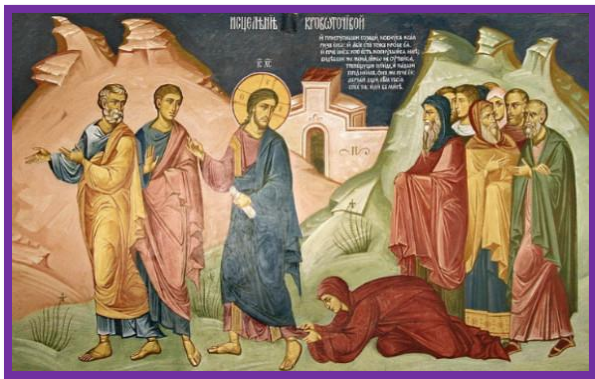


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Third Sunday of Lent

The Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman

March 5, 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." 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:** 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 Corinthians 7: 4-11

I have great *assurance* before you,
and have much glorying in you;
and I am full of comfort.
And joy greatly aboundeth to me, in all my
afflictions.

For, after we came to Macedonia, there was no
rest for our body, but we were distressed in
everything;
outside was conflict, and within was fear.

But God Who comforteth the depressed,
comforted us by the arrival of Titus. And not
merely by his arrival, but also by the refreshing
with which he was refreshed by you.

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

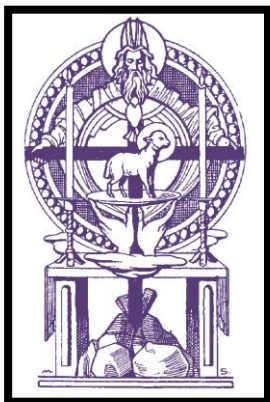
For he told us of your love towards us,
and of your grief,
and of your zeal in our behalf:
and when I heard it, my joy was great.

And although I made you sad by the epistle,
I do not regret it,
though I did regret it;
for I see that that epistle,
though for a time it made you sad,
yet it procured me joy
-- not because ye had sorrow,
but because your sorrow
brought you to repentance;
for ye sorrowed in godly sorrow;
so that ye received no detriment from us.

For, sorrowing on account of God,
worketh a *conversion* of the soul
which is not reversed, and turns *unto life*:
but the sadness of the world worketh death.

For behold this same thing,
that ye were distressed on account of God,
what solicitude it wrought in you,
and apologizing,
and indignation,
and fear,
and love,
and zeal, and revenge?

And in all things
ye have shown that ye are (now) pure
in that matter.



*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

There is a capacity deep in every human being that needs completion. It is something like a hunger that pushes each of us along. It is the haunting aspect of human life that drives each man on seeking "happiness". This restlessness is spoken of eloquently by Saint Augustine, indeed, the underlying theme of his Confessions is this basic ache of the human heart. This is the core discontentment of human life. It is the want, the need, the desire, and the source of the search that we each pursue.

Animals do not suffer this restlessness: they are purely material beings living in purely material surroundings. Their needs are satisfied by material things. Mankind is altogether different. Human beings are spirit-in-flesh beings. They are material, for sure, but they are also immaterial. They have a capacity that exceeds all material dimensions, even the cosmos taken all together would not satisfy this immaterial need. Human life exceeds the purely material, and only the Unlimited Living One can finally satisfy this capacity, which, being immaterial, is in some way itself unlimited.

This restless capacity is also the origin of the frustration of sin. We seek to satisfy this depth of the human heart through creatures, and while creatures may bring respite momentarily, they always deceive us in the end and leave the human heart unsatisfied. Casting around for more creatures, we heap up our quests and our pursuit of "happiness" only to find our frustration deepen. For these reasons, this immaterial capacity of human life – left truly unsatisfied – is also the source of our addictions and despair.

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

In the end, the purpose of our lives is not so much to learn how to be human, but to how to be more than a man. How do we accomplish this, and what is the course we must follow to do so? Where does it begin?

Love and friendship are the center and foundation of salvation (and in this case it is transcendent love and union with Hidden Divinity) so that salvation is a relationship that must be fostered, and ultimately persons in union that by love; and because this is so, we pray. Each of us, from the moment of our Baptism, is both beginner and proficient in the life of prayer.

Strange as it may sound, we are proficient in this relationship, even babies, because grace works in the spirit, on God's initiative, and the Almighty stands over us to infuse, illumine, and guide us in His loving power. The Luminous One desires to guide us to Himself. When we respond to this, we enter the path of salvation.

Infinite Charity loves without end so that we might respond, for without response there is no friendship. Understood in this way, the reality of hell is the end result of the refusal of divine love. Sin is the self-destructive result of divine charity having been spurned.

From the vantage point of God, we are made children of the light and of the day;³ but from our vantage point we babble, stammer, and we are easily distracted. Even those advanced in the ways of God can see themselves as "beginners". Indeed, the more the spirit and mind advance in the divine light, the more deficient one judges herself to be. The Bright-One-Who-cannot-be-Clouded offers us divine life, but it can only be communicated to us through the Mysteries – and in prayer.

Since we do not usually participate each day in the Sacred Rozeh, our principal means of receiving grace and touching, as it were, the hidden Divine Face is through prayer. When we pray well we live, and God raises us up through purification, bringing calm to our innate restlessness. When we fail to pray we asphyxiate in the divine order, and we wither, misdirected and soiled by self, the devil, the flesh, and the world.⁴

The more that we are stripped of all these unsatisfying and misdirecting loves, the more that we open ourselves to true fulfillment of our restless hearts. We open ourselves to the Divine. When we become truly dependent on the Hidden One, we flourish in the life of the spirit. And peace is brought to our hearts. This is why everyone who is saved will have practiced fasting, prayer, and alms. They wean us off creatures and aid us in correctly directing our loves.

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



Sun	Mar	5	Sava Nappi
Sun	Mar	19	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Apr	2	Jeanne Thomas
Sun	Apr	16	Diane Wyder
Sun	Apr	30	Ira Mandel
Sun	May	7	Jody Lachance

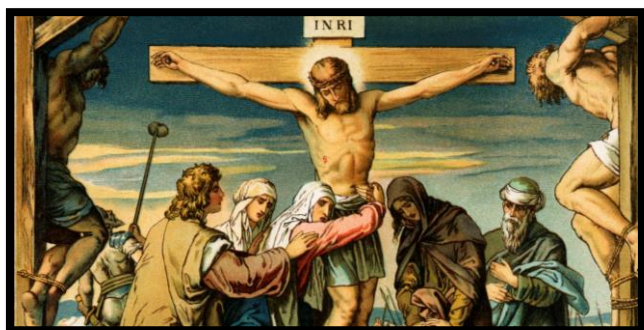
VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Mar	5	Dean & MaryAnn Carter
Sun	Mar	12	Michael & Gayle Misner
Sun	Mar	19	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Mar	26	Anne Marie Mathieu
Sun	Apr	2	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Apr	9	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Apr	16	Ira & Catherine Mandel

³ 1 Thessalonians 5: 5

⁴ 1 St. John 2: 16



Adoration and Benediction of the Life-giving Cross

preceded by the Stations of the Cross

Fridays of the Great Fast

6:30pm



*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.*

Schedule of Readings

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: THE HEALING OF THE HEMORRHAGING WOMAN

March 5, 2023

II Cor 7: 4-11 St. Luke 8: 40-56

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: THE PRODIGAL SON

March 12, 2023

II Cor 13: 5-13 St. Luke 15: 11-32

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun	5	9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph 11:00am Michael Misner-Elias (Gayle Misner-Elias)
Mon	6	-----
Tue	7	†Albert & Rose Bellamah (Paul & Stephen Paul Maroon)
Wed	8	†Susan B. Mitchell (Stephen and Paul Maroon)
Thu	9	Special Intention (-----)
Fri	10	Audrey & Michael McKenny (Monique & John Deschaine)
Sat	11	Saturday, 10:00am †Elizabeth Serwin (Gayle Misner-Elias) 4:30pm Sunday Vigil Private Intention
Sun	12	9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph 11:00am †Jean & George Deeb (Paul & Stephen Maroon)
Mon	13	-----
Tue	14	†Albert & Rose Bellamah (Paul & Stephen Paul Maroon)
Wed	15	†Elizabeth Serwin (Gayle Misner-Elias)
Thu	16	†Ernie, Feda, Charlie, Lucille, Peter, & Louis Maroon (Paul & John Maroon)
Fri	17	Cardinal Zen (Mary Nicholas)
Sat	18	No Mass, 10:00am 4:00pm Ramsho of Saint Joseph and Sunday Vigil †Sharon Doran (Abouna)
Sun	19	9:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph No Mass, 11:00am
Mon	20	-----
Tue	21	†Joan Gottardi (Donna-Jo Mitchell)

Wed 22 Tony Miklaszewski
(Virginia Miklaszewski)

Thu 23 †Sam & Latifa Deeb
(Paul & Stephen Maroon)

Fri 24 Audrey & Michael McKenny
(Monique & John Deschaine)

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted weekly: \$3,500.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$3,160.00

(Running Budget Deficit, 2023: **\$7,622.00**)⁵

Now we begin gathering in the **Bishop's Lenten Appeal** and **Assessment: \$4,000.00**
Remaining amount to cover: **\$3,719.00**

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: \$130.00⁶

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

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in March in memory of **Sam, Lottie, & George Deeb** at the request of Dame Fefa.



May their memory be eternal!



Please note that March will be a month of events and celebrations. There will be a number of noteworthy changes to our schedule, so please be attentive.

Our parish's Patron Saint is commemorated this month, and we will honor him with Ramscho, and a **festive brunch**, albeit Lenten, on his feastday, *following the 9:00am Mass*. As a result, there will be **no 11:00am Liturgy on March 19th**.

Celebration and Brunch

in honor of our parish's patron saint following the 9:00am Mass
Sunday, March 19th.

*All honor to Saint Joseph, Son of David,
Guardian of the Divine Child,
and Protector of the Church!*

The **Second Collection** for the **Bishop's Lenten Appeal** will be held **on March 26th** at both Masses. Please be generous to the bishop's requests for aid. This is an assessed amount and we have to pay **\$4,000.00** whether it is collected or not during Lent.

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

⁶ Jan: \$670.00 / Feb: \$345.00 / March: Our contractual payment each month to DownEast is **\$2,455.00**.

There will also be **Spring Cleaning** of the church building on **two Saturdays**:

- 1.) On **March 25th** there will be *no morning Liturgy*. Cleaning will be of all things other than the carpets. Sunday Vigil will be at 4:30pm as usual.
- 2.) On **April 1st, Lazarus Saturday**, there will be **Liturgy at 10:00am**, but **no Sunday Vigil at 4:30**. The **carpets** will be cleaned that day following the morning Liturgy.

! : Priest
مُكَلِّمًا حَقِّقَهُ

Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

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

! : People
هَـكْـمَ وَهَـمَـا وَهَـكْـرَ

w'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)

40 DAYS FOR LIFE.

From **February 22, 2023**, you are invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You are also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Maine Family Planning on Gabriel Drive in Augusta, and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach. If you would like more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact: Judy Icenogle 872-6558 or ricejuice@twc.com

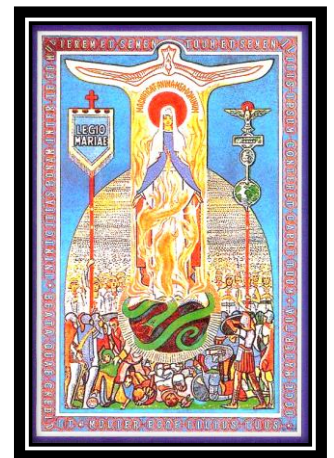
*Grant them health, and raise them up
from their illness, and make them
to have perfect health of body and soul
and strengthen them in spirit;
for Thou art our Savior and Benefactor,
the Lord of lords and Weaver of crowns,
Thou art Lord and King of all. Amen*

Those for whom we pray: Joyce Black, Celina Knippling, 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.

The Legion of Mary has been a power-house of grace and redemption in the world, and it has proven itself now for over a century to be an efficacious path to holiness.

Would you like to be part of the spread of the Gospel and the Kingdom of God?

While active Legionaries involve themselves directly in apostolic work, auxiliary members are the ground and power behind that divine work.



Auxiliaries engage themselves to praying a daily rosary to which they add the Magnificat and a few other prayers: perhaps five minutes worth added.

The Traditional and Patriarchal Norms for the Great Fast

- A.) Although all the days of Lent are traditionally fast days, special effort is to be put in to observe fully the first and last weeks of the holy season: **the week of Ash Monday and Great and Holy Week.**
- B.) Ash Monday and the First Week of Great Lent and Great Week of the Passion and especially Great and Holy Friday of the Crucifixion through to noon on Saturday of the Great Light are *Days of Fast and Abstinence according to our traditions.*
- C.) *For all, as a minimum requirement according to the sacred canons, we must fast on **Ash Monday** and on **Good Friday**. Abstinence must be observed on **all Fridays** of Great Lent. The days of fast and those of abstinence are strictly to be free of all flesh meats.*
- D.) *From the age of reason onward, all are obliged to follow the abstinence from all meat, meat products, and dairy products on these fast days.*
- E.) All Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the year are *traditional days of fast and abstinence from all meat and dairy products.*
- F.) *In general, the sick, expectant mothers, those involved in heavy labor or exertion, and the elderly who need to eat regularly are exempted from fasting and abstinence, especially those who are under medical care for chronic illnesses.*
- G.) Saturdays and Sundays in the eastern traditions are not days of fasting as are the weekdays.

- 1.) *Traditionally, abstinence is still observed from all meat and meat products, from all dairy products, eggs, and from fish.*

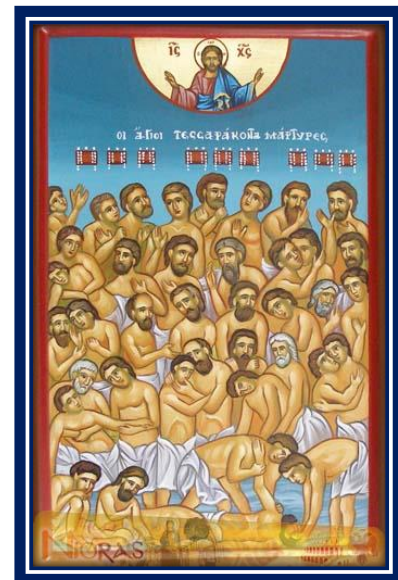
- 2.) *Traditional mitigation on Saturday and Sunday does allow for the consuming of shellfish and wine (or other alcohol).*
- 3.) *There is no fast restriction of time. One may eat at any hour.*
- 4.) *In its celebration, fish may be eaten on **Sha'neenee** (Hosanna Sunday/Palm Sunday)*

H.) *Breaking the Fast is permitted also on the following feastdays:*

- 1.) **Saint John Maron** (March 2);
- 2.) **The Forty Martyrs** (March 9);
- 3.) **Saint Patrick** (March 17th);
- 4.) **Saint Joseph** (March 19th); and,
- 5.) **The Annunciation** (March 25th).

QUANTITY: *In our tradition, the weekday fast means no food whatsoever between midnight and noon, only water and medication are permitted.*

QUALITY: *Also, in our traditional eastern tradition, the days of fast are in practice more or less vegan, that is, no meat, no seafood, no meat products, no dairy products, and no eggs are eaten.*



THE FORTY CROWNED
MARTYRS

March 9th