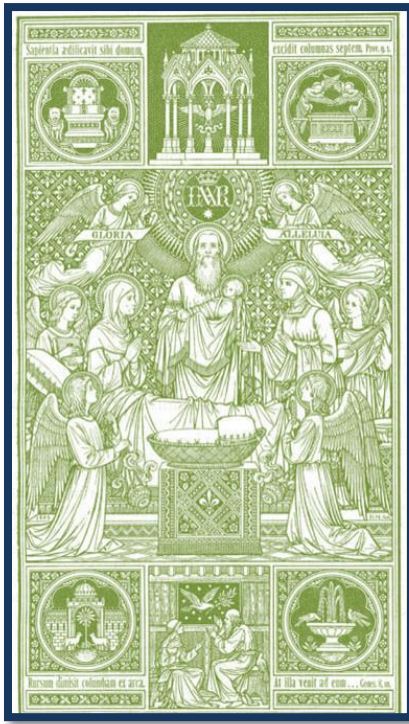


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Circumcision of Our Lord

January 1, 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." *Oriente Lumen*, John Paul II

Qourboneh: Sunday: (Vigil, Sat. 4:30pm) Sunday Morning 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.; Tues. – Fr. 9:00 a.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 **Choir Director:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG
Pastoral Council Chair: Suzanne Paré
Pastoral Council Members: Suzanne Paré, *Chair*; Gayle Misner-Elias, *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 Ephesians 2: 11-22

Wherefore be mindful, that ye formerly were carnal Gentiles; and ye were called the

uncircumcision, by that which is called the circumcision, and which is the work of the hands in the flesh.

And ye were, at that time, without the Messiah; and were aliens to the *regulations* of

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

Israel; and strangers to the covenant of the promise; and were without hope, and without God, in the world.

But now, by Jesus the Messiah,
ye who before were afar off,
have been brought near
by the Blood of the Messiah.
For He is Himself our peace,
who hath made the two (become) one,
and hath demolished the wall
which stood in the midst, and the enmity,
by His Flesh;
and by His prescriptions He hath abolished the
Law of ordinances;
that, in Himself,
He might make the two to be one new man;
and He hath made peace,
and hath reconciled both with God,
in One Body,
and hath slain the enmity by His Cross.

And He came, and proclaimed peace
to you afar off, and to those near:
because, by Him there is access for us both,
by one Spirit, unto the Father. –

Wherefore, ye are not strangers, nor
sojourners, but ye are the fellow-citizens with
the saints, and of the Household of God.

And ye are built upon the foundations
of the *legates* and the prophets;
and Jesus the Messiah hath become
the Head of the corner in the Edifice.
And in Him all the Edifice is framed together,
and groweth into a holy Temple in the Lord;
while ye also are built up in Him,
for a habitation of God through the Spirit.



*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

A flip of a page and they say that we are in a new year. A new year, a new time, we begin again. As time passes we are required to continually re-evaluate our course and consider our service to the Most High, and this we should do even without flipping a calendar page. Where are we? Where should we be in our Christian life? And what is there that would perfect our fidelity and pursuit of goodness and virtue? "Resolutions" come in here.

After numerous requests, beginning this first month of the new year, **the rosary** will be prayed publicly on the **first, third**, and, when occurring, the **fifth Sunday** of each month. There will be a schedule laid out for the volunteers who will lead this Marian prayer, and it will begin promptly at **10:30** each of those Sunday mornings. You will find a schedule of the prayer leaders in the bulletin. Those interested in honoring the holy Mother of God can contact Sue Paré to join this list of volunteers.

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

Inflation is shocking us all, each of us individually as well as families. We must all re-evaluate our financial obligations and our responsibilities as a parish. Ostriches in the sand we must not be. You will find *new editions of the financial flyer* that lays out our normal expenses by month and by year. In it, financial responsibilities are broken down, and it lets each know how much we need minimally to contribute, both weekly and yearly, for Saint Joseph's to survive, let alone flourish into the future.

We must each honestly calculate the percentage that we contribute each year to this parish apostolate; quite literally the life of the parish depends on this. As a result of inflation, our weekly budget must now be set at **\$3,500.00**. As we have been doing these last years, this budgeted amount will be posted weekly in the bulletin and contrasted to the actual state of the collections.

All this is simply a question of math. If our sums do not add up, our bills cannot be paid. And this last week we received notice from the eparchy that the health insurance of the diocese will be increasing 19%. Being a recent notification, this inflationary jolt is not reflected in the flyer. Our financial obligations therefore are even greater than what is charted in the flyer.



The parish was founded and built by the hard-earned – and generously contributed – “pennies” over many years. There has been much sweat and care poured into these buildings over generations. It will take equal involvement to sustain Saint Joseph's parish and her apostolate for a viable future. This generosity is possible, the numbers are before you, but it will require from each of us a magnanimous spirit. We also know it is possible as the running deficit has lessened with each year since 2019; but, we are not quite out of the woods.

You can see from the listing of the weekly budget and the annual deficits that in **2019** it was **\$72,000.00**. As I wrote you in early 2020, with that financial situation the parish was not going to be able to sustain her work beyond five or six years. Paradoxically, the pandemic descending on us changed all that in so many ways both demographically and financially.

While at one point we were set to close sometime from 2024 to 2026, we now have confidence that we can to deepen our faith, renew our work, solidify our grounding, and expand our parish apostolate. The numbers in the pews are not as large as they were in 2020, when we were the only Catholic church open in Maine, but those who weathered the apocalyptic pandemic remaining faithful in those same pews have increased proportionally their contributions. Smaller in number we may be, but, on average, each has shown himself to be more generous in our parish's labors. The Good One is to be thanked for working His generous grace within our hearts. This is a clear sign of hope the faithful parishioners have in the future of Saint Joseph's. They make our ancestors proud with this attitude.

But let us be sober, these last years the parish has remained solvent *only because* there have been benefactors who have graciously and generously stepped forward **since 2020** to fill-up our financial holes and plug our leaks. We remain afloat, but we are not completely safe, nor do we yet sail on our own.

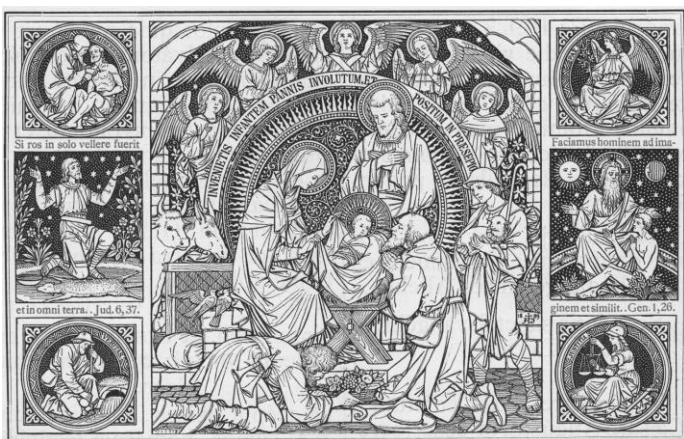
It is for these reasons that the parish has not been forced to begin to drain the endowment funds, something that seemed inevitable in late 2019. Clearly, however, we cannot presume on such

thoughtful, generous, and dramatic contributions. We must work together as a parish to raise the **\$50,000.00** that we regularly fall short in the annual the collections.

God be praised for the great generosity of some, but at the beginning of a new year of grace we all must make deep examination of ourselves **and our priorities** as to how much Saint Joseph means to us and our families. Love is more than a feeling and a sentiment. Love is expressed in concern, care, and sacrifice. It is through true participation in parochial life that we have hope; and this generous presence gives us hope for a solid future.

In addition to the normal recurring expenses and costs, we must keep in mind the tens of thousands of dollars of building maintenance and masonry work that must be considered as we write our checks and contribute to the upkeep of our parish.

The same God Who inspired the immigrant Maronites to build in Waterville, is the same Brilliance Who inspires our hearts to sustain this work today. This we do to the honor of God, for the salvation of souls, and in homage to the Maronite Catholics who built before us.



Schedule of Leaders for the Recitation of the Rosary at 10:30 am:



Sun	Jan	1	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Jan	15	Jeanne Thomas
Sun	Jan	29	Diane Wyder
Sun	Feb	5	Ira Mandel
Sun	Feb	19	Jody Lachance
Sun	Mar	5	Sava Nappi



The Sanctuary Lamp
burns in January
in memory of **Bob Derosby**
at the request
of Selwa Derosby.

May his memory be eternal!

*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: Celina Knippling, Stephen Michaud, Dame Fefa, Kevin J. Michaud, Sheila Bonenfant, John Gallant, Gareth Belton, Katrina Nappi, Holly Perron, Christian Disuag, Daja Gombojav, Margaret Mae Lambert, Mary Theresa Huebner, Mary Morin, Larry Grard, Sarah Grace Misner-Elias, Cindy Elias, Barbara Joseph, Madeleine Dombroski, Sally Derosby, Tala Poulin, Richard Karter, Rita Hikel, and all those who may suffer from illness, disease, want, or depression.

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Jan	1	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Jan	8	Ira & Catherine Mandel
Sun	Jan	15	Dean & MaryAnn Carter
Sun	Jan	22	Michael & Gayle Misner
Sun	Jan	29	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Feb	5	Anne Marie Mathieu
Sun	Feb	12	Suzanne Paré

Schedule of Readings

THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD

January 1, 2023

Eph 2: 11-22 St. Luke 1: 21-24

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 8, 2023

II Cor 10: 1-11 St. John 1: 29-34

The Feast of the Glorious Epiphany

Holy Day of Obligation



Thursday, January 5th:

5:30pm **Ramsho** and
Vigil Liturgy

Friday, January 6th:

10:00am **Divine Liturgy** and
Blessing of Water



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,500.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$-----.00

(Budget Deficit 2023: \$-----.00)³

Donations to date to install **next heat-pumps** in the church to burn cleaner, more efficiently, and lower fuel-oil costs: **\$11,035.00**⁴

Second Sunday each month is a second collection to cover our **monthly fuel-oil costs**. The next twelve months will cost us **over \$30,000.00**.
Please be as generous as you can.

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

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 1 10:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph

Mon 2 -----

Tue 3 †Chris, Betty, Jo-Jo & Mike Joseph
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)

Wed 4 †Jeannette Morissette
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Thu 5 †George & Jean Deeb
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)

5:30 Ramsho
and Vigil of the Glorious Epiphany
Private Intention

Fri 6 10:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph

Sat 7 Saturday, 10:00 am
†Malcolm Spencer
(Badiha Ghosn Spencer)

4:30pm Sunday Vigil
Private Intention

Sun 8 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph
11:00am †the Faithful Departed
of Saint Joseph's
(Audrey Yotides)

Mon 9 -----

Tue 10 Gayle Misner-Elias
(Michael Misner-Elias)

Wed 11 Tony Miklaszewski
(Virginia Miklaszewski)

Thu 12 Joseph N. Gosselin
(Jodi Gosselin)

Fri 13 Alexandra Lenarcik
(Ira & Catherine Mandel)

Sat 14 Saturday, 10:00 am
Jodi Gosselin
(Catherine Mandel)

4:30pm Sunday Vigil
Private Intention

Sun 15 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph
11:00am †Gabrielle Schultz
(Ginny Miklaszewski)

Mon 16 -----

Tue 17 Ira Mandel
(Catherine Mandel)

Wed 18 †Joan Gottardi
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

Thu 19 The Nicholas Family
(Mary Nicholas)

Fri 20 Dame Fefa
(Mary Nicholas)



installation is \$9,700.00. Your generosity to this project has been exceptionally edifying.

³ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59 / Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00 / Deficit 2021: \$35,178.00 / Deficit 2022: \$29,423.00

⁴ The next twelve-month contract for heating oil is set to cost over \$30,000.00. The projected cost for these heat-pumps

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

January 1st:

4:00pm Ramsho & Vigil: N. Carter/ C. Gombojav
10:00am: J. Gamble / S. Nappi

January 8th:

9:00am: L. Michaud / M. Carter
11:00am: R. Nappi / P. Carter

January 15th:

9:00am: C. Gombojav / N. Carter
11:00am: S. Nappi / I. Gombojav

January 22nd:

9:00am: M. Carter / A. Michaud
11:00am: J. Gamble / P. Carter

January 29th:

9:00am: C. Gombojav / N. Carter
11:00am: I. Gombojav / S. Nappi

February 5th:

9:00am: A. Michaud / M. Carter
11:00am: R. Nappi / S. Nappi

February 12th:

9:00am: M. Carter / L. Michaud
10:00am: I. Gombojav / P. Carter



*May the Unending Dawn
and Fragrance of
Creation illumine your
days and raise up your
spirits into His
radiant light all
throughout this
new year of grace!*

!مَلْعًا حَلْجَه :Priest

Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

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

!هَحْم وَهَسَا وَحَر :People

w'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)

*A heartfelt "thank you" for your generosity
to the pastor this
Christmas season,
for all the
Masses, prayers,
novenas offered,
gift cards, books,
baked goods, citrus,
and gifts – this kindness is all the more
noteworthy, appreciated, and outstanding in
these difficult financial times.*



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.*



Anyone wishing to help
with this service
is asked to contact Ruth,
or sign up on the form in
the parish hall.

The Circumcision of Our Lord

p. 97

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

Entrance Hymn: LB fsheeto 233

Glory: SB *al majdu*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *toobaik 'eedto* 234

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

Saint John Chrysostom: p 876

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *Father of Truth; Praise God*

Recessional: SB *We Three Kings*



The Theophany

January 6th