

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Fourth Sunday after Holy Cross

October 7, 2018



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
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.” *Oriental 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: Dame Fefa Marie Deeb, DSG **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*

TODAY'S EPISTLE I Thes 5: 1-11

Concerning times and seasons, brethren, you have no need for anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the Day of the Lord shall come like a thief in the night. When people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden disaster will come upon them – like labor pains for a pregnant woman – and they will not escape.

But you, brethren, are not in darkness for that Day to overtake you like a thief. For you are all children of the Light, and children of the Day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. Therefore, let us not fall asleep as the rest of men do, but let us stay awake and sober. Those who sleep go to sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But since we are of the Day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and charity and the helmet that is hope for salvation.

For God did not destine us for wrath, but to gain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live together with Him.

Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you are doing.



ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

It becomes evident that *agapè* is not a human love. Only God can love with such fullness, (He alone) can give with such immensity.¹

It should be clear to us what grace is meant to do in human life. Christian love, charity, is not simply another form of human love; it does not rank merely first in a list of human affections. Charity is altogether different and it is not a human love either in origin or in mode. While the expressions of Christian love may resemble other types of human love, its modality is completely other.

Simply put, the gift of charity allows a person to participate in the eternal divine love and then love through that divine Charity. As the illumination of the faith permits us to “see with the Eyes of God”, so charity allows us to “love with the Heart of God”. Divine in its origin, supernatural in its manner, charity is our adoption as the children of God by the way it modifies our human existence. There is nothing more precious among men than charity. Its presence is the very definition of the “state of grace”.

The Christian virtue of charity – “queen of all the virtues” – without which it is impossible to attain salvation, is something that is given to us from the Hidden One. The initiative is His, and the fruit of the Spirit’s presence is charity.² Commenting on St. John’s first epistle, St. Bernard notes that charity is identified with the knowledge of God: man has nothing in himself of what God is in His essence, thus he is incapable of knowing God *in Himself*. That union with God that we call “heaven” or “the

kingdom” is a personal union of friendship, and without charity that union is impossible. God is Charity³ and only the Hidden Source can make Himself present in human life by grace. That presence brings the knowledge of God, because likeness brings knowledge and experience, and charity brings the divine likeness into human life. Charity is not a “feeling”, it is a mystical transformation into the Divine.

Charity is a gift and as such is freely given. It cannot be merited by anyone; and because it is freely given by God, we speak of charity as being *infused* into the human spirit.⁴ We do not “attain” it, it is given to us from above. Latin in origin, this word means that charity is *poured into* the human spirit.

Charity thus has an infinite Origin – God; it is freely given by the Father of Lights – God; and, as it operates as presence on a level that transcends normal human actions it is this virtue alone that animates the supernatural organism that we call “the state of grace”. Without grace and charity, we cannot be pleasing to our Lord because without it we are not as He wishes us to be. While the Hidden Creator does bring forth existence by His own Will, free and intelligent beings must correspond with grace for *friendship* to flourish between God and man. This is salvation.

Without grace we are not the beings we were intended to be from all eternity. Grace makes us children of the Light, disciples of our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ – *Yeshua Msheeho* – and allows us to become the men and women that we were meant to be in the creation of Paradise. Without charity and grace, we fall short of all these things, and remain among those who “sleep” in the darkness.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS

October 7, 2018

I Thes 5: 1-11 St. Matthew 24: 45-51

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS

October 14, 2018

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

¹ From Charity and Liberty by Rev. Fr. Ceslaus Spicq, OP

² Rom 15: 30

³ I John 4: 8

⁴ Rom 5: 5

VOCATION ICON

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

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|-----|--------|--------------------------|
| Sat | Oct 6 | Jim & Lenore Boles |
| Sun | Oct 14 | Bruce & Doreen White |
| Sun | Oct 21 | Larry and Paula Mitchell |
| Sun | Oct 28 | Lowell & Mary Hawes |
| Sun | Nov 4 | Larry & Lisa Grard |

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Regular Collection: \$1497.00

The upcoming second collection will be on **October 21st: 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.)

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



This season's first **Parish Council Meeting** will be on **Tuesday, October 9th, at 6:30** in the parish hall.

ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL

This year **October 14** is designated as "Order of Saint Sharbel Sunday" in our Eparchy. On October 14, all Maronite parishes will be promoting the Order.

The **Order of Saint Sharbel** is *vital* 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.

OCTOBER 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.



Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG sends a word to all the parishioners:

I am overwhelmed by the love you have shown me on the celebration of my induction into the Order of Saint Gregory the Great. The Pot Luck Luncheon was the most bountiful display of Saint Joseph's wonderful cooks and the beautiful cake was the *frosting* on the entire event.

Thank you to all!!

Your hard work, effort and contributions made this a great success. It is all truly appreciated. Let's continue all to work for Saint Joseph. I am here to help, God willing. God bless us all!

CATECHISM

The Religious Instruction Program this year will return to a weekly format, from the first Sunday in October through May.

Following the Sunday Mass there will be classes for the youngsters *one half hour each week following the Divine Qoorbonoh*, beginning **October 7th**.

The **Adult Religion Classes** will resume for the Fall Session on **Wednesday, October 10th**, and will continue through the week before Thanksgiving. They will resume again in January.

Coffee Schedule

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|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Oct 14 | Mary Bard, Jody Veilleux |
| Oct 21 | April Mitchell, Mary-Jo Hodgkin |
| Oct 28 | Elaine Hoag, Cindy Elias |
| Nov 4 | Jan Bourque, Shana Page |
| Nov 11 | ----- |
| Nov 18 | Dale Sturtevant, Elizabeth Wilson |
| Nov 25 | Lauraine Mansur, Ruth Lunn |
| Dec 2 | Mary Hawes, Mary Nader |
| Dec 9 | Pam Casavant, Lenore Boles |

*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, Louise Saliem, Virginia Poulin, Beverly Rideout, and Marie Lessard.

INTENTIONS FOR THE QURBONEH (MASSES)

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|-----|----|---|
| Sat | 6 | †Marion Maroon <i>(Peter Maroon, Sr.)</i> |
| Sun | 7 | For the members of the Parish |
| Mon | 8 | ----- |
| Tue | 9 | †Charlene Lamberis <i>(Barbara Atkins)</i> |
| Wed | 10 | †Susan Mitchell <i>(Barbara Atkins)</i> |
| Thu | 11 | †Paul Mitchell <i>(Barbara Atkins)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Fri | 12 | †George & Mintaha Mitchell <i>(Barbara Atkins)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Sat | 13 | †Charles Owen <i>(the parish)</i> |
| Sun | 14 | For the members of the Parish |
| Mon | 15 | ----- |
| Tue | 16 | †Kathleen Hawes <i>(Peter Maroon, Sr.)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Wed | 10 | †Susan Mitchell <i>(Barbara Atkins)</i> |
| Mon | 15 | ----- |
| Tue | 16 | †Kathleen Hawes <i>(Peter Maroon, Sr.)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |

FOURTH 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 *ikbal*

ANAPHORA:

St Mark: LB p 835

Sign of Peace: SB *O beautiful*

Communion: SB *O Body of my Savior; Seek ye first*

Recessional: SB *Joyful, Joyful*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book