

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Announcement to the Blessed Ever-Virgin Mary

November 24, 2019

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
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"For us, the men and women of the East are a symbol of the Lord Who comes again." *Oriental Lumen*, John Paul II

- Qoorboneh (Masses):** 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 at least **two months in advance**. Recommended stipends: weekday intentions \$10; weekend intentions \$15
- Monthly Memorials:** Sanctuary Candles \$20; Altar Bread \$25; Wine \$45

Catechists: Lenore Boles, *Director & K-1st*; Shana Page, 3-5th **Choir Director:** Dame Fefa Marie Deeb, DSG **Parish Council President:** Lisa Grard **Ex-officio Council Members:** Subdeacon Steve Crate; Lenore Boles, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*

Today's Gospel¹ St. Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God's presence to Galilee, to a town named Nazareth, to a virgin married to a man named Yusef, of the house of David.
The virgin's name was *Maryam*.

The angel entered her presence and said to her, "Peace be to you, *"full-of-grace"*, our Lord is with you, who are blessed among women"
When she saw him, she was very troubled at his words and pondered what this greeting might mean.
"Do not be afraid, *Maryam*," the angel said to her. "for you have found favor with God.

¹ *The Syriac Peshitta Bible with English Translation*, Gorgias Press, New Jersey, 2012, ed. George A. Kiraz and Andreas Juckel

Behold you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you shall call His name *Yeshu'*. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most-High, and the Lord God shall give Him the throne of David his father. He shall reign over the House of *Ya'cub* forever, and of His Kingdom there shall be no end."

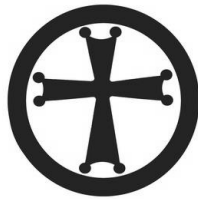
Maryam asked the angel, "How can this be, since a man is not known by me?"

The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit shall come and the Power of the Most High *will rest upon you*. For this reason, He to Whom you will give birth is holy and shall be called the Son of God."

"See, even your cousin *Elishba'* is expecting a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who is called 'barren'. For nothing is impossible for God."

"Behold, I am handmaiden of the Lord," said *Maryam*. "May it be to me according to your word."

Then the angel departed from her presence.



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

We are each alive, but life as such does not belong to us. Until we think about it, this may seem strange to say. We do not "own" our lives. Life, like any other details on earth, is a gift from Another. The Creator has made that all intelligent beings will exist from now on, but that existence and life does not originate from them. No human being has ever willed himself into existence, or chosen where or when he would be

born, or who would be his parents, or what kind of talents or qualities she would possess. Our existence comes totally from outside ourselves. Not even parents give life to their children. On this point, parents are channels of human life to another generation and nothing more. A romantic evening, a bit of frolicking and play – a child may be conceived – but the actions of those human beings do not "give life", they only act as a conduit to the creation of another human person. For this reason, we call the matrimonial embrace "pro-creation". It works *with* the divine act of creation; it does not originate life or existence. Parents are "partners" to the Hidden Creator of all; they are *not* creators of life.

Philosophically, then, all personal qualities, historical circumstances, family memberships are all radically gifts from God – distributed as He sees fit. Of course, what we do with those gifts later is largely left up to us in personal freedom, but still these things do not originate from us, nor do we "own" them in their origin.

This is the fundamental reason why *murder*, *suicide*, and *abortion* in themselves are always gravely sinful.

In the pagan world, the question of "the end justifying the means" was always a philosophical dilemma, but in Christianity there is no debate: one may never do evil so that good might come about. This was clearly taught by Saint Paul.³ For a Catholic, then, the end never justifies the means and we are never allowed to do something sinful, bad, or evil, so that a good result might come about. ***A good intention is never sufficient to justify a bad action.*** Because of this it is never allowed to justify the taking of innocent life so that something "good" or "better" might happen. It is contradictory to the Gospel to say that murder, or suicide, or abortion, might be done so that a good result may come about. A sinful action can never be done for a good purpose. This is Christian morality 101.

No one "owns" his existence/life; with even less reason does any individual human being have a "right" over another's human life. These fundamental principles ground the natural and objective understanding in the morality of murder, self-inflicted death, serious self-mutilation, and the killing of the unborn.

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

³ Romans 3: 8

The primary reason **murder** is never justified is that it is *a direct offence to the Creator of life, in Whose Image all human beings have been made.*⁴ While it is true that murder is also destructive to the natural rights of the individual killed, along with being a violation to the remaining members of his family and to his community – these considerations, serious and grave as they may be, are secondary to the primary offence given to the Living One. This is also the reason why God required the execution of convicted murders in the Old Testament.

No one “owns” himself, life is his *to live*, but he does not “own” that life. *Therefore, one has no moral right to decide when or how to end his life by direct action and as he wishes.* He had no part in the decision to come into this world, and it is not his to take away. **Suicide** – the direct and conscious killing of oneself – is always gravely wrong. Until recently, anyone who ended their days by suicide was not given a Christian funeral – his last act had been a mortal sin – and he was refused burial in a consecrated cemetery. *As one cannot choose to deliberately end what is not his in ownership, so he cannot call upon others to “assist” him in the act.* The recent law passed in Maine permitting “medically assisted suicide” is abhorrent to all moral sense of both the natural law and the Gospel. A state legislature has no power to justify such an act by “fiat” in law. This is a blotch on our public and social life, and initiates us, as a state, into a small coterie of those who embrace a culture of death.

Fundamentally speaking, no one is superior to any other human being, and thus knowingly to take an innocent life, murder, is always a mortal sin. No one can possess another human being’s life, even children do not “belong” to their parents. A baby is not a possession, and the child in the womb does not belong to the mother or to the father. A child is not a maternal organ, nor is the child a mere extension of the maternal womb. As we all know, scientifically, a fertilized embryo – necessarily fertilized by two human beings and implanted in the uterine wall – is dependent on its mother for the first months of life, but it remains, nevertheless, an autonomous life with its own genetically unique make-up.

The child is not a possession, but in all fundamentals is equal to every other human being. Thus, *to provoke or directly cause the death of a child in utero – abortion – is always mortally sinful.* One cannot justify the intrinsically evil action by arguing for some other “good result” that may come about by the child’s death. It goes without saying that to terminate a human life, either before or after the birth, subjected to another’s interests, or due to gender or other frivolous reason is totally unjustifiable. With this in mind, the Church makes any **effective** abortion the *cause of excommunication* from the Body of Christ of any efficient agent involved, be they mother, father, doctor, or nurse. Reprehensible is it to make this serious decision merely a “choice”.

The talk of aborting females in China and India these days, cultures that put greater value on males, should be abhorrent to all Christians. But note here, the pagan Chinese or Indian would “justify” the death of the child for cultural and historical reasons – to their minds sufficient, but abhorrent to Catholics as depreciating human life.

The origin of the child’s existence does not forfeit his life or make it of any less worth. Even should a child be conceived through violent action (rape) or reprehensible and immoral activity (e.g. incest), the child cannot be condemned to death. He has done nothing wrong to merit such an action. The offensive circumstances of a child’s conception may be reason for giving up the child to adoption later, but they cannot be justification for terminating the child’s life. This is why *laws* that allow for the *abortion of children conceived by the violence of rape or incest are also unjust.* The common good governs how Christians should act in response to the tragic and abhorrent actions of rape and incest. To kill the child conceived is not a solution.

May these considerations give us all a moment to pause and reflect on the extremely serious manner in which we treat human life in the modern world. As Mother Teresa once remarked, there will never be peace on earth as long as parents can destroy the life they have conceived.

In a world where parents can kill their offspring, all other human life is cheap.

⁴ Genesis 9: 6; Leviticus 24: 17

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE VIRGIN MARY
November 24, 2019

Gal 3: 15-22 St. Luke 1: 26-38

VISITATION OF THE VIRGIN TO ELIZABETH
December 1, 2019

Eph 1: 1-14 St. Luke 1: 39-45

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Nov 24	Sue Paré and Lolo Salazar
Sun	Dec 1	Lowell Hawes
Sun	Dec 8	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Dec 14	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Dec 22	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Dec 29	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	Jan 5	Steve and Allison Crate

*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: Doreen Nader, Louise Saliem, Virginia Poulin, John Scarpa, and Beverly Rideout.

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sat 23 †Charles Owen
(the Parish)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Sun 24 For the members of the Parish

Mon 25 -----

Tue 26 Anna Bearce
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Wed 27 †Thomas & Adal George
(Ghaphery Family)

Thu 28 †Carmen Welch
(Robert Welch)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Fri 29 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Sat 30 †Charles Owen
(the Parish)

Sun 1 For the members of the Parish

Mon 2 -----

Tue 3 Anna Bearce
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Wed 4 †John Jabar
(Ghaphery Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Thu 5 †Janet George
(Nicholas Ghaphery)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Fri 6 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Sat 7 †Mary Hawes
(Herb Joseph)

Sun 8 For the members of the Parish

Mon 9 -----

Tue 10 Anna Bearce
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Wed 11 Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Thu 12 †Mary Hawes
(Ron Girard)

Fri 13 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Regular Collection: \$1578.00

Blessed be the Merciful One Who gives us the ability to sustain this apostolate.

**Announcement to the
Blessed Ever-Virgin Mary**
p 27

Lighting of the Church: LB* p 5
Jesus Christ, O Source of Light

Entrance Hymn: LB *fesheeto* 56A

Glory: SB *al majdu*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *shareero* 57A

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *iqbal*

ANAPHORA:

Saint John, the Apostle: LB p 815

Sign of Peace: SB *Prayer of Saint Francis*

Communion: SB *O Body of my Savior; Bless this House*

Recessional: SB *Alleluia #1*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book

Autumn Harvest Raffle

\$10,000 GRAND PRIZE!!!!

LAST DAYS!!!

**RAFFLE TICKETS ARE ON SALE
AFTER EACH MASS EVERY WEEKEND!**

Cost of each ticket is \$100.00, with the winning ticket for the prize to be drawn Tuesday, December 3rd.

Buy a raffle ticket today. What would djidoo say?



Saint James Intercisus, Martyr

November 27th