

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Glorious Nativity of our Lord

&

The Felicitations to
the Mother of God

December 25th and 26th, 2021

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." *Orientalis Lumen*, John Paul II

Qourboneh: Sunday: (Vigil, Sat. 4:30pm) Sunday Morning 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.; Tues. – Fr. 9:00 a.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* **Choir Director:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG **Pastoral Council Chair:** Suzanne Paré

Pastoral Council Members: Suzanne Paré, *Chair*; Gayle Misner-Elias, *Secretary*; Steve Crate, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*; Matthew Stone, *Finance Committee*

This Day's Gospel¹ St. Luke 2: 1-20

And in those days it occurred, that a decree went forth from Augustus Caesar, that all the people of his dominion should be enrolled. And this enrollment was first made under the presidency of Quirinus in Syria.

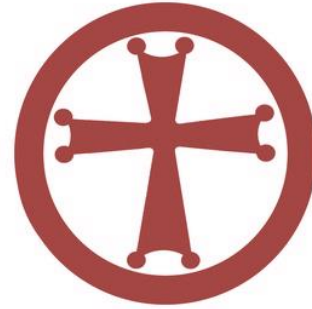
And everyone went to his own city to be enrolled.

And Joseph also went up from Nazareth of Galilee to Judaea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, with Mary his wife, then with child, to be enrolled.

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

And it was while they were there, that the days for her to bring forth were completed.
 And she brought forth her First-born son, and wrapped Him in swaddling, and laid Him in the stall; for they had no place where they could lodge.
 And there were shepherds in that region, who abode there and kept watch of their flocks by night.
 And behold, the angel of God came to them, and the glory of the Lord shone upon them: and they feared with great fear.
 And the angel said to them:
 Fear not; for, behold I announce to you great joy, which will be to all the world. For there is born to you this day a *Deliverer*, Who is the Lord Messiah, in the city of David.
 And this is the sign for you:
 Ye will find the Babe wrapped in swaddling, and placed in a stall.
 And instantly there were seen with the angel, the many hosts of heaven, praising God and saying:
 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth *shlomoh* and good hope to *the sons of man*.
 And it was so, that when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds conferred with one another, and said:
 Let us go down to Bethlehem, and see this *word* which hath occurred, as the Lord hath made known to us.
 And they came hastily, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe laid in the stall.
 And when they saw, they made known the *word* which had been given to them concerning the Child.
 And all that heard, wondered at the things that were told them by the shepherds.
 And Mary laid up all these *words*, and pondered them in her heart.
 And the shepherds returned, glorifying, and praising God for all that they had seen and heard, as it had been told to them.

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"



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

Our parish Nativity Scene has moved fully "east" this year, reflecting the theological poetry and writings of our Syriac Fathers. As one could note in the hymn (*qolo*) of Genealogy Sunday, and repeated throughout this last week, Our Lady and Saint Joseph are portrayed as "wheels of fire". This imagery signifies their place in Bethlehem like unto the seraphim in heaven, that is, as the latter stand in the presence of the Hidden One of Majesty, they burn³ in the divine presence. Mary and Joseph stand in presence before the Ancient of Days made incarnate for our salvation. The Scriptural imagery is that these holy ones act as "thrones" in their respective places under, and before, the Living and Luminous One.

Thus, Our Lord's manger glows signifying the eternally radiant Word-made-Flesh. The statues of Mary and Joseph shimmer in vibrant mottled redness as the "seraphim" of Bethlehem. (Dare we say "incandescent" from the exceptional charity that burns within them, reflecting the Loving One Whom they serve.)

We, the faithful, approach this sublime reality through the veils of grace: **blue** signifying the theological virtue of faith (the luminous eye) and then *only* through living and life-giving charity (the

³ "seraph" means "one who burns", "seraphim" is the plural form

red veil) are we able to enter into, touch, and perceive the incarnate redemptive Mystery revealed at Christmas.

The watchers have also been taught Aramaic! Many thanks to **Jeanne Thomas** who worked diligently these last months to instruct our angel of Christmas. The banner he carries is now in our liturgical language:

ܐܡܚܡܢܐ ܕܡܚܕܐ ܕܚܝܬܐ ܕܡܚܕܐ ܕܡܚܕܐ ܕܡܚܕܐ ܕܡܚܕܐ
ܡܚܕܐ ܕܡܚܕܐ ܕܡܚܕܐ ܕܡܚܕܐ ܕܡܚܕܐ ܕܡܚܕܐ⁴

And another “thank you” to **Mark Morin** and his crew for perfecting this year’s crèche in all its imagery. He has worked devotedly for years to assemble the details. It is a beautiful tribute to our Syriac Maronite faith.

The radiant light of the Ancient of Days has appeared among us. The Unclouded Bright One has been born to us to inspire hope to live a life transformed in grace, radically ordered toward the Good One, and inspired in the pursuit of virtue (infused by grace) all so that we might follow in the footsteps of the Infant King.

As we now begin the Days of Christmas may grace, joy, and luminous fidelity enflame the charity of one and all in the life-giving Body of Christ, God-Man, Word Incarnate, our Savior.

Merry Christmas!



ܡܠܟܐ ܚܠܝܬܐ! :Priest

Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

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

ܡܚܕܐ ܕܡܚܕܐ ܕܡܚܕܐ! :People

W'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)



Schedule of Readings

GLORIOUS NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 25, 2021

Heb 1: 1-12

St. Luke 2: 1-20

FELICITATIONS TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

December 26, 2021

Eph 1: 3-14

St. Luke 1: 46-55

THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD

January 1, 2022

Eph 2: 11-22

St. Luke 2: 21-24

THE FINDING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

January 2, 2022

Heb 7: 11-19

St. Luke 2: 41-52

⁴ St. Luke 2: 14

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Dec	26	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Jan	1	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Jan	9	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Jan	16	Michael & Gayle Misner
Sun	Jan	23	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Jan	30	Sue Paré & Lolo Salazar
Sun	Feb	6	Daja Gombojav & Family

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$1,352.00

(Budget Deficit 2021: \$33,822.00)⁵

An additional **\$000.00** has come in this week toward the needed construction collection of **\$39,000.00**.⁶

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

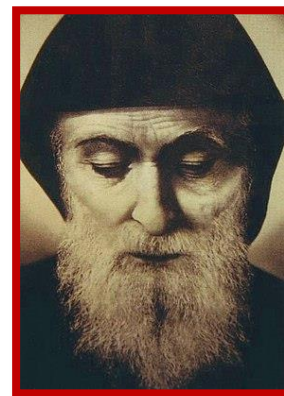
Please remember to sustain the apostolic work of this parish through regular contributions.

Think about your *Christmas Giving opportunities!*

Tell your friends and family of the wonders of the Maronite tradition through her saints. We still have available Chorbishop Eid's wonderful introduction to **Saint Sharbel**, now updated and in its fourth edition.

Chorbishop Joseph Eid was Vice-Postulator for the Beatification of Mar Sharbel, and originally he wrote this work to introduce the great hermit to an American audience.

This book is available online at the **parish website** and from the **sacristy** directly after Mass.



Brand-new beautiful hardcover edition, with dust jacket, only \$25

The Life-giving Cross

Please, take notice of our present protocols:

- 1.) All Catholics, of whichever Ritual Church, are more than welcome at Saint Joseph. We are one Family of God and one Body of Christ.
- 2.) Those who are sick, or carry symptoms of sickness, must remain at home.
- 3.) Wearing a face-mask is **recommended** for all those indoors.
- 4.) As discussed in pastoral council meetings, in order to bring greater security and peace of mind, the **doors** will be **locked** and secured at the beginning of each Liturgy.
- 5.) Hand sanitizers remain available at the entrances and at the confessional.
- 6.) The canonical and serious obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holydays has now been restored for all the Catholics of Maine.
- 7.) And, lastly, at the end of Mass, those who wish to **remain and pray** in the church are welcome to do so, but out of **respect** for the House of God and **charity** to one's neighbor **all are asked not to linger, socialize, or visit within the church**. If one wishes to visit, please do so outside or in the parish hall.

⁵ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59/Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00/Deficit 2021:

⁶ This makes the amount toward our matching Challenge Grant (20k), to be presently **\$15,310.00**. This lengthy collection

is being made to cover the needed **building** and **masonry maintenance projects**, estimated at \$60,000.00.

Holyday Schedules

*For the Holy Days of Obligation
for the Circumcision of our Lord*

New Year's Eve

Friday, December 31st

Mass: 9:00am

Ramsho of the Circumcision: 3:30pm

Vigil Mass of the Circumcision: 4:30pm



Feast of the Circumcision

Saturday, January 1st

Mass: 10:00am

NB: There will be no Ramsho, nor
Sunday Vigil New Year's Day.

Finding of our Lord in the Temple

Sunday, January 2nd

Masses: 9:00am & 11:00am

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Fri | 24 | Michael Eagan, Jr.
(Michael Eagan)

Vigil of the Glorious Birth of our Lord
4:30pm <i>Private Intention</i> |
| Sat | 25 | For the Members of the Parish |
| Sun | 26 | 9:00am For the Members of the Parish
11:00am †Joseph & Mary Smus
(Paula, David, & Patricia) |
| Mon | 27 | ----- |
| Tue | 28 | †Darrell Mitchell
(Donna-Jo Mitchell) |
| Wed | 29 | Special Intentions
(Pam & Dan Casavant) |
| Thu | 30 | †Abbot William
(Abouna) |
| Fri | 31 | William Eagan
(Michael Eagan)

Vigil of the Circumcision of our Lord
4:30pm <i>Private Intention</i> |
| Sat | 1 | For the Members of the Parish |
| Sun | 2 | 9:00am For the Members of the Parish
11:00am Mike & Gayle Misner-Elias
(Sarah Grace Misner-Elias) |

Mon	3	-----
Tue	4	†Abbot William
Wed	5	†Michael Ralston (Daja Gombojav)
		Vigil of the Epiphany of our Lord 4:30pm For the members of the parish
Thu	6	Alyssa Evans (Daja Gombojav)
Fri	7	†Malcolm Spencer (Badiha Spencer)
Sat	8	9:00am 40 th Day, †Thomas David Ferris Sunday Vigil, 4:30 Private Intention
Sun	9	9:00am For the Members of the Parish 11:00am †Georgette Reny (Suzanne Paré)
Mon	10	-----
Tue	11	†Abbot William (Tony & Ginny Miklaszewski)
Wed	12	Fr. Doran (Catherine & Ira Mandel)
Thu	13	†Richard Elias (Cynthia Elias)
Fri	14	Fr. Bill Bartoul (Allison & Steve 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 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: Fr. William Bartoul, Gayle Misner-Elias, Margaret Mae Lambert, Mary Theresa Huebner, Mary Morin, Larry Grard, Sarah Grace Misner-Elias, Catherine Mandel, Cindy Elias, David Bourque, Barbara Joseph, Madeleine Dombroski, Sally Derosby, Tala Poulin, Richard Karter, Lolo Salazar, Charlotte Iserbyte, Rita Hikel, and all those who may suffer from illness, disease, want, or depression.

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

December 26th:

9:00am: M. Carter/ N. Carter

11:00am: I. Misner-Elias/ S. Nappi

January 2nd:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ M. Carter

11:00am: L. Michaud/ S. Nappi

January 9th:

9:00am: M. Carter/ N. Carter

11:00am: S. Nappi/ I. Misner-Elias

January 16th:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ N. Carter

11:00am: L. Michaud/ I. Misner-Elias

January 23rd:

9:00am: M. Carter/ N. Carter

11:00am: L. Michaud/ S. Nappi

January 30th:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ M. Carter

11:00am: I. Misner-Elias/ L. Michaud

The altar candles for this month have been
donated in memory of Tom Ferris
by Dame Fefa



*May he receive light, peace, and joy
in the fulness of the Kingdom*

Glorious Nativity of our Lord

p. 76

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *Msheeho natareh* 71

Glory: SB *glory*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *soogheeto (safro)* 73

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *I'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

Saint John Chrysostom: p 876

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *O Bread of Life; O Come all Ye Faithful*

Recessional: SB *Joy to the World*

Solemn Blessing to close the Liturgies of Mass during Christmas Weekend:

O Compassionate and Merciful God,
as You accepted the offerings of the Fathers
of the Old and New Covenants,
accept this Holy Sacrifice,
which we have offered and bestow:
forgiveness to sinners,
(Cong: **Amen** after each petition)
bread to the poor,
health to the sick,
hope to the brokenhearted,
consolation to the depressed,
rest to the dead,
freedom to the imprisoned,
companionship to travelers,
protection, guidance, and unity
to Your Holy Church.

Guide the religious and civic leaders of this
world, and remove from it, all hatred,
indifference, trials, and afflictions
so that all nations may live
in peace and harmony.
Forgive the shortcomings of this community,
and of all mankind,
through the intercession
of Mary, Mother of the Light,
of our holy Father Saint Maron,
and of all the saints:
† Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen



Massacre of the Holy Innocents
and *the Flight into Egypt*

December 29th