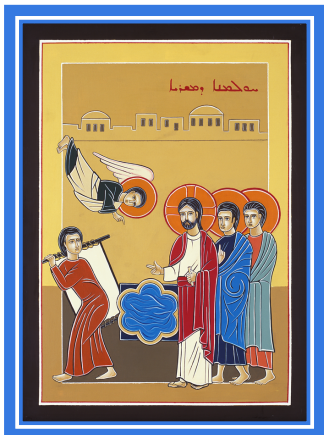


Healing of the Paralytic / fifth Sunday of Lent

March 11, 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." Orientale 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 Grard, 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 GOSPEL St. Mark 2: 1-12

And when He returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home.
And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door.
And He was preaching the word to them.
And some came, bringing to Him a paralytic carried by four men.
And when they could not get near Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him. And when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay.

And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."
Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak like this? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His Spirit that they had questioned like this within themselves said to them, "Why do you question like this in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic – "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home."

And he arose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all.
They were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"



ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

O Yeshua Msheeho, our Lord,
You are the Promise of true Life,
the heavenly Physician,
and Harbor of Rest and Salvation.
Accept our incense,
and fill us with Your divine knowledge.¹

Along the Lenten pathway we are meant to learn the value of our existence and the love of God that initiated our creation.² We are to penetrate and understand the Divine Heart that has worked our healing and redemption.

It is only in knowing both our true worth by grace and the infinite Charity of the great God of Compassion that we are able to judge correctly our wounds, faults and sins. Only when we come to experience the beauty of God and our status as His children are we able to notice, truly perceive, see and seek remedy for the distance we fall short of this glorious state. As only the artist who perceives true beauty can understand the distortion of ugliness, so too only the virtuous can know the depravity of sin and vice.

Clarity of mind is essential in this pursuit of knowledge.

¹ *'Etro*, Sunday of the Paralytic

² *Sedro*, First Weekday Cycle of Great Lent

Many of us, and perhaps most, in the modern world live submerged in the vapors of sensuality. This does not mean that everything is sin, but is meant to point out the fact that we spend far too much of our time and means throughout life to satisfy *primarily* our sensual satisfaction and stimulation. Sense pleasure and sensuality dominate our culture. This is certainly a fundamental ingredient in our cultural disintegration that has resulted in the opioid addiction that now threatens to drown us nationally. It also is no surprise that pornography makes up the largest "business" on the internet.

We say "submerged in vapors" because the sense life that is supposed to be subordinate to free human will and human intelligence, persuades and dominates our whole lives in an inordinate manner. This tyranny easily can take the form of food, sex and "stuff". Plunged into the life of the senses, it is almost impossible for us to see and judge clearly. As the Fathers of the Church taught, and spiritual writers over the centuries have commented on, sensuality causes profound mental blindness. It dulls the intellect, disorients the will and smothers our reason. The ardor of sense experience and pleasure clouds our vision, even at the merely natural level. It completely blinds us to the things of God. The outward cravings and compulsion of the addict are an excellent expression of what we all suffer to some degree in sin.

This is not the way things were meant to be.

The remedy for this mental confusion is to re-orient our minds and seek clarity of vision. This means that we must place the senses and the sense experience back in their place: *subordinate* - "ordered under" - to the intellect and free-will that properly define us as human beings.

The word "fast" does not mean "deprivation", but "strength", and as we considered prayer briefly last week - the elevation of mind and will up to the eternal Throne of Divine Fire - so now we can consider the only path by which prayer is perfected: **fasting**, the second classical "work" or Christianity.

Fasting in its most basic form means to govern *all* our senses. It encompasses the custody of the *eyes*, the moderation of *touch*, the restraint of *sensual comfort*, nobility of *speech* and word, temperance in *smell* and the pursuit of thoughtful *silence*. It governs the moderation and proper use of *food*, and here is where most people identify “fasting”, but this is only part.

Clearly, if we can come to moderate and rationally control our palate, we shall be able to govern the other senses. The reason for this is that our need for food is fundamental and essential to human existence. Hunger, sensuality and the sexual appetite are all inter-related. With one of these out of control, the others will necessarily also be out of whack. So it is that if we are unable to moderate our intake of food, then it will be nigh impossible to moderate our other senses. The image of the slovenly obese man, munching on chips and glued to the TV for hours on end, or in front of his computer screen – often/usually watching porn – is not a cartoonish fantasy; it describes an unacceptably large portion of an undisciplined and sensual American population.

Fasting is any form of discipline that we establish to create a more *properly human life*, one where we control our senses and not the other way around. As with any discipline, it requires proper training. One cannot take a person, disabled for years in a wheelchair, and him them straight into the Boston Marathon. Cruel. The sad part is that we often do not train our children any longer in the ways of discipline, patience and delayed gratification. As a result, we all too often cripple our children’s potential and submit them to the tyranny of the senses. Those weakened children become adults in turn and have even less to teach their own children. It makes for a tragic picture.

Because it is the only way that we can free the mind and heart from the inordinate howling demands of the senses, fasting is required for us to be able to pray correctly. This is why, from the beginning of the Church, especially in our Syriac heritage (and in all the East in fact) our tradition has been to fast from food both in quantity and in quality *every Wednesday and Friday* throughout the year, except

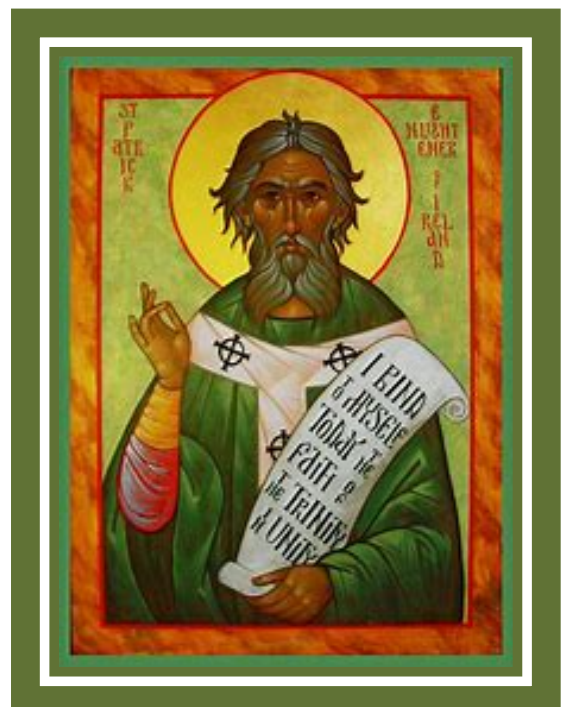
for Bright Week and Christmas Week. Lent is merely the period of time when we extend this seriousness of life to the whole week.

No one will say that fasting is easy, but when it is properly practiced it becomes a habit and second nature. Even as the smoker who has developed himself by habit and practice of smoking “can’t quit” cigarettes, and as the obese person who has cultivated himself by the habit and escapism of perpetually eating food “can’t resist” chips, fast-food and “munchies”, so it is that the chaste soul practicing fasting, moderation and purity, also does so by habit and practice. As the fat woman feels compelled to eat and eat, so the ascetic person is inclined to turn her mind upward to the Throne of Divine Fire, and outwardly to honorable and noble things.

Which do we wish to be?

While we are still free, let us make choices so as to heal and progress, and not just drift along, languish and complain. May the Divine Physician fill us with celestial knowledge and with the will to re-establish, strengthen and improve our lives by His grace.

This is the only path to the Harbor of Salvation.



Maronite Formation Classes

The **Maronite Formation Classes** for adults, delayed by last week's snowstorm, will begin on Wednesday, **March 14th**, at **6:30 p.m.** in the parish hall. This should be an enjoyable moment as we explore and develop the understanding of our faith and Antiochene heritage.

We ask that no children be brought, as this is
"adults free night out"

We will be using as a text Captivated by Your Teachings by Fr. Anthony Salim, pastor of our Maronite parish in Olean, New York. We have one copy left for sale at \$25. Although it is out of print, you may also find your own copies on-line.

FISH CHOWDER AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Knights of Columbus will once again be serving up the **Lenten Fish Chowders** from **4:30-6:00** every Friday during Lent before the **Stations of the Cross** at 6:00.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Regular Collection: \$2169.00

Eparchial Lenten Appeal to date: \$693.00

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

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	March 18	Lowell & Mary Hawes
Sun	March 25	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sun	April 1	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	April 8	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sat	April 14	Larry & Paula Mitchell

THE TWELVE WHO ARE SUICIDAL

Only twelve people came for the Way of the Cross on Friday instead of the usual 600. These twelve brave faithful defied rockets, and possible danger of death, in order to be able to follow the Fourteen Stations to Calvary, stopping especially at the 5th and 8th Stations.

- 1.) At the **5th Station**, this little group of faithful questioned why Simon of Cyrene seemed to be absent so often in their lives, rather than being with them through those who could offer a helping hand on the kind word to soothe their pain and wounded lives... Instead they see the military forces all around, from differing groups, confronting each other and trying to prove their might - keeping violence and hatred at its highest level. They do this in the pretense of saving the Country.
- 2.) At the **8th Station**, Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem, only here it is the Syrian families who are with Him, mourning loved one, homeless, the wounded, refugees and the numberless young people who are now orphaned or forgotten. The Lord Who is present to them here with His consolation wipes away their tears and strengthens their faith in the face of their sufferings; He allows them to see through these sufferings into the face of the Wounded Christ, and through this, the Glorious Light of the Resurrection to come.

Our gratitude for these twelve apostles who through the way of suffering and darkness show that all can be transformed into a Way of Hope.

Lent 2018

+ Samir NASSAR

Maronite Archbishop of Damascus

March Memorial Offerings

Sanctuary Candles / Altar Breads / Altar Wine

All in memory of Roland Roy, Sr.
by Ruth Lunn

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC

March 11, 2018

I Tim 5: 24 - 6: 5 St. Mark 2: 1-12

THE HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN

March 18, 2018

II Cor 10: 1-7 St. Mark 10: 46-52

INTENTIONS FOR THE QURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 10** †Annie Shaheen
(Laya Joseph)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 11** For the members of the Parish
- Mon 12** -----
- Tue 13** Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 14** †For the Souls in Purgatory
(Deacon Andre)
- Thu 15** †Fred & Marie Zito
(Schnepp Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 16** †Dean Nason
(Dan & Pam Casavant)
- Sat 17** †Susan Mitchell
(Herbert Joseph, Sr & Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 18** For the members of the Parish

Lenten Prayer for Tears

Almighty and merciful God,
Who for Thy thirsting people didst bring forth
from the rock a fountain of living water:
draw, we beseech Thee,
from the hardness of our hearts
the waters of compunction,
that we may weep for our sins,
and by Thy bounty may merit
to obtain their forgiveness. Amen

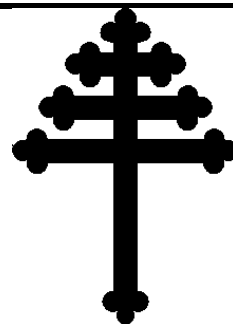
MARCH CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FOOD BANK

Stews, ravioli, jiffy mixes and personal care items.
Please place these items in the box near the church
entrance.

*God bless you for your generosity
to His "little ones"*

COFFEE SCHEDULE 2018

Mar 11	Sharon Crowe & Cindy Elias
Mar 18	Lisa Grard & Mary Hawes
Mar 25	Elaine Hoag & MaryJo Hodgkin
April 1	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
April 8	Laya Joseph & Rosanna Joseph
April 15	Alice Lachance & Jane Lee
April 22	Lauraine Mansur & Marie McMahon



*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, Gordon Webber, Paul Laverdiere, Charlene & Dominic Fabrizio and Mary Nader.

Choir Rehearsals:
Thursday Evenings at 6:00 p.m.
March 15th and 22nd.

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

LEBANESE CUISINE
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

SII Investments, Inc.
29 Mt. Merici Ave. – Tel: 207-872-8689

Waterville Florist
287 Upper Main Street
Tel: 207-872-7422 also 888-616-4880

Healing of the Paralytic p 237

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

Entrance Hymn: LB shareero #120

Glory: SB irhamni

Qolo/Hymn: LB bo'outho #121a

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB The Lord Reigns

Incense Hymn: SB p 3 #8 Ikbal

ANAPHORA:

St. Peter, Chief of the Apostles: LB p 774

Sign of Peace: SB Prayer of St. Francis

Communion: SB Holy Mary / Lamb of God

Recessional: SB The Lord is with Us

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book

