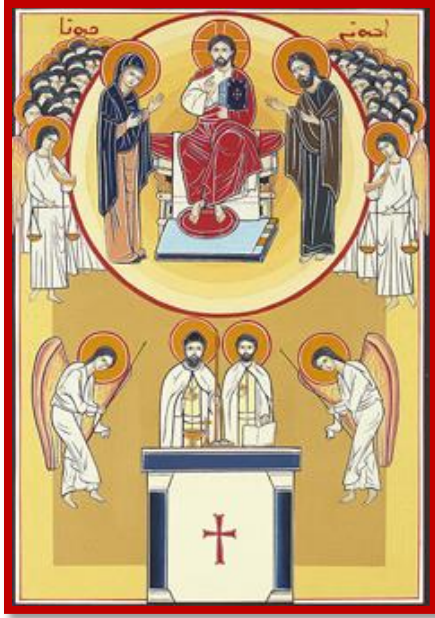


# Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



## The Week of Deceased Priests

January 21, 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](mailto:MarYoussef3@outlook.com)

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*"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."<sup>1</sup>*

**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

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### **THIS DAY'S GOSPEL<sup>2</sup> St. Luke 12: 42-48**

Simon Kepha said to Him, "Our Lord, do you speak this parable to us, or also to everyone?"

And Jesus said to him,

"Who is the faithful and wise steward that his master has appointed over his *service*, to give them their portion at the right time? Blessed is the servant that his master finds so doing when he returns; truly I tell you,

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<sup>1</sup> Letter to the Ephesians, 6: 13, Saint Ignatius of Antioch

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

he will appoint him over all his property;  
but if that steward should say within his heart,  
‘My master is slow to return,’  
and starts to beat  
his master’s servants and maidservants,  
and begins to eat and drink, and get drunk,  
that servant’s master shall return  
on a day he is not expecting  
and at an hour he does not know.  
He shall *cut him off*  
and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

“The servant who knows his master’s will,  
and who did not make preparations for him  
in keeping with his will,  
shall be beaten with many blows;  
but the one who does not know his will  
and who acts in a manner deserving blows,  
shall be beaten with few blows.

“For from everyone who has been given much,  
much shall be demanded;  
and from the one entrusted with much,  
more shall be required at that man’s hand.”



*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)<sup>3</sup>

## **ABOUNA’S REFLECTIONS**

Praise, glory, and honor to Him  
Who sanctifies priests and perfects bishops;  
He chose them as guardians of His Flock,  
entrusted to them the treasures of His grace,  
and delivered to them  
the keys of His Kingdom  
that they might distribute His riches  
to those in need.  
To the Good One is due glory and honor  
this evening, and all the days of our lives,  
now and forever.<sup>4</sup>

Ours is a visible religion. The beauty of the  
Christian Priesthood is that it continues as the  
thread of history and the living vein of divine life  
throughout the Body of Christ, the Church. It is the  
“back bone” of the Mystical Body of Christ through  
which, and from which, life radiates out in the  
Divine Mysteries of Christ’s Presence among the  
faithful and consecrated members of the Church.

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

**1536** Holy Orders is the sacrament  
through which the mission entrusted by  
Christ to his apostles continues to be  
exercised in the Church until the end of  
time: thus, it is the sacrament of apostolic  
ministry. It includes three degrees:  
episcopate, presbyterate, and diaconate.

<sup>3</sup> Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”

<sup>4</sup> *Proemion*, Ramsho of Sunday of the Deceased Priests

While families, peoples, and nations will come and go until the Last Day, the Holy Priesthood will be present and waiting at Our Lord's Parousia. Our own descendants and families may have disappeared by then, but there shall be priests awaiting the glory of the Lord on the Last Day.

Belonging to the essence of the Church, the Sacramental Priesthood is likewise *indefectible*.

The individual men consecrated in the Sacrament of Holy Orders are "sealed" with a spiritual disposition to the grace and labor to which they are called and which they must accomplish as the agents and *instruments of Christ, Head of His Body*.

The Rozoh of Holy Orders thus contains one of the three *permanent metaphysical transformations* acquired through the Divine Rozeh and Sacraments. These "**characters**" conferred in Baptism, Chrismation, and in Holy Orders variously conform the Christian to the Word Incarnate in a permanent manner.

*By sin, one can lose the grace of God, but nothing can efface the sacred character in the soul.*

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

**1121** The three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders confer, in addition to grace, **a sacramental character or "seal" by which the Christian shares in Christ's priesthood and is made a member of the Church according to different states and functions.**

This configuration to Christ and to the Church, brought about by the Spirit, is *indelible*; it remains forever in the Christian as a positive disposition for grace, a *promise* and *guarantee* of divine protection, and as a *vocation* to divine worship and to the *service* of the Church. Therefore, these sacraments can never be repeated.

In truth, there is only one Priest in Christianity and that is our Lord God and our Savior, Jesus Christ. The men whom we call "priests" are the frail conscious instruments of the Lord. Men who have been called by Him to be consecrated into the Divine Mystery of Holy Orders are ingrafted into His Incarnation, His unique Priesthood uniting God and man, and this is what makes them able to officiate and stand *in persona Christi*, as say the theologians, *in the person of Christ*.

In this Divine Mystery, men are made "priests" and they become His sacramental, living presence in each generation, an instrumental presence that extends the Mystery of the God-Man born once to the ever-virgin Mother of God and extends His work of salvation in time and space until the Last Day.

The Messiah is wedded to His Spouse, and, indeed, He is His Body composed of all the faithful and the elect called in faith and baptism. The Church is a living organism and Baptism is the foundational Sacrament that introduces each of the faithful into the Mystical Body. It introduces each of the baptized into the mystery of Salvation, consecrates the Inheritance of the Redeemer, and opens the Sacraments to each as they are made into a royal and priestly people. This is the Church as a whole. All the baptized are formed into a sacred nation.<sup>5</sup>

From out of this Royal and Priestly Nation, **men are called** to instruct, amplify, nourish, teach, consecrate, and guide this People of God. This vocation is consecrated in the **Sacrament of Holy Orders**. Instituted by our Lord at the Last Supper, the sacred priesthood originates from within the mystery of the Church, and from that place nourishes and extends the Church within, and into, each generation, gathering the nations of mankind into the work of redemption. *The priesthood gathers and shepherds all the children of God into the unity of the Body of Christ.*<sup>6</sup>

The divine and *sacramental Priesthood is of the essence of the Church*. It flows from out of Christ in His consecrated People, and extends the Mystery of Salvation within that People, while gathering the

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<sup>5</sup> I Peter 2: 9

<sup>6</sup> St. John 11: 52

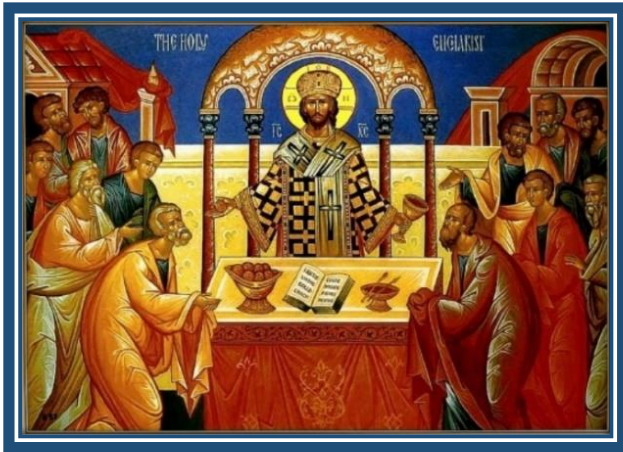


scattered elect into the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church of Christ.

Like the bread and wine in the Divine Eucharist, the men called by Christ to Himself (this is “**vocation**”<sup>7</sup>) are transformed into an instrumental reality of Incarnate Wisdom, the God-Man in His work of salvation. The Sacraments are the **Sacred Rozeh** by which we live, without which salvation and is impossible, and it is the priesthood that confects those Sacraments. Therefore, without the Christian priesthood, salvation in practice becomes impossible.

In historic time, in a visible manner, the Son of God came as Man among us so that we might receive from Him all the help, grace, and holiness needed to become His disciples here below, conformed to Him, and in this conformity to find our salvation. ***We are transformed by grace through the Mysteries, into that which He is by Nature.***

All this means that Christianity is an incarnate religion, visible to all who have eyes to see, even as God Himself became visible in *the* Incarnation and was born into this world at Bethlehem.



“Spirituality” in the modern ephemeral, impermanent sense is a nebulous feeling that is completely foreign to Christianity by its very formlessness and vagueness. The Catholic Faith is a calling, and it brings salvation. **The Gospel is a clarion call, and its teachings are clear.**

Sentiments there are, of course, but feelings are not its foundation, nor are they central to the Apostolic Faith. There is neither “left” nor “right”, nor “conservative” nor “liberal” in the apostolic faith. It is certainly not to be identified with either feelings or politics. ***The stabilizing rudder in the course of salvation is the apostolic priesthood.***

In the Church and her Mysteries, we are given to see, hear, touch, and enter into the Divine Mystery of redemption and grace. God became Man so that we might find Him, know Him, love Him in return, and be able to participate – as human beings fully composed of body, mind, and spirit – in His divine reality through the **visible Holy Rozeh**. For this reason, the contemporary phrase about being “spiritual, but not religious” has little meaning, and finds no compatibility with the orthodox, apostolic, and catholic Christian Religion.

We worship the Merciful One Who chose to walk among us. This is the one eternal Mystery made known to us even as we stumble; but ultimately we fail in our existence when we choose another path and fail to follow seriously the Gospel of life.<sup>8</sup>

Thus, it is that those men, weak though they may be and wounded by human foibles, are nevertheless to be honored, obeyed, and prayed for as they freely have taken upon themselves the **sacred burden to renounce their own personal lives that they might be consecrated into the Incarnate Savior and serve His Flock.**

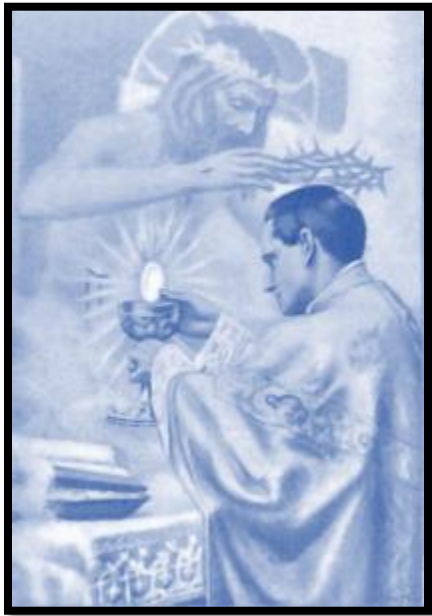
In each generation priests are made His mouthpieces and His hands to convey the incarnational channels of grace given to the world, the Holy Sacraments – the only path to Eternal Life.



<sup>7</sup> St. Matthew 4: 19

<sup>8</sup> St. Matthew 10: 37

No one is a priest for himself, and all priests have been formed by priests before them. Each priest will have memories and stories of the consecrated men who came before him, and who aided him to become the priest that he is.



The Catholic Priesthood is the oldest brotherhood in history, originating in the Upper Room at the Last Supper. It is an unbroken line of succession directly from Our Lord and returning to Our Lord on the Day of Judgment.

The priesthood is central to the essence of our Catholic Church. In life, priests bring the Holy One to us and join us to the Hidden One in redemptive mercy.

*These are the men of mercy that we commemorate and pray for all this week.*

In his own death, may each priest be joined to the Eternal High Priest Whom he has faithfully served, the Fountain of all Holiness.

May the Lord bring each of His consecrated servants into the fullness the Kingdom in imperishable glory – crowned and surrounded by all the souls he has brought along with him into the Beatific Vision.

## Schedule of Readings

### COMMEMORATION OF THE DECEASED PRIESTS

January 21, 2024

I Tim 4: 6-16      St. Luke 12: 42-48

### COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE JUST

January 28, 2024

Heb 12: 18-24      St. Matthew 25: 31-46



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

## INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun	21	10:00am	Parishioners of Saint Joseph
Mon	22	-----	
Tue	23	<b>10:00am</b>	Ginnaz for Mary Nader (the family)
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*  
 Sun 28 10:00am Parishioners of Saint Joseph  
 Mon 29 -----  
 Tue 30 Nicholas Family  
 (Mary Nicholas)  
 Wed 31 †Bernard Thomas  
 (Nicole & Michelle)  
 Thu 1 Suzanne Paré  
 (Michael & Gayle Misner-Elias)  
 Fri 2 Praesidium; Mary, Queen of the Clergy  
 (Abouna)  
 Sat 3 10:00am Nicholas Family  
 (Mary Nicholas)  
 4:30pm Sunday Vigil  
*private intention*  
 Sun 4 10:00am †Lucas Thomas  
 (Mom, Dad, and Jack)  
 Mon 5 -----  
 Tue 6 Badiha Spencer  
 (Michael & Gayle Misner-Elias)  
 Wed 7 Yvette Mandel  
 (Ira & Catherine Mandel)  
 Thu 8 †Charlotte Iserbyte  
 (Mary Nicholas)  
 --- Holy Day of Obligation ---  
 6:00pm **Ramsho and Vigil**  
 of **Our Father Saint Maron**  
 Parishioners of Saint Joseph  
 Fri 9 10:00am **Feast of Our Father**  
**Saint Maron**  
 Stone Family  
 (Ira & Catherine Mandel)

Sat 10 10:00am Jakob Wyder  
 (Abouna)  
 4:30pm Sunday Vigil  
*private intention*

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.





## *Servers of the Divine Altar*

### January 21<sup>st</sup>:

10:00am: Lorenzo Michaud / Ihbeleg Gombojav

### January 28<sup>th</sup>:

10:00am: Michael Carter / Rocco Nappi

### February 4<sup>th</sup>:

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

### February 11<sup>th</sup>:

10:00 am: Patrick Carter / Ihbeleg Gombojav

### February 18<sup>th</sup>:

10:00am: Michael Hanley / Michael Carter

### February 25<sup>th</sup>:

10:00am: Nathaniel Carter / River Gombojav

### March 3<sup>rd</sup>:

10:00am Patrick Carter / Isaac F. Morris

### March 10<sup>th</sup>:

10:00am Lorenzo Michaud / Michael Hanley

### March 17<sup>th</sup>:

10:00am: Nathanael Carter / Rocco Nappi

### March 24<sup>th</sup>:

10:00am: Patrick Carter / River Gombojav  
Michael Carter / Isaac Morris

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



*May his memory be eternal!*

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted weekly: \$3,500.00)

Regular Collection Last Two Weeks: \$8,065.00

(Running Budget Deficit, 2024: **\$658.00**)<sup>9</sup>

**Special Collection Next Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>:**  
**United States Catholic Bishops'**  
**Worldwide Charities**

(Collection combined for Central and Eastern Europe,  
Latin America, Africa, and Catholic Relief Services.)

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

**This month's fuel collection to date: **\$305.00****<sup>10</sup>

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

## VOCATION ICON

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

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
Sun	Feb	25	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Mar	3	Anne Marie Mathieu

<sup>9</sup> 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

<sup>10</sup> 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.**

# Marfaa!



Mardi Gras  
Celebration  
and luncheon

## Cana Sunday,

February 11<sup>th</sup>,  
following the 10:00am  
Qourbonoh

!مَحْمَدُ حَقَّقْهُ :Priest

**Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!**

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

!هَمَّ وَهَمًا وَكُرَّ :People

**w'am rouHoh deelokh!**

(literally: and with spirit your!)

## Commemoration of Deceased Priests

p. 147

**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  
Francis  
de Sales**

Confessor and  
Doctor of the  
Church

*January 24<sup>th</sup>*

