 †Paul & Yvette Mitchell
(Barbara Atkins)

*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: Ruth Lunn, Sandra Lord Sturtevant, 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, Cindy Elias, Barbara Joseph, Sally Derosby, Tala Poulin, Richard Karter, Rita Hikel, and all those who may suffer from illness, disease, want, or depression.



*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.*

! مَكْمَلًا حُكْمًا :Priest

Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

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

! هَؤُمَرُ وَهَسَا وَكُحَرُ :People

w'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)

*Annual
Lebanese
Supper
Today!
April 30th*



4:00 to 5:30pm
Dine-in or Carry-out

Pre-orders available on-line at the parish website

*The Ascension
of Our Lord*

**Schedule
for the Holy Day of Obligation**

Wednesday, May 17th:

5:30pm: Ramsho of the Ascension

6:00pm: Vigil Liturgy of the Ascension

Thursday, May 18th:

10:00am: Alohooyoh Qourbonoh



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 those being called by the Holy Mother of
God into this work of Catholic Action and this
Marian Apostolate may acquire more
information from **Ira Mandel**, its president, or
from its vice-president, **Daja Gombojav**.

Servers of the Divine Altar

April 30th:

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

May 7th:

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

May 14th:

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

May 21st:

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

May 28th:

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

June 4th:

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

June 11th:

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

June 18th:

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

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *I'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 **Bishop's Lenten Appeal**: all contributions must be placed in an envelope marked for that purpose. Our assessment is **\$4,000.00**



Fourth Sunday of the Resurrection

p. 315

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

**Saint James,
the son of Zebedee**

Apostle

April 30th