

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Fifth Sunday after Holy Cross

October 13, 2019

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful heritage of Antioch

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Waterville, ME
04901
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Pastor: Rev. Fr. James Doran
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." *Oriente 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. Matthew 25: 1-13

Then the Kingdom of Heaven shall be like ten bridesmaids, who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom and the bride.

Five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

The foolish ones took their lamps, but did not take any oil along with them, but the wise ones took oil in vessels along with their lamps.

When the groom delayed, they all became tired and fell asleep.

In the middle of the night there was a shout, "Behold, the groom is arriving. Come out to meet him!"

Then all the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps.

The foolish ones said to the wise ones, "Give us some of your oil, since our lamps have gone out."

The wise virgins replied, "No, lest there not be enough for us and for you. Go to those who sell oil instead, and buy some for yourselves."

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

While they were gone to buy oil, the groom arrived. Those who were prepared went in with him into the place of the wedding feast, and the door was shut.

At last, the other virgins also returned, saying, "Our lord, our lord – open the door for us!"

But he answered them, "Amen I say to you, I do not know you."

So be watchful, because you do not know the day or the hour.



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

What does a juncture of time and eternity look like? We admire the extent and beauty of the universe and wonder at the expanse of time, and justly so. However, we almost never admire the moment where the Eternal Now³ interacts with the free beings He has created in His image. Unaware and inattentive we plow through life focused mostly on the immediate concerns with shortsighted view of things. Heads down, we look at "stuff" and not with the beauty of the possible.

Men are free at every moment, except for immaturity of age in children, or in by illness in adults, and every instant in which they exercise that free-will they act with purpose, and purpose is because of goals – and goals give moral goodness or deficiency of goodness to every human action, however large or small they may be. Free-will, confronted with the reality of the cosmos, is the source of moral goodness in the world; when it fails the human person is corrupted. This is why the free choice of an individual can have repercussions for all eternity – immutable

contentment or permanent frustration – heaven or hell results by the free choice of each person; and while no one would consciously choose unending misery, his moral choices in life can line him up for just that effect. In this world, no one would choose to be homeless and destitute, reduced to begging, but prior choices concerning the "bliss" or escape of drugs, or the thrill of gambling, may line him up for such a result. We are free to choose our course, but we are not free to choose the effects that result from those choices.

For all the above reasons, it is important to understand the larger context in which abortions take place. It is clear that Catholics must not only have clear vision about restoring the integrity and healthiness of families – the place where children are nurtured and educated – but also concerning the poverty that afflicts ten percent of this nation. This is unacceptable for the richest country in all history, and the community, state, and nation must work that the laws of a community benefit families and resolve poverty to the greatest extent possible; and not just patch the effects of poverty. *A community's legislation must foster family life.* This means that while children need to be aided, **unwed** mothers *should not be fostered by the regulations* of a state or city.

Family life with *wedded* parents should be fostered by affordable housing and by making the tax structure saner than it is at this point. People should be encouraged to marry and establish solid and healthy homes. Two people who are married should pay – together – less tax than as two separate individuals. *Certainly, a wedded couple should never have to pay more tax than if they had remained single.* Human beings do not breed, they rear children and educate the next generation. This social contribution must be recognized and fostered.

On a practical level, Catholics should take an interest in their local and state government where rules and standards are set for the communities, and where laws should be established that encourage both marriage and strong families. Catholics, with a sense of social responsibility, should be engaged in their local city councils, school boards, and even state legislature with a view of creating a healthier environment than the one we have today.

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

After decades of social experimentation, manipulation, and misplaced enthusiasm, our social structures have often become unhealthy, and this, in part, has brought about the personal despair that is at the heart of the modern American opioid crisis. Within a morally collapsed social order, it is easy to see babies as “unwanted” and as “a problem”. The modern abortion issue for the community as a whole (individuals, as ever, may be tempted to infanticide) will remain present so long as the social issues surrounding child rearing are out of whack. The decision to “terminate” a child’s life upends and destroys rational and proper choice, even as one “intends” to fix a social, familial, economic, or other circumstance. Considering the points at the beginning of these reflections, one can understand why abortion is not a purely individual concern, nor merely a “health issue”, but is a choice that ultimately has cosmic and eternal consequences.

Today, socially, we are morally backward in so many fields. We go into crisis to fix *symptoms* and leave the cause of the illness to rage unchecked. The huge outcry today for more and more “day care” and universal pre-K is a case in point. These are proposed as solutions, but they miss completely the central problems that are actually involved. For well now fifty years we have been trying to find corrections to effects; and we do not repair the deleterious and fundamental issues at the root of our unhealthy situation.

We should be aiming to reestablish strong family and not simply patching a broken social order where more and more children are left to strangers to rear and not their parents. When I worked in Geneva it was clear that for the Swiss, on a national level, that their intent was to have laws concerning family, wages, and even vacation time, that would require only one parent to be working so that the children would have a secure home with at least one parent present. They legislated in such a way as to have a family be able to live on a single income, for example. In America, we have so long obsessively focused on the individual that we have collapsed the family structure and *subordinated* it to the individual.

“Rights” these days are spoken of as if they meant one could do what one wishes with them, but rights are based on obligations. One has a “right” that must be recognized by others because the one possessing

that right has “obligations” to accomplish. To see “right” as some type of absolute, without responsibilities, is all backward. To the contrary, in a healthy social order, individuals should be nurtured with a mind to virtue and duties – within healthy families and social structures – and where rights of the individual parents are understood as based on the responsibilities that parents have toward their children and the future that those children represent.

Without healing our social networks, we have little hope of resolving the abortion issue any time soon.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS
October 13, 2019

Phil 2: 12-18 St. Matthew 25: 1-13

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS
October 20, 2019

Gal 6: 1-10 St. Matthew 25: 14-30

VOCATION ICON

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

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|-----|--------|---------------------------|
| Sun | Oct 13 | Lowell Hawes |
| Sun | Oct 20 | Larry & Lisa Gard |
| Sat | Oct 26 | Jim & Lenore Boles |
| Sun | Nov 3 | Chris & Diane Wyder |
| Sun | Nov 10 | Bruce & Doreen White |
| Sun | Nov 17 | Steve and Allison Crate |
| Sun | Nov 24 | Sue Paré and Lolo Salazar |

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION

Regular Collection: \$----.00

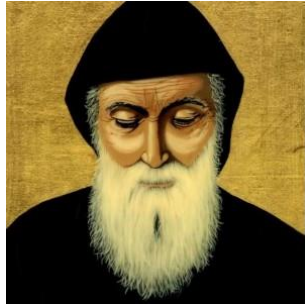
**Upcoming second collection, October 20th:
World Mission Sunday**

As established by the USCCB, 91% of this collection goes to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and 9% to the **Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)**

Thanks be to the Good One Who allows to continue this apostolate unto His glory and our salvation!

This year, October 13 is designated as Order of Saint Sharbel Sunday in our Eparchy, and all Maronite parishes will be promoting the Order.

The Order of Saint Sharbel is vitally important in providing financial and spiritual support for our seminarians, who are crucial for the future of our Maronite Church.



Please prayerfully consider joining the Order. You may enroll online at www.orderstsharbel.org, or ask for more information.

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, Tala Poulin, Louise Saliem, Virginia Poulin, and Beverly Rideout.

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 12 †Charles Owen
(the Parish)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 13 For the Deceased Members of the Rosary Sodality
-- For the members of the Parish
- Mon 14 -----
- Tue 15 †Karem & Amelia Azar
(Ghaphery Family)

- Wed 16 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 17 †Thomas & Adal George
(Ghaphery Family)
- Fri 18 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 19 †Charles Owen
(the Parish)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 20 †Mary Hawes, Fortieth Day
- Mon 21 -----
- Tue 22 †Peter & Emma Peters
(Ghaphery Family)
- Wed 23 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 24 †Carmen Welch
(Robert Welch)
- Fri 25 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 26 †Charles Owen
(the Parish)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 27 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 28 -----
- Tue 29 †Elias & Gabrielle George
(Ghaphery Family)
- Wed 30 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 31 †Janet George
(Nicholas Ghaphery)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 1 9:00 For the members of the Parish
6:00 †Paul Laverdiere
(Audrey Yotides)



Memory Eternal



In memory of Janet George, the Altar Breads for October have been contributed by Dame Fefa.

*May the All Holy One shine
His light and grace upon her,
and may He bring her into the fullness
of the Kingdom.*

Autumn Harvest Raffle

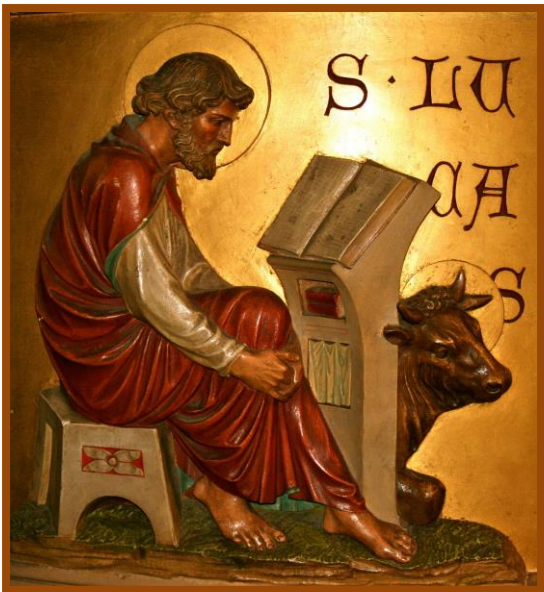
\$10,000 GRAND PRIZE!!!!

One in 400 chance
maximum – odds may even be better!!
to win \$10,000.00!!!!!!

**RAFFLE TICKETS
AND TICKETS TO THE HAFLI
ARE NOW 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.

Let's show true devotion to our Lebanese heritage and game heartily! Buy a raffle ticket.
What would djidoo say?



*Saint Luke, the Evangelist
October 18th*

Fifth Sunday after Holy Cross

p 606

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *fsheeto* 233

Glory: SB *al majdu*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *etow* 234

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *iqbal*

ANAPHORA:

Saint Mark, the Evangelist: LB p 835

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *O Body of my Savior; O Sanctissima*

Recessional: SB *Elykee salaam*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book