

The Third Sunday of the Resurrection

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful heritage of Antioch

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 11:00a.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 II Timothy 2: 8-13

Be mindful of *Jesus Messiah*,
that He arose from the dead;
Who was of the seed of David,

according to my Gospel,
in which I suffer evils unto bonds,
as if an evil-doer:
but the word of God is not in chains.

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

Therefore, I endure everything
for the sake of the elect;
that they also may obtain life, in *Jesus Messiah*,
with eternal glory.

Faithful is this saying:
For if we shall have died with Him,
we shall also live with Him;
and, if we shall have suffered,
we shall also reign with Him.

But if we shall have rejected Him,
He will reject us.

And if we shall have not believed in Him,
He abideth in His fidelity;
for He cannot deny Himself.



*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

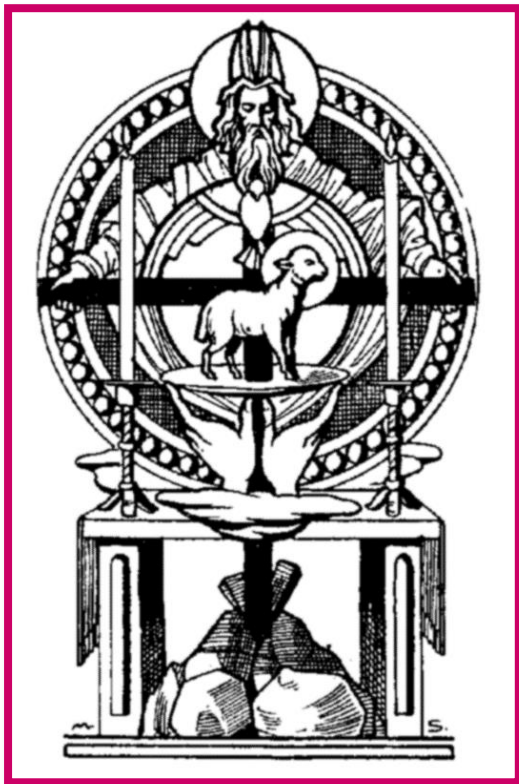
ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

On that Day,
the LORD will punish
with His sword that is cruel, great, and strong,
Leviathan the fleeing serpent,
Leviathan the coiled serpent;
He will slay the dragon in the sea.³

Most of the planet is covered in water and yet we know it so little. The description of a type of sea-dragon was a symbol of the forces of evil to the ancients. The sea and the ocean were unknown worlds filled with dangers (even as they are today) and in the depth of the unknown was a monstrous creature that embodied the treachery in that unfamiliar place: **Leviathan**.

This is part of the symbolism of the story of the prophet Jonah. As every child knows, he was swallowed by "the whale",⁴ but the symbolism of that event is that evil attempted to engulf the prophet when he had been sent to prophesy to the pagan Ninevites. After "three days" he was delivered from this balaenic predicament.⁵ Thus, in the prophetic vision of Isaiah cited above, the crushing of Leviathan became an image of the Lord God conquering all evil on the Last Day.

There is a rabbinic legend that the Holy One on that Day will make a banquet of the flesh of Leviathan for the just and righteous to feast upon, meaning that the splendor and light of supreme Goodness will shine forth and evil will be definitively conquered and consumed. It is also the



² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

³ Isaiah 27: 1

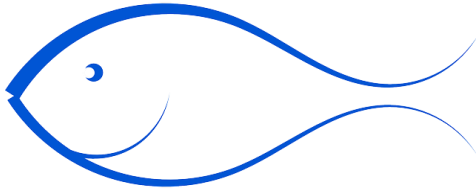
⁴ Clearly whatever swallows up Jonah is not "a whale" of any type that we know of, it is "Leviathan".

⁵ Jonah 2: 1-7, 11

reason why the fish was associated with the Messiah and the Messianic era.

Having a place already in the Old Testament – for example in its healing properties in the Book of Tobias – the image of the fish was readily taken up by early Christianity in both its rabbinical imagery and because the word “fish” in Greek formed an acronym composing the Greek phrase, “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior”: *i-ch-th-y-s*.⁶

This acronym is the origin of the famous Christian symbol:



Although it may seem to be contradictory at first, this did develop especially well the symbolism of the Old Testament where the water creature will be destroyed by the triumph of the Holy One: Son of God and Savior.

Our Lord Himself, Whom Saint Paul wrote “became sin for us”,⁷ took upon Himself the evil of sin and crucified *it* on Calvary. The God-Man freely made Himself the image, and even reality, of evil/death (“sin”) and likewise freely extinguished it on Calvary. **He was true God and the eternally Living One, Whom death could not “swallow”, so sin and death alone died on Golgotha.** In the shattered humanity of Our Lord on Good Friday mankind’s sin was radically consumed and human life was recreated in glory on the Morning of the Great Pascha, the Messiah’s breathtaking Resurrection into Glory. In this manner, the great Leviathan has been radically crushed.

We can note the number of times that fish, broiled fish, baked fish, and grilled fish, figure in the episodes of our Lord’s appearance to the faithful in His Resurrection. In full rabbinical imagery, fish is consumed in the days following the Resurrection. Note that in the Gospel of Saint Luke, on the

morning of the Resurrection, our Lord eats “baked fish” with the Apostles.⁸ Even more clearly, in the twenty-first chapter of Saint John, our Lord Himself prepares a breakfast on the shore for the Apostles (the shore representing His stability in eternal glory) when they come off the water (image of the instability and changeability of this age). They had been toiling and fishing fruitlessly all night long. Only when they come within view of our Lord, Saint John being the first to recognize Him, does He command them to cast their nets one last time, at which point they successfully catch fish. The breakfast prepared consisted in grilled fish, to which was added the fish that had just been caught. We are told that this was the third time that the Risen One appeared to the Apostles.⁹

In the early Church, the water element in Baptism took on the additional symbolism of being “the dwelling place of the dragon of the sea”¹⁰ into which each catechumen descended with Christ to conquer Leviathan, and from which he emerged a transformed son of God in grace. Pectorius of Autun in the third century referred to the baptized Christian as being “**ichthys-born**, (a) divine child of the Heavenly Father”.¹¹

Now we can understand better old customs. Throughout the centuries, from the beginning in fact, it has been the practice of Christians to fast on Wednesdays and Fridays during the year. Fasting required abstinence from all flesh meat, which in the East included fish and seafood in general. In the West, however, it has been, more recently, an abstinence from red-meat. This abstinence and fast was to commemorate the Sacrifice of our Lord’s Sacred Body made on Calvary for our salvation.

Returning to our original quotation from the Prophet Isaiah, and the consideration of our Lord Himself as the divine “Ichthys”, we can now understand more profoundly the symbolism that eating or abstaining from fish took on quite early in the Church. As a penance, fasting from flesh meats commemorated our Lord’s Death on Golgotha. In being eaten, fish symbolized the messianic victory over evil.

⁶ Jesus (*iesous*) Christos (*christos*), of God (*theou*), the Son (*uios*), Savior (*sator*).

⁷ II Cor 5: 21

⁸ St. Luke 21: 41-43

⁹ St. John 21: 1-14

¹⁰ Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, as quoted by Cardinal Danielou in *The Bible and the Liturgy*.

¹¹ From *Early Christian Prayers*, edited by A. Hamman.

On the Great Day of the Lord, the consummation of all created time, the Leviathan will be slain by the brilliant Parousia of the Holy and Victorious One,¹² and its flesh will be served up as a triumphant Supper to the saints.

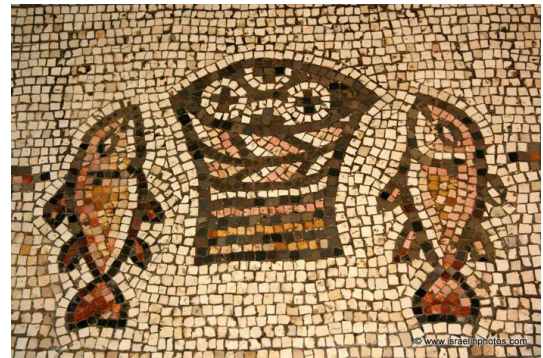
Announcing that Day beforehand, our Lord served fish in the miraculous Multiplication of Loaves to feed the multitudes during His lifetime,¹³ and in His appearances during the days of His Glorious Resurrection He consumed fish before the Apostles, and prepared it Himself as breakfast for the Apostles in His “third appearance”.

The Divine Eucharist is the Sacred Flesh of the Most Holy *Ichthys* Himself, unjustly executed on Calvary for our redemption and raised in glory for our justification.¹⁴ For this, we must prepare ourselves with all diligence and true conversion, because Eucharistic Communion is a foretaste of the great victory of the Last Day, participation in our Lord’s present glory, and preparation for the fulfillment of all existence on the Last Day before the enthroned and glorious Divine Presence.

With all this in mind, it is easy to understand the ancient and continual practice of fasting on Fridays in honor of the Messiah’s Death on Calvary. The habit of eating fish on this same day, for some, has been a way to recall, in hope, the Great Banquet that will be served up on the Last Day – the Day of the Lord, when heaven and earth will be spent, purified, and transformed in sacred justice.¹⁵ And for those of the East, abstinence from *all* flesh prepares us to receive the *Divine Ichthys* Who has vanquished the unseen evil of Sheol and crushed the head of Leviathan.

Abstinence now seen only as a Lenten observance, we would do well, each of us, to return to this ancient Catholic practice of fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays all throughout the year. It is good for our faith, the purification of our mind, the elevation of our spirit, and the cleansing and healing of our body – all done anchored in Christian hope of future victory.

What more could one ask?



*Note the Mystery conveyed in this icon
from the place
of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes.*

Do you see it?

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

April 23, 2023

II Tim 2: 8-13

St. Luke 24: 13-25

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

April 30, 2023

Heb 13: 18-25

St. John 21: 1-14



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!

¹² II Thessalonians 2: 8

¹³ St. Matthew 14: 13-21 and Saint Mark 8: 1-9

¹⁴ Romans 4: 25

¹⁵ II Peter 3: 13

**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	23	Dean & MaryAnn Carter
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



Heartfelt thanks for all the gifts that came in for the pastor at Easter. For all the cookies, decorated eggs, meals, bread, and your generous gifts: Thank you. Your

generosity is edifying and your kindness is deeply appreciated.

*May the God of all Consolation
bless our benefactors in the triumphant light
of the New Creation,
in the Glorious Resurrection of His Son,
and bring them all safely
into the Eternal Kingdom!*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted weekly: \$3,500.00)

**Regular Collection Last Two Weeks:
\$5,795.00**

(Running Budget Deficit, 2023: **\$13,480.00**)¹⁶

Next Week, **April 23rd**, is the Special Collection
for the **Catholic Home Missions Appeal**

(Used for Missions in the USA. Our Eparchy has
received large grants from the USCCB from this
collection for several years.)

We are gathering in the **Bishop's Lenten Appeal**
and **Assessment: \$4,000.00**
Collected thus far: **\$1,635.00**

Holy Land Collection on Good Friday: **\$465.00**

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: **\$30.00**¹⁷

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

¹⁶ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59 / Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00 / Deficit 2021: \$35,178.00 / Deficit 2022: \$29,423.00

¹⁷ Jan: \$670.00 / Feb: \$345.00 / March: \$729.00 Our contractual payment each month to DownEast is **\$2,455.00**.

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 23 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph
11:00am Robert Castonguay
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)

Mon 24 -----

Tue 25 †John & Mary Mitchell
(Barbara Atkins)

Wed 26 †George Neumayer
(Mary Nicholas)

Thu 27 †Violet Elhilow
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)

Fri 28 Special Intention
(Mike & Maureen Martin)

Sat 29 10:00am †Darrell Mitchell
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

4:30pm Sunday Vigil
Private Intention

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)

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)



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.

Annual Lebanese Supper!

The last Sunday of April

April 30th

!مُكْمَلْ حَقْلَه :Priest

Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

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

!هَكم وَهْمَا وَحْر :People

w'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)



The standing apostolic meeting of the **Praesidium**
of the **Legion 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.



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

Pre-orders available on-line at the parish website

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

April 23rd:

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

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

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *I'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

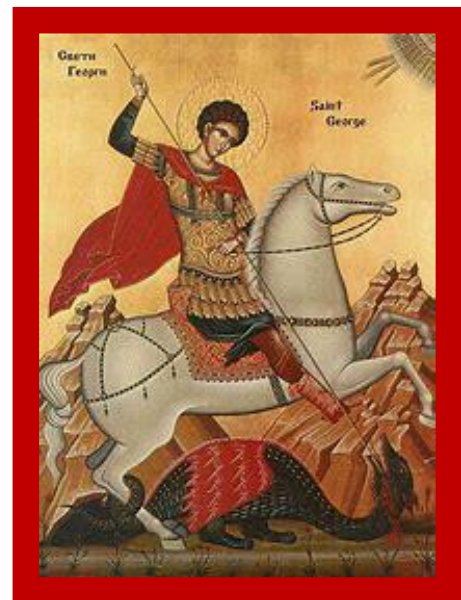
The Twelve Apostles: p 754

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**



Third 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

Saint George

Martyr

April 23rd