

# Entrance into the Great fast /The Miracle of Cana



February 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>  
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*"The Eastern Rites are the Treasure of the Catholic Church"* Saint John XXIII, Pope

**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-1<sup>st</sup>; Jane Lee, 2<sup>nd</sup>; Shana Page, 3-5<sup>th</sup> **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

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### THIS DAY'S GOSPEL St. John 2; 1-11

On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the Mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with His disciples. When the wine failed, the Mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what has this to do with you and Me? My hour has not yet come."  
His Mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you."  
Now six stone jars were standing there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward of the feast."

So they took it.

When the chief steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine, but you have kept the good wine until now."

This was the first of His signs that Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory.

And His disciples believed in Him.



### ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

"I do not promise you happiness in this world,  
but in the next."

This quotation is shocking at first glance, but when we know that it is a statement made by the holy Mother of God to Saint Bernadette at Lourdes<sup>1</sup> it becomes more palatable even if it still remains extraordinarily abrupt to our modern ears. Here we have the ever-Virgin Mary not conforming to our all too often sentimental vision of religion. Of course, to add to our shock, all we have to do is remember that during the famous apparitions in 1858 the young girl was also directed to dig in the mud with her bare hands, eat grass and wash her face with the muddy water. This same water went on to heal many who later bathed in them, but at the time of the apparitions it was only humiliating, so much so that at the end of that specific apparition Saint Bernadette's aunt slapped her in public for having done such a disgraceful embarrassing thing. How much this would have added to young Bernadette's public humiliation!

This is all mystifying – and confusing to some – unless we come to understand a central teaching of the Gospel: he who seeks his life will lose it,<sup>2</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> These apparitions are commemorated on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> As if his purpose in existence was for this terrestrial world. Baubles bedazzle and seduce those of worldly spirit that clouds the mind and fosters spiritual blindness and confuses judgment.

he who loses his life for the sake of Christ will find it.<sup>3</sup>

So it is that we arrive at the beginning of another Great Fast, Lent. While the word "lent" only means "Spring" in old English, it is "fast" that names the determination of this annual season. "Fast", also from an older form of English, means "strength" as we see in the word that still exists today in English: "steadfast". What is meant by "fast" is not *starve yourself*, but rather *strengthen yourself*. The fasting norms for Maronite Catholics can be found in the *Maronite Voice* that is available at the doorways of the church.

When we fast we choose primarily to set our minds in focus on the important things in life, extricate ourselves from the shackles of our sins and selfishness, and to elevate our lives by cooperating with divine grace: not to be caught unawares by the moment of death when it shall all be too late.

We die the way we live.

Among other things, the Great Fast is our annual tithe<sup>4</sup> of time for each year. We reserve seven weeks of the fifty-two to set our minds on the seriousness of what it is to be the children of God and disciples of the Light. It is completely in line with our vocation as Maronites following the ascetic path in the spirit of the *ihidoyoutho*.<sup>5</sup>

During this Lent we will also initiate the adult instruction evening on Wednesdays. These will begin in March and will be referred to as **MCF**: "Maronite Catholic Formation". They will follow a more or less normal academic schedule, October through May, once begun. It will be for adults

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<sup>3</sup> In wisdom, we understand that is for the glory of God that we have been created and for a transcendent and everlasting life in the Kingdom of Christ.

<sup>4</sup> A tithe strictly means "ten percent" and clearly the weeks of Lent are not a strict tithe of the year, but they are such when one considers the determination and gift that we are to make of them to God. It is an unusual gift nonetheless; by giving our minds and wills to the Most High it is we who are healed and elevated by grace. Our gift and seriousness becomes our health by the gracious love of God.

<sup>5</sup> The oneness, singularity and focus of sight.

only, no children,<sup>6</sup> and will allow us to range over the beauty of the Catholic Christian Faith as lived in the Syriac Maronite tradition. As a text, we will use Captivated by Your Teachings by Fr. Anthony Salim, and while we do have a few copies on hand, you can also find a copy for yourself beforehand on the web or through a bookseller.

In the end, Lent is an annual reminder that we were not created for this world, beautiful as some of it parts may be. Being created in the divine Image and restored by the free choice of divine Charity, our destiny is meant to transcend the world here below. As we are meant to be the transformed children of God in Light eternal, let us then become serious about our human lives here below and make them collaboratively transformed by grace and by the love of our Lord God and Savior, and conformed to the Gospel of Christ.

In serious attitude, let us set ourselves to make this an excellent Lent of resolution, determination and fidelity. Only then will we be able to fully trust that the ever-Virgin Mother of God will make us, too, happy in the world to come.

Saint Bernadette, pray for us!

#### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**Regular Collection:** \$1698.00

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

#### CANA SUNDAY

Remember that we will host our annual *mjadra* luncheon **today**, the Sunday of the Entrance into the Great Fast on **February 11<sup>th</sup>**.

This year the funds raised from this meal will be *for our Maronite Seminary* in Washington DC.

<sup>6</sup> Coffee and cookies will be provided, but no babysitters. This is to be an adult freedom night out.

### **SCHEDULE OF READINGS**

#### ENTRANCE INTO THE GREAT FAST THE MIRACLE OF CANA IN GALILEE

February 11, 2018

**Ro 14; 14-23**

**St. John 2; 1-11**

#### THE HEALING OF THE LEPER

February 18, 2018

**Ro 6; 12-23**

**St. Mark 1; 35-45**

#### 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.

#### INTENTIONS FOR THE QURBONEH (MASSES)

**Sat 10 † For the Souls in Purgatory**  
(Deacon André)

**Sun 11 For the members of the Parish**

**Mon 12 12:00 † Wayne Hodgdon**  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

**6:00 The Schnepf Family**

**Tue 13 -----**

**Wed 14 † Darrell Mitchell**  
(Michael Karter)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

**Thu 15 † Doris Bearce**  
(Dan & Pam Casavant)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

**Fri 16 Catholic Extension Society & Donors**

**Sat 17 Bob Welch**

**Sun 18 For the members of the Parish**

**Mon 19 -----**

**Tue 20 Catholic Extension Society & Donors**

**Wed 21 Olivia Reitzel**  
(Joe Reitzel)

We mourn the death of **Susan Mitchell**, who departed this life on Thursday, February 8th. Her funeral will be at **10:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 14th**, which will take the place of the usual Mass of Wednesday morning.

## VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	February 11	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sat	February 17	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sat	February 24	Audrey Yotides
Sun	March 3	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	March 10	Greg & Marianne Gillespie
Sun	March 17	Larry & Paula Mitchell
Sun	March 24	Lowell & Mary Hawes
Sun	April 1	Larry & Lisa Grard

## COFFEE SCHEDULE 2017-2018

Feb 11	Mary Nader & Shana Page
Feb 18	Dale Sturtevant & Jody Veilleux
Feb 25	Elizabeth Wilson & Mary Bard
Mar 4	Lenore Boles & Jan Bourque
Mar 11	Sharon Crowe & Cindy Elias

*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, Paula Mitchell, Charlene and Dominic Fabrizio.

**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

## The Miracle of Cana in Galilee p 176

**Lighting of the Church:** SB\* p 21 #135/LB p 5  
Jesus, Christ, O Source of Light

**Entrance Hymn:** LB p *fyosto* #102

**Glory:** SB p *al majdu*

**Qolo/Hymn:** LB\* p *eedto* #103

Creed p 748

## PRE-ANAPHORA:

**Transfer of Gifts:** LB p 750 The Lord Reigns

**Incense Hymn:** SB p 3 #8 *Ikbal*

## ANAPHORA:

**St. John:** LB  
p 815

**Sign of Peace:** SB p  
St Francis

**Communion:**  
SB p I am  
the Vine

**Recessional:**  
SB p The  
Lamb



**\*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book**