

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 20, 2020

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful heritage of Antioch

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Street
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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

- Qourboneh:** Masses: Sunday 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 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 \$30; Altar Bread \$25; Sacramental Wine \$45
Catechism: Lenore Boles, *Director* **Choir Director:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG **Parish Council President:** Ex-officio
Council Members: Lenore Boles, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*

THIS DAY'S EPISTLE I Corinthians 1: 18-25

The message about the Cross appears senseless to those who are perishing, but to those who live it is power of God.
For it is written, "I shall destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I shall deprive the intelligent of their ideas".²

Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar?
Where is the worldly? Has not God reduced this world's wisdom to something senseless?
For the world, in its wisdom, did not know God, and God, in His own wisdom, wished to bring believers to life by means of a foolish proclamation.
For the Jews look for signs, and the pagans desire wisdom.

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

² Isaiah 29: 14

But we proclaim the Messiah as crucified, a thing that causes the Jews to trip up and is nonsense to the pagans; but to those who are called – whether they are Jew or pagan – the Messiah is the wisdom and power of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than men’s strength.



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)³

ABOUNA’S REFLECTIONS

A few weeks ago, Bishop Gregory sent out to us a letter written by Archbishop Carlson, the emeritus bishop of Saint Louis. There are copies for the taking at the entrances of the church.

Bishop Gregory asked us to consider the bishop’s reflections concerning the present controversies (sometimes hysteria) surrounding gender and questions of sexuality in the modern world. The letter is a balanced, charitable, and timely. It calls us to consider how we might deepen our own understanding of certain basic human truths, and how we might converse with those who wander in this world in “the darkness of ignorance”.⁴ Clearly, *discourse and clarification of thought are acts of charity and mercy.*

The sacred book of *Genesis* is not a scientific work, at least not in the materialistic modern sense of the word. Its first chapters lay out beautifully and in

poetic form the order, harmony, and integrity of the cosmos. Within that order is found *Adom*, mankind, the human race.

As an aside, we can note that in Catholic thought there is only *one race of men*, and while cultures and habits may vary dramatically, every human being is related to every other human being. We are all descendants from one first man and one first woman. This truth even geneticists can demonstrate today.

Adom is the crowning work of the “days” of creation, a *capitulation* of the whole order of nature, and the *center* of material existence’s harmony. *Adom*’s centrality in the cosmos meant that his primordial selfish and oppositional choice (bringing about his personal “fall”) also shook and wounded all the universe.⁵

*God created adom in His image;
in the image of God He created them;
male and female He created them.*⁶

We note that “‘ādām” in the Hebrew text specifies first and foremost the “human being” in a general sense, but we see clearly that the fundamental traits of “male” and “female” are integral to that nature of humanity. It is only from chapter 4 onward in *Genesis* that “adom” acts as a proper name of the first man.

In other words, sexual traits – biological, genetic, psychological, emotional, and gender qualities – are *intrinsic* to the fabric and make-up of each human being. This is an essential notion that we must keep in mind. It is a truth of revelation and of natural philosophy that human nature is fundamentally *one*, and *complementary* in its attributes of masculinity and femininity.

How masculinity and femininity are defined and qualified in any given group of men may be *culturally modified*, they can even be perverted in that modification, but these fundamental attributes are not things that can be manipulated at will or re-defined personally. The human person is **not** *tabula rasa* with which one may do as they please.

³ Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”

⁴ p. 908 Anaphora of Saint John Maron

⁵ As we considered last week, nature itself now longs for its full restoration from this subjection into order, harmony, and

beauty, in an event that will coincide with the glorification of *adom* at the time of the Parousia.

⁶ Genesis 1: 27

This central truth must be maintained in the present conversations that surround us culturally today. These are truths that must be taken into consideration as one looks at the present world, especially as they affect political thought and the upcoming elections. We pray and learn well our faith as we responsibly research all the candidates' positions.

As Catholics, we must not only "believe" revelation and "adhere" to the integrity of philosophical truth, we must strive to be able to communicate, explain, and defend these truths to others. This discourse requires clarity of mind, conviction of will, and the tranquility of spirit that *pursues the good*. We must present what is true *because* it is true, and not fail in this endeavor through human respect and/or self-interest.

May the Unclouded Bright One grant us intellectual strength, moral courage, and clarity of goal to run this course for His glory, the harmonious peace of creation, and for the healing of a wounded humanity much in need of the saving balm of mercy.

The Life-giving Cross

Please, take notice of our present protocols:

- 1.) All Catholics, of whatever Ritual Church, are more than welcome at Saint Joseph. We are all one Body of Christ.
- 2.) During this pandemic, there is no obligation to assist at the Divine Sacrifice.
- 3.) Those who are sick, or carry symptoms of sickness, must remain at home.
- 4.) All are recommended to give contact information (a list is provided at the door) in order to inform you if need arise from a case of the virus. All information remains *confidential* to the *parish* and is not transferred to any state agency.
- 5.) All vulnerable, elderly, and at-risk individuals should remain at home and follow the Liturgies as posted on the parish's website.
- 6.) The **Sunday Vigil** Masses are suspended until further notice.

7.) All who are retired, or who may have a freer weekday schedule, are asked to consider assisting at Mass during the weekdays, **Tues-Fri, 9:00am**; and on **Saturday at 10:00am**. This would free up more room on Sunday for those who must work during the normal workweek.

8.) Please **do not use your hands** to cover sneezes and coughs. Everyone must wear a **face-mask** to safely control and cover all coughs, sneezes, congestion, etc.

9.) Hand sanitizers are available at the entrances and at the confessional.

10.) Seating at church must be "*first-come-first-served*". Seating will be closed at "50".

11.) Everyone must sit in such a way that there is **no one immediately in front** of them and **no one immediately behind** them. The pews have been blocked off for this purpose.

12.) Everyone will need to **charitably assist** one another to sit throughout the entire church, occupying **all** pews while respecting "physical distancing".

13.) To control crowd flow, **doors** will be **locked** at the beginning of each Liturgy.

14.) A **six-foot distancing** must be observed by those who approach the Divine Altar and wish to receive the Divine Eucharist in **Holy Communion**.

15.) And, lastly, at the end of Mass, those who wish to **remain and pray** in the church are welcome to do so, but all others are asked **not to linger and visit within the church**. Please exit through the Appleton Street doorway. If one wishes to visit, please do so outside the church, being **mindful of the proper physical distancing**.

VOCATION ICON

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

Sat	Sep	19	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Sep	27	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Oct	4	Michael & Gayle Misner
Sun	Oct	11	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	Oct	18	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Oct	25	Sue Paré & Lolo Salazar
Sun	Nov	1	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Nov	8	Larry & Lisa Grard

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection: \$1,441.00

(Deficit 2020: \$44,876.00)

Collection for the Holy Land: \$224.00

The next special collection – rescheduled – will be **Peter's Pence: September 27th**

We all get old and worn out.

In the last month we have had to have repaired the **refrigerator in the parish hall's kitchen**. It has served well over these decades, but has tired. The **refrigeration unit** had to be replaced and the lines worked on. Our cost: **\$1,126.00**

Anyone who is able and may wish to participate in covering this cost – and getting us ready for when muffins and coffee are restored – is heartily encouraged to do so.

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

Please remember to sustain the apostolic work of this parish through regular contributions made in the liturgical collection each week, by mail, through the parish website, or through regular bank drafts mailed in.

- Sun 27 For the Members of the Parish
- Mon 28 -----
- Tue 29 †Bernard Thomas
(Patricia Thomas, Michelle & Nicole)
- Wed 30 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 1 †Maroon Thomas Family
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- Fri 2 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
- Sat 3 †Maroon Thomas Family
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- Sun 4 9:00 †Mary Smus
(the Smus Family)
11:00 For the Members of the Parish
- Mon 5 -----
- Tue 6 †Theresa Casavant
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- Wed 7 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 8 Christine Arbour
(Suzanne Paré)
- Fri 9 Private Intention
(Abouna James)

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sun 20 For the Members of the Parish
- Mon 21 -----
- Tue 22 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 23 †Theresa Casavant
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 24 †John & Marietta Thomas
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- Fri 25 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 26 †Adolph Veilleux Family
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

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: Richard Karter, Lolo Salazar, Rosanna Joseph, Doreen Nader, and all those who suffer from disease, want, and depression.

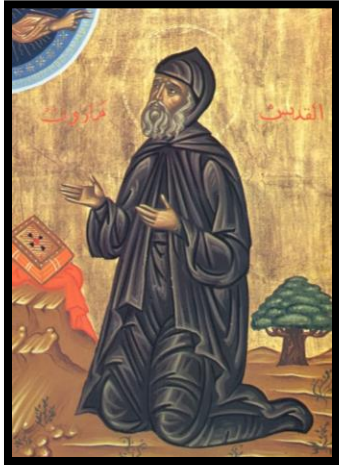
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In two weeks, there will be the first-ever **Eparchy-Wide Virtual Benefit Event** on Thursday, **October 1, 2020** at 7:00PM.

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Please join us for a Virtual Event on Thursday, October 1, 2020, at 7:00PM Eastern Time. Your participation this year is very important. All friends and supporters of the Maronite Church are invited. You may register online at our website (www.stmaron.org), or obtain a printed invitation for the event by sending an email to saintmaron@yahoo.com, or by calling 718-237-9913.



Cards are also available at both entrances of the church.

Please consider attending and supporting this important event for the Eparchy.

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *safreh* 230

Glory: SB *glory*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *shareero* 234

Procession: *Glorious in Majesty*

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

Saint Mark, the Evangelist: LB p 835

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *O Bread of Life; Father of Truth; O Body of my Savior*

Recessional: SB *I am the Bread of Life*

Saint Francis Catholic Cemetery is performing its annual fall clean-up. All flowers and decorations must be removed from the burial plots. All plot holders are advised to remove, **before October 1st**, any items that they may wish to keep. Concrete urns may be left on the lots but should be emptied and turned over to avoid breakage.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY CROSS

Sept 20, 2020

I Cor 1: 18-25 St. John 12: 20-32

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS

Sept 27, 2020

I Cor 15: 19-34 St. Matthew 24: 1-14

Saint Phocas, Martyr

September 22nd

