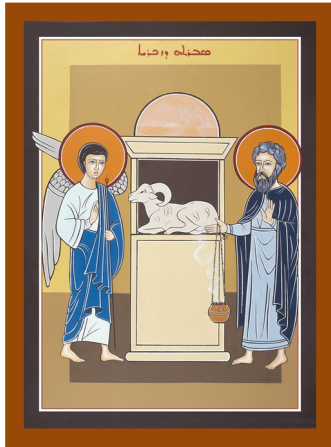


Announcement to Zechariah

November 19, 2017



St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church

3 Appleton Street
Waterville, ME 04901
Office Phone: 207-872-8515
E-Mail: stjoesinmaine@yahoo.com
Pastor: Rev. Fr. James Doran
Subdeacon: Mr. Stephen Crate
website: <http://www.sjmaronite.org>



"The Eastern Rites are the Treasure of the Catholic Church"

Saint John XXIII, Pope

- Liturgies:** Saturday 4:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m.; Tues. – Fr. 9:00 a.m. in the St. Jude Chapel
The Miraculous Medal and the St. Jude Novenas are on Tuesday following the 9 a.m. Liturgy
- Sick Calls:** To receive the Eucharist and/or the Anointing of the Sick, please call the rectory.
- Confessions:** One half-hour before weekend 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 **three months in advance**. Recommended stipends:
weekday intentions \$10; weekend intentions \$15
- Monthly Memorials:** Sanctuary Candles \$20; Altar Bread \$25; Wine \$45

Choir Director: Fefa Deeb **Parish Secretary:** Paula Mitchell **Catechists:** Lenore Boles, Director & K-1st; Jane Lee, 2nd; Shana Page, 3-5th **Parish Council:** Sheila Bonenfant, Lisa Grard, Lowell Hawes, Rosanna Joseph, David Lee, Ruth Lunn, Kevin Michaud, Paula Mitchell, Elizabeth Wilson **Ex-officio council members:** Subdeacon Steve Crate; Lenore Boles, Catechism; Shana Page, Rosary Sodality; Larry Mitchell, Knights of Columbus

THIS DAY'S GOSPEL St. Luke 1; 5-25

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord.

But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the Temple of the Lord and burn incense.

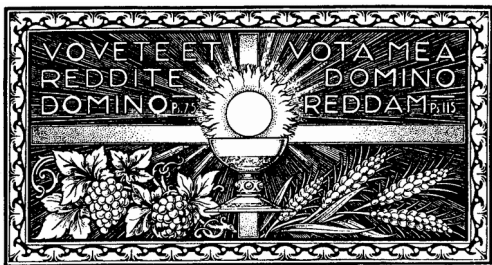
And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense.

And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink,

and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit,
 even from his mother's womb.
 And he will turn many of the sons of Israel
 to the Lord their God,
 and he will go before Him
 in the spirit and power of Elijah,
 to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,
 and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
 to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."
 And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I
 know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is
 advanced in years."
 And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who
 stand in the Presence of God, and I was sent to
 speak to you, and to bring you these good
 tidings. And behold, you shall be silent and
 unable to speak until the day that these things
 come to pass, because you did not believe my
 words, which shall be fulfilled in their time."
 And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and
 they wondered at his delay in the Temple.
 And when he came out, he could not speak to
 them, and they perceived that he had seen a
 vision in the Temple, and he made signs to them
 and remained mute.
 And when his time of service was ended, he went
 to his home.
 After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived,
 and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus
 the Lord had done to me in the days when He
 looked upon me, to take away my reproach
 among men."



ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

Inevitable death: the departure from time Part V

The liturgical season of Announcements
 (*Souboreh*) is about *unveiling*. Uncovering the
 mystery of God's revelation to Israel and to the
 world; the manifestation of grace and divine

charity in time; and the manifestation of light,
 purpose and truth in the Glorious Incarnation
 of the Word, all show to us the course of life as
 we are meant to be as the children of the Light.

Revelation of grace and redemption is the
 stable point around which the world rotates in
 flux. The saying, "time flies," is well known,
 and especially true as we age. The history of
 the world is in constant movement toward the
 consummation of all things as designed by the
 Creator.

While it true that all the world is moving
 toward the final point at the end of time, for
 each of us there is an individual version of that
 history, one that we play out alone. Every
 moment of our lives moves us inexorably and
 inevitably to the instant of our exit from this
 world of time: our death. Or, in the exceptional
 case of being alive at time of the *Parousia* of
 our Lord, it may coincide with the Day of
 Judgment itself.

"Time," in its most general sense, is the
 measurement of change, a gage of "before" and
 "after". Other than the divine and
 transcendent Source of all existence, all things
 that exist change. There are three
 measurements of existence and life: *time*,
aevum and *eternity*. The first is the lot of all
 creatures in the cosmos; the second refers to the
 realm of spirits and the immaterial existence of
 the watchers (angels); and, lastly, the third term
 is applicable only to the fully divine, it is
 appropriate only to the Compassionate Hidden
 One, God.

Here below, we necessarily live in *time*. When
 we die, we leave the temporal world and enter
 into a form of existence that the teachers call
aevum. The measurement that we call *eternity*
 is truly applicable only to God. This last term
 refers to *the immutable perfection of unending
 life simultaneously and perfectly possessed in
 its fullness*.

Hunh??

Don't worry; this is not a concept fully understandable to our minds here below. Eternity is, in effect, transcendent to all measurement of change and it is the ageless **present** – the “**permanent ‘now’**” as the theologians call it. Saint Augustine remarked that the life of grace moves the individual into the stability of godlike “non-changingness,” if there were such a word; unchanging, because all perfection and life are fully possessed. Nothing can be lost and nothing needs to be acquired by God.

This all means that the more that we collaborate with the grace of God the more perfectly stable our existence becomes, and the more perfectly we become the children of God the more perfect we become even as human beings. We enter into the very Life of God.

We are told that the Incarnation of Christ is both a revelation of the Unseen One and a revelation of man to himself.¹ This means that our God and Savior as the Son of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary is the very image and likeness of human nature renewed and glorified – what we were made to be.

During the season of Announcements we move liturgically, gradually – from the revelation to Zachariah and the birth of John the Baptist through to the Genealogy of the Messiah – closer and closer to the Revelation of the Hidden One in the Incarnation and in the Glorious Nativity of the Divine Word. In all this, we are simultaneously commemorating an historic event *and* celebrating the full revelation of what we are meant to be as men: fully human and the children of God by grace. This liturgical season, then, sets our sight to the past, the present (transforming grace) and toward the future goal.

Death is the moment when we leave all the vicissitudes and constant oscillations of this very unstable earthly domain, and we enter into a level of existence in which our true being will come into force. In a sense, death becomes

the point when we are put in the balance and weighed to see whether we have learned what the revelation of grace and God's compassion has truly meant for the world, and whether we have availed ourselves *personally in time* of God's extended Hand of mercy. Have we lived fully conformed to the Gospel of Christ?

At the moment of death, then, we will become fully that which we have been obscurely on earth – in a hidden manner. As we die, the truth of our individual being will be made manifest to us. This is what we call the **particular judgment**.

Let us live the truth of the Gospel not as mere spectators but as full participants in the Mystery of grace,² in which God Himself desires to sustain us in His charity and lift us up by His compassion.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Regular Collection: \$1256.00

Second Collection today
is the **Patriarchal Charities**

*Blessed be the Hidden One Who gives us the ability
to sustain the apostolate of our Savior*

FOOD BANK NEEDS FOR NOVEMBER

Family sized items soups, ravioli, etc.
Juice in plastic containers
Condiments
Toilet paper

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	November 19	Greg Gillespie
Sun	November 26	Larry & Paula Mitchell
Sun	December 3	Lowell & Mary Hawes
Sun	December 10	Jodi Veilleux
Sun	December 17	Mary Joe Hodgkin
Sat	December 23	Lenore Boles
Sat	December 30	Audrey Yotides

¹ *Gaudium et spes*, paragraph 22

² St. James 1; 22-25

BAZAAR RAFFLE WINNERS

\$500: Nancy Karter
\$200: Joyce Joseph
Days: Misty Berard



THIRD PRAYER FROM WEDNESDAY SAFRO

O Lord, grant peace to the world.
May wars and battles cease throughout the earth,
protect the churches and monasteries;
unite them in the unity of the true Faith.
Support and care for the people You have
acquired through Your precious blood.
Thus, strengthened by Your calm and peace,
we shall render glory and thanksgiving to You, now
and forever. Amen

LETTER FROM BISHOPS MANSOUR AND ZAIDAN

A letter has been received concerning Lebanese citizenship. There are copies at the exits of the church and on the web site.

READERS' SCHEDULE

ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZECHARIAH

Romans 4; 13-25 St. Luke 1; 1-25
November 18 Ruth Lunn

ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Galatians 3; 15-22 St. Luke 1; 26-38
November 25 Lenore Boles

INTENTIONS FOR THE QURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 18 For the Parish Members
- Sun 19 †Ann Giguere, Fortieth Day
(Larry & Paula Mitchell)
- Mon 20 -----
- Tue 21 †Souls in Purgatory
(M/M Mark Camarano)
-- Catholic Extension & Donors
- Wed 22 †Lester Giguere
(Ann Giguere)
-- Catholic Extension & Donors
- Thu 23 †Maxine Daily
(Antoinette Jameson)
- Fri 24 †Sandy Doyon & Nate Desjardins
(Dan & Pam Casavant)
- Sat 25 For the Parish Members
- Sun 26 †Alfred Joseph
(Pearly & Alice Lachance)

Liturgical notes: † = Deceased, SI = Special Intention, AV = Anniversary, H = Health

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

November 19 is the first annual World Day of the Poor:

It is my wish that, in the week preceding the World Day of the Poor, which falls this year on 19 November, Christian communities will make every effort to create moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance. They can invite the poor and volunteers to take part together in the Eucharist on this Sunday... This Sunday, if there are poor people where we live who seek protection and assistance, let us draw close to them: it will be a favorable moment to encounter the God we seek.

Pope Francis



A PRAYER FOR WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

○ God of Abraham, Hidden Father,
we stand before Thee empty-handed,
and in need of Thy mercy;
on television, on the newsfeed, on my street,
everywhere I go, I see *Lazarus*.
At the same time, I see so many doors and
obstacles;
doors that I have built,
doors that I have closed.
Doors that society has set up and locked.
Doors that separate me from *Lazarus*.

○ Lord, show me how to open the door to *Lazarus*,
to open the door to the poor.
Enlighten my mind
and strengthen my will by Thy grace
that I might be made anew
in the image of the Good Samaritan,
Thine Only-begotten Son.

Support me to turn towards those
outside the door.
Make me an instrument
of Thy divine charity and peace
that I might bless,
try to heal, and comfort those in need.

Teach me to see the poor and the indigent
as Thy creatures, made in Thine image,
who in this world also show us the Crucified One.

Allow me to extend my hand to those in need,

and bring solace to the vulnerable.
Grant me wisdom to increase dignity, beauty,
and respect in their lives.

Teach me to know them as Thy children.
Strengthen me to extend the hand of compassion
that can lift them up in their distress.
Aid me to assist them that they might find
a fair share of Thy generous bounty.

Grant to us all,
Thy children and disciples of Thy Son,
-- the Good Samaritan --
that we might work together to remedy
an unhealthy and broken society
that does not know Thee,
and to work toward a world
more in line with Thy Gospel of Life,
where none are strangers and, indeed,
the chains of ignorance, sin, hardheartedness,
oppression and poverty are broken asunder,
-- a new world where justice and peace
might flourish.³

And to Thee we render praise, glory, thanksgiving,
as also to Thy Compassionate Son,
our Redeemer and Model,
and to Thy Life-giving and consubstantial Spirit,
now and forever.
Amen

*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 the Savior and Benefactor,
the Lord of lords and Weaver of crowns,
Thou art Lord and King of all. Amen*

Those for whom we pray: Jerry Fortin, Albert Joseph, Doreen Nader, Tala Poulin, Virginia Poulin, Beverly Rideout, Gordon Webber, Melissa Karter, Maxine Morrisette, Rebecca Bernard and Paul Mitchell

³ II Peter 3; 13

COFFEE SCHEDULE 2017-2018

Nov 19 April Mitchell & Mary Nader
Nov 26 Shana Page & Dale Sturtevant
Dec 3 J. Veilleux & Elizabeth Wilson
Dec 10 Mary Bard & Lenore Boles

CENTURY 21 – SURETTE REAL ESTATE
Pam Casavant - Partner/ Associate Broker
Tel: 207-873-5634 Ext 219
e-mail: pcasavant@surette-realestate.com

LEBANESE CUISINE
34 Temple Street * Waterville, ME 04901
207-873-7813

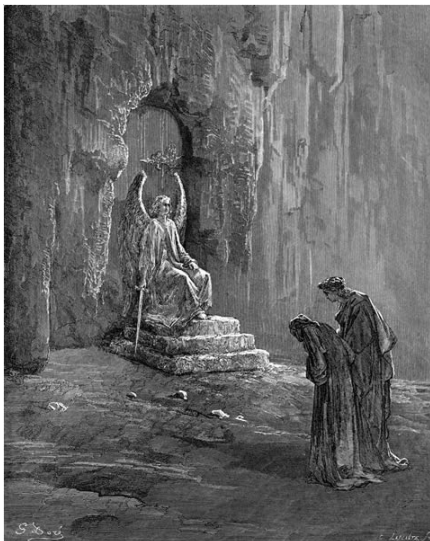
GALLANT FUNERAL HOME INC.
Dana R. McInnis, Owner
John O. Gallant, Director
10 Elm Street * Waterville, ME 04901
Tel 873-3393 * Website: gallantfh.com

GHM Insurance Agency
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Announcement to Zechariah

p 18

Lighting of the Church: SB* p 21 #135/LB p 5
Jesus, Christ, O Source of Light

Entrance Hymn: LB p 18 From on High the Angel
Came

Glory: SB p 1 #1 Glory (Arabic)

Qolo/Hymn: LB p 22 The Most Awesome Mystery
Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB p 750 The Lord Reigns
Incense Hymn: SB p 3 #8 *Ikbal*

ANAPHORA:

St. John: LB p 815

Sign of Peace: SB p 40 #176 *Tooba Lisa*

Communion: SB p 26 #145 O Bread of Life

Recessional: SB p 54 #206 O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel

**LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book*