

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost

September 6, 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

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

Qourboneh: Masses: Sunday 10:00 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 EPISTLE¹ I Thess 1: 1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians that is in God the Father and in our Lord Jesus the Messiah: Grace and peace be with you.

We give thanks to God at all times for all of you, and we remember you constantly in our

prayers, remembering before God the Father your works of faith, the labor of your love, and the patience of your hope in our Lord Jesus the Messiah.

For we know your calling, my brethren, beloved of God, because our proclamation to you was not in words only, but also in power, in the Holy Spirit, and with genuine persuasion.

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

You yourselves know how we behaved among you for your sake.

And you started imitating us and our Lord, because you received the word with great affliction and with the joy of the Holy Spirit. You became an example for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

For it is from you that the word of our Lord has come to be heard not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but rather, your faith in God has been heard everywhere, to the extent that we do not even need to say anything about you.

For they give report about our entrance among you, and how you turned to God from idolatry in order to worship the living and true God, awaiting His Son from Heaven – Jesus, Whom He raised from the dead and Who will deliver us from the coming wrath.



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

Being constantly exposed to the danger of shipwreck in the sea of this world, we ask the martyrs to accompany us with their prayers on the difficult way.

Then, like them, we shall reach the Port of Salvation and share in the eternal joy of the Kingdom of God, glorifying and praising Him forever.³

We are often buffeted and shaken during our journey in life. The unexpected, the undesired, and failures can upend our world so easily. Only the immutability of the Divine can stabilize our lives and heal our wounds, and the deeper that grace penetrates our being the more profound our existence becomes, then anchored in God the greater is our peace. In effect, salvation means that we are to become by grace what God is by nature.

In a decided pattern, Saint Luke lays out in the Sacred Texts the life of the faithful disciples of the Word Incarnate. When the faithful have their lives properly ordered and disciplined under grace their labor, infused with the Divine Spirit, will flow richly and harmoniously outward from their Spirit-filled communion with God. From devoted prayer, to the reception of the Spirit, the supernatural effort and action become the response to obedience and charity in the Messiah.

Infused contemplation is a pure gift of God; the deeper the discipline of prayer, the more that life will be firmly rooted within the divine sphere, and the more the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity will flourish. Progress in pursuing God *does not consist in enjoying Him more* – that would be self-centered – *but in doing His will more completely.* Pray well, and we flourish in the service of God. He guides all; we must learn to follow.

So it is that a prayerful parish will be a reservoir of the Spirit of God from which will pour out brilliant grace and life to others. Prayer must be primary, for from this a fruitful life will flow. And to accomplish great apostolic work, we must first desire and choose goals that are truly great. We must be **magnanimous**.

As a “parish” we are a community of “travelers” and we voyage together in the same vessel for a certain moment in time.

The recent intervention made to the CDC has upset many, disturbed our course, rocked the boat as it were, **but it has not dampened our enthusiasm to move forward as a parish.** Perhaps, in the end, we will be even stronger for it. We look to the Harbor of Salvation and trust in divine aid, in spite of anyone’s misguided actions.

² Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”

³ *Sedro*, from the Safro Office of Martyrs

We work whole heartedly for the common good of Maine, especially with health in mind and spirit in the forefront. Our intent is the full healing of all. Humbled, we are not laid low: the path of Christ will always be a journey of humility.

So for now we have had to institute a second “overflow” Mass on Sundays. This we must continue to do for the foreseeable future, allowing as many of our parishioners to attend the Divine Mysteries still on the morning of the Lord’s Day, the great Ogdoad. We count on fifty persons at each Mass. The numbering at times can be difficult because many of those attending are in fact related, co-habiting, family members. We do what we reasonably can do, and may God be served in all things through our small efforts.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we ride out this rocking of our parochial vessel. All things pass, God alone endures. This too shall pass, but for now we must stabilize the course.

May the Good One reward you all for adapting readily to this new situation in such an admirable manner. However, this set-up is clumsy as the Masses are rammed back-to-back. The intervening time between the two Qourboneh is too congested to properly disinfect the pews and missals, and it does not easily allow the parishioners who are departing and those who are arriving to do so smoothly. To foster a **better crowd flow**, please **enter** by the *Front Street* entrance, but **exit** by the *Appleton Street* door.

To allow for easier attendance, more efficient disinfecting, and better access to the Mystery of Penance we must tweak this present Sunday schedule.

Beginning next Sunday, **September 13th**, the **Sunday Masses** will be scheduled for **9:00** and **11:00**. Confessions will be heard before both Liturgies, as usual.

Please continue to keep the balanced attendance as we are now, and were last week – 50/50 – first come first served to be able to attend,⁴ safely

distanced. This will certainly last at least until the state elevates the acceptable capacity for indoor gatherings. The gatherings for muffins and coffee are also awaiting this same decision.

You are to be congratulated for these last months of smooth sailing, the recent upset was certainly a disappointment, but we are, I am sure, all undeterred to serve the Lord God in all His ways – in both the smooth and the rough paths. Choppy seas should not disrupt our life of prayer, and disappointments should not disrupt our course. We look to serve the Good One by accomplishing His will more completely. He will supply the rest.

Together, let us move forward toward the Hidden One of majesty, unseen, but always present. He calls us into the Harbor of Salvation and peace.

Circumstances will indicate our future course. For now, our eyes are turned to the Parousia, from which we can hope the enlightening of our minds, the consolation of our hearts, the strengthening of our spirits, the infusion of radiant grace into our very bodies, as we await, with open face, the manifestation of Lord Who is Spirit.

May the unseen Weaver of Crowns bless you all for your faith, charity, and sense of mutual aid and charitable collaboration as we support one another in this “difficult way”.

The Life-giving Cross

Please, take notice of our present practices:

- 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.

⁴ Our tiny parish has no office, not even a secretary, through which we could begin to “schedule” attendees.

- 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.
- 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*. If one wishes to visit, please do so outside the church, being *mindful of the proper physical distancing*.

Sun	Oct	11	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	Oct	18	Steve and Allison Crate

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection: \$1,212.00

(Deficit 2020: \$43,377.00)

Next week, September 13th, special collection
will be for the **Holy Land**

*(This collection is usually made on Good Friday,
delayed this year due to the pandemic.*

*Part of this collection is sent to the Holy Land
by the USCCB*

*and another part is sent directly
to the Maronite Eparchy of Haifa.)*

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.*

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun	6	†Ferris Ferris, Bennett & Lennon
Mon	7	-----
Tue	8	Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Wed	9	Anna Bearce (Pam & Dan Casavant) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Thu	10	†John & Marietta Thomas (Pam & Dan Casavant)
Fri	11	Private Intention (Abouna James) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sat	12	†Adolph Veilleux Family (Pam & Dan Casavant) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Sep	6	Sue Paré and Lolo Salazar
Sun	Sep	13	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Sep	19	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Sep	27	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Oct	4	Michael & Gayle Misner

- Sun 13 For the Members of the Parish
 Mon 14 -----
 Tue 15 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
 Wed 16 †Maroon Thomas Family
 (Pam & Dan Casavant)
 -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
 Thu 17 †John & Marietta Thomas
 (Pam & Dan Casavant)
 Fri 18 Private Intention
 (Abouna James)
 -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
 Sat 19 †Adolph Veilleux Family
 (Pam & Dan Casavant)
 -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
 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

*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.

❖ مَوْتًا كَسْفًا

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
 Sept 6, 2020

I Thess 1: 1-10 St. Luke 7: 36-50

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
 Sept 13, 2020

Rom 8: 18-27 St. Luke 18: 9-14

The fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost "B"
 p. 492

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *safreh* 200

Glory: SB *al majdu*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *shareero* 179

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

Saint John, the Apostle: LB p 815

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *O Bread of Life; Father of Truth; Hail, Holy Queen*

Recessional: SB *Immaculate Mary*



*Nativity of the
 Blessed Virgin
 Mary*

September 8th