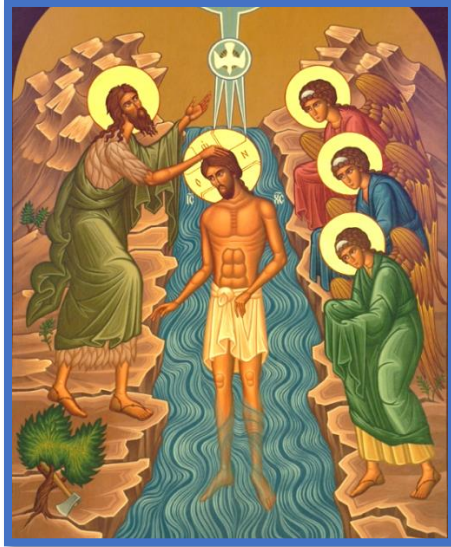


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The First Sunday after Epiphany

January 7, 2024

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, KCHS
Subdeacon: Mr. Stephen Crate
Website: <http://www.sjmaronite.org>
e-mail: MarYoussef3@outlook.com

“Be zealous to assemble more frequently to celebrate Eucharist ... for when you meet frequently, the powers of Satan are destroyed and danger from him is dissolved in the harmony of your faith.”¹

Qourboneh: Sunday: (Vigil, Sat. 4:30pm) Sunday Morning 10:00a.m.; Tues. – Fri. 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 \$40; Altar Bread \$35; Sacramental Wine \$55
Catechism: Steve Crate, *Director* **Legion of Mary:** Sir Ira Mandel, KHS, *President* **Pastoral Council Chair:**
Choir: Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG, *Director Emerita* **Almoner:** Ruth Lunn

This Day's Gospel² St. John 1: 29-34

And on the following day,
John saw Jesus coming toward him
and said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God,
Who *takes up* the sin of the world!
This is He about Whom I said,

‘A man is coming after me,
and He was ahead of me,
because He was before me.’
I did not know Him,
but the reason I came baptizing with water
was so that He might be made known
to Israel.”

¹ Letter to the Ephesians, 6: 13, Saint Ignatius of Antioch

² Based on The Syriac-English New Testament, Gorgias Press, New Jersey, 2020, ed. George A. Kiraz

And John testified and said,
 "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven
 like a dove and rest upon Him.
 And I did not know Him,
 but He Who had sent me to baptize with water
 said to me,
 'the One upon Whom you see
 the Spirit descending and resting,
 this is the One Who baptizes
 with *the Spirit of Holiness.*'
 I have seen and have testified
 that this is the Son of God."



*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)³

ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

Day is dawning upon us;
 the power of darkness is fading away.
 From the true Light
 there arises for us
 the Light Which illumines
 our darkened eyes.⁴

³ Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

⁴ *Nuhro*, daily Safro

Light – it allows us to see the world around us. In it we see and learn. It permits us to look upon those whom we love. From sight, and experience, we develop the fuller understanding of "light" in all its rich meaning: not only for physical sight, but also the illumination and clarification of the mind in knowledge and wisdom.

Epiphany means "manifestation" in Greek. In this feast we celebrate and honor the appearance of God among us. In the Baptism of Christ, this revelation of the Triune God is known as the *theophany*: "the manifestation of God". In it is revealed both the Trinitarian Personality of Divinity and it manifests the form and institution of Christian Baptism.

The Divine Word entered time, born of the ever-virgin Mary. Every intelligent being has been created to know and love God, so that we, as intelligent human beings, might arrive at this noble purpose He chose to enter among us and called out to us in the grace of faith and revelation. Faith illumines the spirit in light, giving the human mind vision, horizon, and direction during life, that is, life as it is meant to be – an intelligent human life raised up into God to fulfill the purpose for which it has been created. *Salvation is the realization of the fulness of this gift of life into eternity.*

In the Epiphany, then, we honor His Incarnation, His Birth in Bethlehem, His revelation to the Jewish shepherds, His star guiding the Gentile Magi, and in the Theophany of the Triune Personality of the One Who has loved us from all eternity at His Baptism by John the Forerunner. In this, we are made free.

Epiphany is the original "Christmas" that recognizes and celebrates Immanuel, "God-with-us".

Being a festival of the "divine manifestation," it is also a celebration of the illumination of the human mind made possible by the coming of the Messiah. *We live and act the way we think,*⁵ and so it is

⁵ Otherwise, we are doomed to think [rationalize] the way we act. Rationalizing our sins is one of the most immediate and damaging effects of original sin in human life.

fitting to honor the divine Light that has come into the world. It heals our minds, elevates our hearts, unifies our lives, and allows us **by grace** to become what God is **by nature**. Love for love, we respond in the light of gracious gift.

Understanding all this, it is easy for us to see that Immanuel did not come to make us merely upright citizens and “decent” people – one need not be a Christian for this – but that He make us truly so much more: that we might be transformed into the children of God and heirs of the eternal Kingdom.⁶ This transformation is impossible without grace and the Gospel. For this reason, “orthodox” means both “correct *belief*” and “correct *praise*,” that is, correct knowledge and worship. One, holy, catholic, and apostolic, the true faith must be “orthodox”, too.

When we freely enter by faith and baptism into the divine Light of the Incarnate Son, baptized in the Jordan, we are made children of the Light; but for this to happen we must allow ourselves to be enlightened by the teaching, life, and grace of the Messiah. What is received in hidden grace is explicated and “manifested” in catechesis. The doctrine of Holy Church clarifies our minds to more fruitfully follow in the footsteps of Our Lord, Divine Wisdom Incarnate.

We receive grace, and in response we must choose to be formed and transformed by the Divine Liturgy, the Liturgical Seasons, and the Sacred Mysteries. This is the concrete path and the easiest way to holiness.

The divine light of doctrine and grace “illumine our darkened eyes”, as we await the definitive epiphany in the Resurrection from the dead.



⁶ The God of Christianity is not an unknown God or a divine force, but rather One Who has become man so that men might become God.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

January 7, 2024

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

January 14, 2024

II Cor 4: 5-15 St. John 1: 35-42



*After the Divine Mysteries, 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.*

Schedule of Leaders for the Recitation of the Rosary at **9:30 am** on the **first, third,** and **fifth** Sundays of each month:



Sun	Jan	7	Lorenzo Michaud
Sun	Jan	21	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Feb	4	Patrick Carter
Sun	Feb	18	Jeanne Thomas
Sun	Mar	3	Diane Wyder
Sun	Mar	17	Nathan Carter
Sun	Mar	31	Jody Lachance

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun	7	10:00am	†Malcolm Spencer (Badiah Spencer)
Mon	8	-----	
Tue	9		Catherine Williams (Michael & Gayle Misner-Elias)

Wed 10 †Lucas Thomas
(Diane Dostie)

Thu 11 †Fr. Juan-Carlos Iscara
(Abouna)

Fri 12 10:00am Ginnaz for Laya Joseph
(the Joseph family)

Sat 13 10:00am Anne El-Habre
(Michael & Gayle Misner-Elias)

4:30pm Sunday Vigil
†Robert DeRosby
(DeRosby & Jurdak families)

Sun 14 10:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph

Mon 15 -----

Tue 16 Jodie Lachance
(Michael & Gayle Misner-Elias)

Wed 17 Nicholas Family
(Mary Nicholas)

Thu 18 †Joan Gottardi
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

Fri 19 Ruth Lunn
(Michael & Gayle Misner-Elias)

Sat 20 10:00am Catherine and Ira Mandel
(Michael & Gayle Misner-Elias)

4:30pm Sunday Vigil
private intention

Sun 21 10:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph

Mon 22 -----

Tue 23 Nicholas Family
(Mary Nicholas)

Wed 24 Kelly and Claire Ryan
(Michael & Gayle Misner-Elias)

Thu 25 †Barbara Souther
(Mary Nicholas)

Fri 26 †Marlene Hurd Jabar
(Sr. Michele, OCD)

Sat 27 10:00am †Darrell Mitchell
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

4:00pm Ramsho and Vigil
of All Saints
private intention

The sanctuary lamp for the year of grace, 2024,
burns in memoriam of the Lucas Thomas
donated by his Uncle Norman Mathieu



May his memory be eternal!

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Jan	7	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Jan	14	Anne Marie Mathieu
Sun	Jan	21	Suzanne Paré
Sun	Jan	28	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Feb	4	Ira & Catherine Mandel
Sun	Feb	11	Maureen Martin
Sun	Feb	18	Dean & MaryAnn Carter

*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: Maeve Coughlin, Nancy Fairfield, Doreen Nader, Ruth Lunn, Joyce Black, Dame Fefa, Paula Mitchell, Sheila Bonenfant, Gareth Belton, Daja Gombojav, Margaret Mae Lambert, Mary Morin, Larry Grard, Barbara Joseph, Sally Derosby, Tala Poulin, Richard Karter, Rita Hikel, and all those who may suffer from illness, disease, want, or depression.

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, more baked goods, and other gifts – this kindness is all the more noteworthy, appreciated, and outstanding in these difficult financial times.

*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!*

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted weekly: \$3,500.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$1,777.00

(Running Budget Deficit, 2024: \$1,723.00)⁷

Second Sunday each month is a second collection
to cover our **monthly fuel-oil costs**.

This month’s fuel collection to date: \$000.00⁸

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

Fast of the Ninevites

Within the Syriac tradition, both east and west, during the first days of the final week following the Epiphany, and coming just before the weeks commemorating the dead, we observe *The Supplication of the Ninevites*. This is a transitional fast on *Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday* that moves us from the festivities surrounding the Glorious Nativity and *Denho* toward the Great Lenten Fast that approaches.

This year these days of fasting will be on **Monday, January 15, Tuesday, January 16, and Wednesday, January 17th**.

This fast was first instituted in the seventh century by **Mar Sabrisho**, bishop of Beit Garmai,⁹ who ordered the three days of prayer and fasting in response to an epidemic that had ravaged his eparchy. Later, these penitential days became universal practice throughout the Syriac Churches.

Fasting *elevates* the spirit and *cleanses* the mind, as well as *purifying* the body. It fosters a healthy spirit of **repentance** and calls down upon us the grace of God. It strengthens the mind to focus first to the things of God, and to relegate the concerns of this earth to their proper place – subordinated to the things of God. In the Gospel, our Lord speaks to Nicodemus about a new life of grace and of baptism, and He asks rhetorically whether the one who does not properly judge the things of earth can ever come to understand the things of heaven.

A clouded intellect is never disposed to know the things of God, and worldly ignorance and

brothers, *Adurpawa* and *Mihrnarsé*, with their sister *Mahdoukh*, were martyred there. In the **fifth century**, under King Yezdegerd II (438-57), the "History of the city of Beit-Slokh" makes mention of hundreds and thousands of martyrs slain in this city (Moesinger, *Monumenta Syriaca, II*). The "Synodicon Orientale" (Paris, 1902, 674) mentions nine metropolitans of Beit-Slokh who assisted at various councils between 410 and 612.

Extract from the Catholic Encyclopedia, 1913

⁷ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59 / Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00 / Deficit 2021: \$35,178.00 / Deficit 2022: \$29,423.00 / Deficit 2023: \$41,353.00

⁸ Jan: \$670.00 / Feb: \$345.00 / March: \$729.00 / April: \$30.00 / May: \$444.00 / June: \$405.00 / July: \$422.00 / August: \$548.00 / September: \$260.00 / October: \$587.00 / November: \$450.00 / December: \$557.00. **Our annual propane costs for the kitchen: \$800.00.**

⁹ Region east of the Tigris in north central area of what is today Iraq. Christianity flourished there very early. In 318 two

disordered passions blind the mind to divine realities; so, we fast.

Fasting norms:

We are reminded by our Patriarch that “a fast” is to go without all foods from midnight to noon, after which we abstain from all flesh meat, eggs, and all dairy products – this then is like a “vegan” menu, as one would call it these days.

These traditional observances are for all who have attained the age of the use of reason.

!مُحَمَّدًا حَتَّىٰ خَلِّجَهُ :Priest
Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!
(literally: Peace [be] to all you!)

!هَؤُلَاءِ وَهَؤُلَاءِ :People
w'am rouHoh deelokh!
(literally: and with spirit your!)

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

January 7th:

10:00am: Nathanael Carter / Rocco Nappi

January 14th:

10:00am: Michael Carter / River Gombojav

January 21st:

10:00am: Lorenzo Michaud / Ihbeleg Gombojav

January 28th:

10:00am: Patrick Carter / Rocco Nappi

February 4th:

10:00am: Nathanael Carter / Isaac F. Morris

February 11th:

10:00 am: Patrick Carter / Ihbeleg Gombojav

February 18th:

10:00am: Michael Hanley / Michael Carter

February 25th:

10:00am: Nathanel Carter / River Gombojav

March 3rd:

10:00am Patrick Carter / Isaac F. Morris

March 10th:

10:00am Lorenzo Michaud / Michael Hanley

The First Sunday after the Glorious Epiphany of the Lord

p. 107

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:

The Twelve Apostles: p 754

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

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

Recessional: SB *Alleluia*



Saint Jacob of Nisibis

Confessor

January 13th