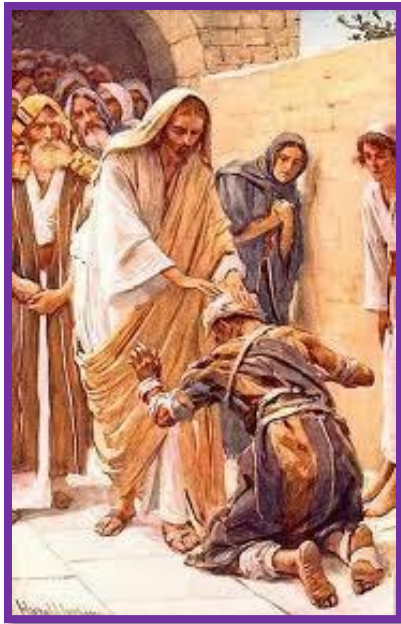


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Cleansing of the Leper

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 1, 2020

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.” *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* **Choir Director:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG **Parish Council President:** Lisa Grard
Ex-officio Council Members: Lenore Boles, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*

THIS DAY'S GOSPEL¹ St. Mark 1: 35-45

Jesus rose very early in the morning and went to a deserted place and was praying there.

Simon and those with Him were looking for Him. And when they found Him they said to Him, “All the people are looking for You.”

He replied to them, “Walk to the villages and the surrounding towns so that I may preach there also, as this is why I have come.”

He continued preaching in all their synagogues throughout Galilee, and casting out devils.

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

A man came up to Him and fell at His feet, begging Him, "If you wish, You are able to cleanse me."

Jesus had mercy on him. Reaching out His hand, He touched him and said, "I do wish; be made clean!"

At that moment, his leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

He admonished him sternly and sent him away, telling him, "See that you speak to no one, but go and show yourself to the priests. Make the offering for your cleansing as Moses commanded, for testimony to them."

But after he had gone out, he began to declare it all the more; and he spread the word, so that Jesus could not enter a town openly.

He stayed out in the desert region, and they kept coming to Him from everywhere.



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

The Great Fast is occasion for us to take deeper root and flourish in the Gospel. The conversion and

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

³ "During these forty days of Lent, may we meditate on the benefits of fasting and prayer. Through fasting and prayer souls are made pure, bodies are made chaste, spirits are uplifted, passions are restrained, mercy abounds, and the Holy Spirit

healing of Lent is only a first step toward greater strength. These weeks and days are set aside for us to consciously disengage our lives from the temporal "stuff" of this world so that we not be controlled by it. Freedom is our goal, found only in service to the Merciful One. Divinization is the purpose in Maronite life, repentance and reparation are the necessary means.³

Regulating our food intake, disciplining our spoken words, quieting the noise in our minds, silence, and centering our hearts in compassionate and divine service help us to draw inwardly, to the core of our being – that which makes each of us truly, and uniquely, who we are.

We detach ourselves from the constant distractions in the world in order to fortify our inner being, pacify our spoken words, and illuminate our actions so that we may become the people we were created to be: masters of ourselves, inwardly free, at peace in our mind, elevated in our spirit, pure and chaste in life, totally liberated from the anxiousness of this world, and constant, faithful servants of the Most High.⁴ This is what it means to belong, and to be the *bnai aloho*, the children of God.

Unchanging and eternally good is the Creator and Origin of all, and the more that we enter through grace into contact with the immutable divinity, the more that our individual lives will be touched by strength, depth, and peace. Through this grace-filled exchange, the immutable God makes His faithful servants to be stable, resilient, constant, and peaceful in "unchanging-ness".

Prayer, fasting, and alms are the three classic and principal actions of the disciples of Christ. In them we transform by grace even the simplest of lives. We open the mind and spirit to all reality and truth: **prayer**; strengthening oneself in the seriousness of life: **fasting**; and, acting in a habitual and compassionate manner in this wounded world: **alms**. To do these things is transformative, and transformation is what we seek as Maronites, especially in the Great Lent.

dwells in the soul that was created to be the temple of God." *Hoosoyoh* from the First Weekday Cycle of Lent.

⁴ "Be pleased with us, and grant us Thy forgiveness. May we spread Thy Gospel and be Thy witnesses (*martyrs*) to all people." 'Etro from the First Weekday Cycle of Lent.

Compassion is a choice more than it is a feeling. One may feel stricken by the sadness of suffering, but unless one chooses to act one is not being compassionate. The tree can be considered as good only insofar as it produces good fruit.⁵

In this way, the Hidden One is compassionate. God does not “feel” anything like emotions or sentiments. Feelings and emotions all belong to the physical and material order of creation. The God of all consolation does not break down in tears, as it were, but He is infinitely and transcendently compassionate. His is an example we are meant to imitate because it originates in goodness – infinite goodness in His case – and results in effective changes. True compassion and sympathy do not merely puddle out in sheer emotion in front of sentimental videos or news coverage, but, being moved by suffering, work efficaciously to remedy the suffering at hand. Emotional sensation may make us “feel” compassionate, but to do nothing when we can is to manifest the *absence* of compassion – regardless of how we feel or what we might say. We chose *not* “to do”. Anything else is pure sentimentality.

So it is that from the *nunc stans*⁶ the Hidden One of majesty chooses to heal, repair, and make whole the self-inflicted wounds of His creatures. And in restoring *shlomoh*, He also freely chooses to elevate and restore them in grace. This is not a sentiment or a mere feeling, it is a free election and manifestation of unlimited perfection. By doing alms, we imitate the same. Orthodox in our belief, we must be orthodox in our actions.

When we are moved by compassion, it must be determined by that which is truly and objectively good. Not everything that moves us is necessarily for a correct reason. True pity and compassion cannot be present when the action chosen is immoral. The contemporary example would be abortion.

While one may be moved to compassion for someone who is in poverty, and now “burdened” with the responsibility of another mouth to feed, so that one wishes to aid them in the situation, to kill the expected child as a means to alleviate this aggravated poverty remains intrinsically evil. To pursue this line of action would not be compassion at all either for

the stressed family or for the child who dies in the event – regardless of “feelings”.

Thus, when we pray, when we learn our faith, we enter a world of light that clarifies our minds. The mind and spirit must be strengthened by free exercise and by adherence to the good in order that virtue and compassion become effortless. Fully conformed to the Good One, the saints were ever disposed to do what was objectively good, possible, and necessary at each moment. This is wisdom in the Holy Spirit Who directed and inspired them into transcendent beauty.

Faith is more than simply learning the catechism – although that would be an excellent start for many – it is to absorb and assimilate the apostolic teaching so that our minds radiate its wisdom.

Our first obligation as Catholics is to recognize the Origin of all Truth, and to pray that Its Light penetrate our spirits in grace, and strengthen our minds and will in true compassionate alms.

This is what it means to fast in its most fundamental sense.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE CLEANSING OF THE LEPER

March 1, 2020

Rom 6: 12-23 St. Mark 1: 35-45

THE HEALING OF THE HEMORRHAGING WOMAN

March 8, 2020

II Cor 7: 4-11 St. Luke 8: 40-56

⁵ St. Matthew 7: 16-20

⁶ the eternally present and simultaneously perfect immutability of divine existence

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Mar	1	Sue Paré and Lolo Salazar
Sun	Mar	8	Lowell Hawes
Sun	Mar	15	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Mar	21	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Mar	29	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	April	5	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	April	12	Steve and Allison Crate

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection: \$1,560.00

(Deficit 2020: \$9,444.00)

Whoa!! The fuel-oil costs for 2019 were well over **\$23,000.00**; thus our initial budgeted weekly amount was off. *Recalculate.*

Our most recent "big bill" arrived this week for repairs made to the elevator.⁷ This time around, testing and maintenance cost **\$1085.00**.

Any generous souls wishing to aid directly in contributing to offset this latest expense are heartily encouraged to do so.

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

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WILL
BE OFFERING THEIR
ANNUAL LENTEN
FISH CHOWDER



ONCE AGAIN
FRIDAYS, 4:30-6:00
IN THE PARISH HALL.

⁷ Remember, just over a year ago maintenance cost us \$2,000.00.

*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: Rosanna Joseph,
Doreen Nader, Louise Saliem, and Virginia
Poulin

The Traditional and Patriarchal Norms for the Great Fast

- A.) Ash Monday and the First Week of Great Lent and Great Week of the Passion and especially Great and Holy Friday of the Crucifixion through to noon on Saturday of the Great Light are Days of Fast and Abstinence according to our patriarchal tradition. cf. par. 22
- B.) For all, as a minimum requirement according to law, we must fast on Ash Monday and on Good Friday. Abstinence is to be observed on all Fridays of Lent. These days of fast are strictly to be meatless.
- C.) From the age of reason onward, all are obliged to follow the abstinence from all meat, meat products, and dairy products on these fast days even if they are strictly not obliged to fast.
- D.) All Fridays throughout the year are traditional days of fast and abstinence from all meat and dairy products.
- E.) In general, the sick, expectant mothers, and the elderly who need to eat regularly should

be exempted from fasting and abstinence, especially those who are taking medications associated with chronic illnesses.

F.) *Saturdays and Sunday, although abstaining in the quality of foods, are not, in the eastern tradition, days of fasting.*

G.) *Breaking the Fast is permitted also on the following feastdays:*

- 1.) Saint John Maron (March 2);
- 2.) The Forty Martyrs (March 9);
- 3.) Saint Patrick (USA) (March 17th);
- 4.) Saint Joseph (March 19th); and,
- 5.) The Annunciation (March 25th).

QUANTITY: *In our tradition, the fast means no food whatsoever between midnight and noon, only water and medication are permitted.*

QUALITY: *Also, in our eastern tradition, the days of fast are in practice more or less vegan, that is, no meat, no seafood, no meat products, no dairy products and no eggs are to be eaten.*

Stations and Benediction of the Life-giving Cross

Fridays of the Great Fast
6:30pm

Parish Council Meeting

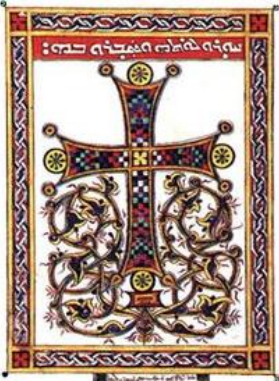
Tuesday, March 3rd, 6:00pm

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 29 †Ron Stevens
(Herb Joseph)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 1 For the Members of the Parish
- Mon 2 -----
- Tue 3 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
(Ed Laabs and Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

- Wed 4 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
(Ed Laabs and Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 5 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
(Ed Laabs and Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 6 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
(Ed Laabs and Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 7 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
(Ed Laabs and Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 8 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
(Ed Laabs and Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Mon 9 -----
- Tue 10 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
(Ed Laabs and Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 11 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
(Ed Laabs and Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 12 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
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- Fri 13 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
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- Sat 14 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
(Ed Laabs and Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 15 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
(Ed Laabs and Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Mon 16 -----
- Tue 17 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
(Ed Laabs and Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 18 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
(Ed Laabs and Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 19 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
(Ed Laabs and Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Fri 20 †Edwin Laabs, Sr
(Ed Laabs and Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors



March Devotions for the Holy of Holies

The Altar Breads,
Sacramental Wine, and the
Sanctuary Lamp have been
offered this month by Dame
Marie and by Ruth Lunn as
alms in commemoration of

George Deeb;
and Emily & Ashlin Baker,
and for Thomas Porfirio.

*May their memory be eternal
in the fullness of the Kingdom.*

The Cleansing of the Leper p 196

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *eeto* 108

Glory: SB *irhamni*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *bo'outho* 109

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

Saint Peter, Chief of the Apostles: LB p 774

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *O Bread of Life; Seek ye first*

Recessional: SB *From the Depth*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book



*Our First Patriarch, Saint John Maron,
Confessor*

March 2nd