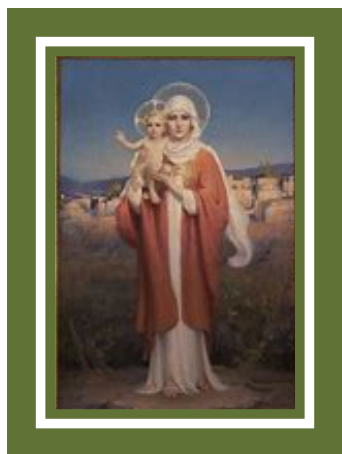
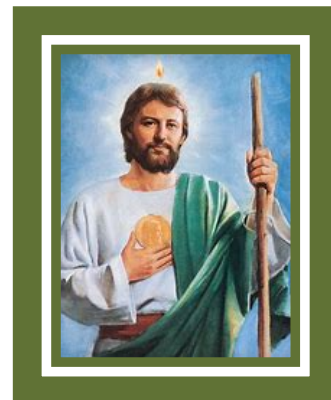


fifth Sunday of Pentecost

June 17, 2018



Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



3 Appleton Street
Waterville, ME 04901
Office Phone: 207-872-8515

Pastor: Rev. Fr. James Doran
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

- 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 **three months in advance**. Recommended stipends:
weekday intentions \$10; weekend intentions \$15
- Monthly Memorials:** Sanctuary Candles \$20; Altar Bread \$25; Wine \$45

Choir Director: Fefa Deeb **Parish Secretary:** Paula Mitchell **Catechists:** Lenore Boles, Director & K-1st; Jane Lee, 2nd; Shana Page, 3-5th **Parish Council:** Sheila Bonenfant, Lisa Gard, Lowell Hawes, Rosanna Joseph, David Lee, Ruth Lunn, Kevin Michaud, Paula Mitchell, Elizabeth Wilson **Ex-officio council members:** Subdeacon Steve Crate; Lenore Boles, Catechism; Shana Page, Rosary Sodality; Larry Mitchell, Knights of Columbus

THIS DAY'S EPISTLE Phil 3: 7-14

Whatever gain I had, I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own, based on law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may

share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own.

Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do do - forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead - I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

(v. 15 Let those of us who are mature be thus minded; and if in anything you are otherwise

mind, God will reveal this also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.)



ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

You are a Fire always burning, but never consuming.

You are a Fire consuming in Your heat
all the soul's selfish love.

You are a Fire lifting all chill and giving light.

In Your light, You have made me know Your truth.

You are that Light beyond all light,

Who gives the mind's eye
supernatural light in such fullness and perfection
that You bring clarity even to the light of faith.

In that faith I see that my soul has life,
and in that light receives You Who are Light.¹

Things remaining the same can have varying effects in their actions depending on the disposition of the receiver. For example, the same sun can both melt wax and harden mud. Light can allow us to see so that we do not stumble when walking, and it can also cause pain and blindness to those whose eyes are weakened by sickness. The same heat can both bring warming comfort as well as burn up dried grass and cause forest fires. Fire can purify metals from dross and can consume what is inflammably dried up.

The presence of one and the same thing thus can have various effects depending on the recipient. So it is with God; He loves and sanctifies from an infinite Heart – even dying for us and conquering death – and yet not all are ultimately saved by that unique Love. Have we made ourselves wax or mud? Does grace soften or harden our spirit?

¹ Saint Catherine of Siena, *The Dialogue*, tran. By Suzanne Noffke, as quoted in *An Easter Sourcebook* p. 147

This prayer of Saint Catherine of Siena is a stunning reflection of the image often used by the Syriac Fathers: God is Light and Fire. It is an image that is easy to understand, or at least to grasp if not to comprehend.

Saint Ephraim referred to the sun as an image of the Most Holy Trinity. Although the natural sun is not a revelation of the Triune Mystery of God, as the shamrock is not either, it does hold a fitting symbolism for those who already know Him to be Threefold Personality as revealed by our Savior. That said, the image still remains an apt one to convey a fuller understanding of the works of God.

Saint Ephraim spoke of God as the Divine Sun, that is even as the natural sun exhibits fire, heat and light, so the Harp of the Spirit wrote of the Divine Trinity as Fire, Heat and Light. The Logos illumines and for this reason is represented by the light of the sun, while the Spirit that enkindles the divine fire of charity within us is aptly referred to the heat of the natural sun. As light and heat originate in the solar fire, so the Divine Word and the Holy Spirit originate each from the Divine Fire that we call the Hidden Father. So the one sun, one light, one heat, speak of the One Father, one Son, and one Divine Spirit in Gift.

As we can find ourselves out in the natural cold – especially in Maine for much of the year – we can also find ourselves physically in shade, even in darkness. In our lives these physical conditions can suggest the spiritual realities of lack of charity, the obscurity of sin, and the darkness of selfish egocentrism. Sin can easily swamp us. Our “default settings” by birth into this fallen world are just that: cold, dark and separated from God.

As noted in the prayer of Saint Catherine above, the divine heat of grace is to consume our selfish love and turn us outwardly from our ego. The divine fire is to enlighten us and enlighten us so that transformed by faith into the perfection of that supernatural light we can enter a more profound and ever greater understanding of the one true Faith. Enkindled and enlightened in this way we are then disposed to “receive You Who are Light”.

As has often been repeated, God did not become Man and die on Calvary so that we be made simply "good people". As Saint Catherine portrays so well in her prayer, Our God and Savior came into this world to transfigure us and make us transcend the merely human, and wounded life we received once at birth. This is the meaning of "returning to Paradise" often repeated throughout the Great Fast. Good education can make for "nice" people, but only grace, the true Faith and the Divine Mysteries can make us the children of God. Only as divinized offspring can we enter the fullness of the Kingdom of Light (Heaven).

May we each form the desire to enter into the spirituality laid out by our Fathers (and Mothers) in the Faith: to enter the magnificent Light that the divine Heat may enkindle us, burn away our selfishness, so that we may be transfigured progressively over the days of our lives and finally and definitely enter into the Divine Fire in that blazing Brightness which is the Fullness of the Kingdom of God.

This is the only path and place where the human heart can find true rest.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Regular Collection: \$1888.00

Next Second Collection, **June 24th**
Peter's Pence

The entire collection is sent to the Holy Father for him to assist with emergency financial assistance to aid the most needy throughout the world.

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

VOCATION ICON

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

Sat	June 16	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	June 24	Larry and Paula Mitchell
Sun	July 1	Lowell & Mary Hawes
Sun	July 8	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sun	July 15	Chris & Diane Wyder

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

June 17, 2018

Phil 3: 7-14 St. Matthew 10: 1-7

SIXTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

June 24, 2018

I Cor 12: 12-13, 27-30 St. Matthew 10: 16-25

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: Jerry Fortin, Doreen Nader, Tala Poulin, Virginia Poulin, Beverly Rideout, Paul Laverdiere, Marie Lessard and Mary Nader.

55th Annual Maronite Convention

Houston, Texas July 11-15, 2018

Hosted by Our Lady of the Cedars Parish
Register Today: NAMconvention2018.com
NAMnews.org / 1-914-964-3070



INTENTIONS FOR THE QURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 16 **Fr. Jordan Fahnestock**
(*Fahnestock Family*)
- Sun 17 **For the members of the Parish**
- Mon 18 -----
- Tue 19 †**Marietta Thomas**
(*Pam & Dan Casavant*)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 20 †**John Thomas**
(*Pam & Dan Casavant*)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 21 †**Freda Nassar & Lucille Maroon**
(*Judie Lynn and the Nassar Family*)
- Fri 22 †**Marietta Thomas**
(*Pam & Dan Casavant*)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 23 **Mr. William Frank**
(*Mrs. Doria Frank*)
- Sun 24 **For the members of the Parish**
- Mon 25 -----
- Tue 26 †**Kathleen Hawes**
(*Judie Lynn and the Nassar Family*)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

JUNE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FOOD BANK

Family sized items: stews, ravioli, jiffy mixes, condiments, toilet paper and personal care items. Please place these items in the box near the church's Appleton Street entrance.

CENTURY 21 - SURETTE REAL ESTATE
Pam Casavant -- Partner/ Associate Broker
Tel: 207-873-5634 Ext 219
e-mail: pcasavant@surette-realestate.com

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34 Temple Street * Waterville, ME 04901
207-873-7813

GALLANT FUNERAL HOME INC.
10 Elm Street * Tel 873-3393 * Website: gallantfh.com

GHM Insurance Agency
Auto * Home* Business * Life * Benefits
51 Main Street - Downtown Waterville
Tel: 207-873-5101 www.ghmagency.com

GRONDIN'S CERTIFIED DRY CLEANERS
259 Main Street - Waterville, ME 04901 tel. 207-872-8132

Waterville Florist
287 Upper Main Street Tel: 207-872-7422

**fifth Sunday of
Pentecost "B"**
p 492

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *bo'outho* 200A

Glory: SB *glory*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *shareero* #222

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn: SB p 3 #8 *ikbal*

ANAPHORA:

Twelve Apostles: LB p 754

Sign of Peace: SB *too ba*

Communion: SB *O Bread of Life*

Recessional: SB *The Lamb*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book