

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Fourth Sunday after Holy Cross

October 6, 2019

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
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 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 24: 45-51

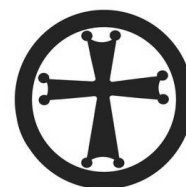
Who, then, is the faithful and wise servant, whom their master has appointed over the *children* of his household, to give them food at the proper time?

Blessed is that servant whom his master finds doing so when he comes; amen, I say to you, he will appoint him over all that he has.

But if the bad servant should say within his heart, "My master is slow to arrive," and should start beating his fellow servants, eating and

drinking with drunkards, that servant's master shall come on a day he is not expecting, and at an hour he does not know.

He will *cut him off*, and assign him a place among the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



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



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

In last week's Gospel of Saint Matthew, our Lord forewarned us of the darkness of spirit and deception which is called "anti-Christ". Three centuries later, Saint Augustine, in his second book of The City of God, pointed out that a people schooled in the religious life and the illumination of the Gospel, who belong to a community of memory, bound together in common service, and who share a common hope, can tell the difference between serving the one true God, faithfully, and bowing down before idols. As our Lord often stated in His teachings: "Behold, I have told you beforehand." Forewarned, we are forearmed.

Community is established by the relationships among its members, and this is the fundamental sense of *jus*³ -- *equity and "law"*. Law is not so much something written in books and enforced by police, it is the primarily the balanced interrelation between members of a given community. For a Christian people, this "lawful" balanced and equitable correspondence between the members of a society is further perfected by its elevation in grace through the Gospel. In a well ordered society, everyone has a value, purpose, and place within it. As a person created in the image and likeness of God, no one is to be cast off or rejected as without value; and no individual should be subordinated to the wants, desires, or whims of another.

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

³ This is the Latin word expressing balance, order, equity, and due between individuals, between individuals and the community, and between the community and the individuals. All civilization is based on this order. It is, of course, the basis of our word "justice".

⁴ The Spirit of Early Christian Thought, Robert Louis Wilken, Yale University Press, 2003.

⁵ We should note from the outset that even the law of nature requires that the male and female be established in a stable relationship. Because the human offspring remains helpless and

Saint Augustine goes on to explain that this justice, *jus*, can only take the form of the defense of the Church – the City of God as it exists on pilgrimage, being the providential *locus* of the Hidden One's full revelation – which is both a social fact as well as an eschatological sign.⁴

The family is the base unit of all civilization, and the relations of *jus* must be first in good order among the family members themselves – from which all good and social order derives. A people with disordered or dismembered "families" will never be able to sustain a true civilization.

Within a family, a child is not a possession or a piece of property. He does not exist for the sake of his parents, rather parents exist for the nurturing and education of the child. Children do not exist for the sake of adults; adults exist for them. Each generation is meant to be a source of life and bring the next generation of human beings into existence. It is disappointing that today so many people approach "having a child" as if it were a decision similar to when one might decide to buy a house, begin a 401(k), or buy a dog. This *commodification* of human life, and its corollary "vision", has brought about a degradation of private, family, and social life. We act according to our principles, and principles are set by purpose and goal. If children are seen as serving the whims of adults, for whatever reason, then the whole family structure is inverted.

The fundamental beauty of human creation is that a man and a woman⁵ are given the possibility of participating with the Creator in the appearance of another human being on the earth. Children are not possessions of the parents, nor do they belong to the State; they are not organs of the mother's body, nor are they disposable parts in her "health care". Children do not belong to the parents, nor are they forms of entertainment for the pleasure of adults.

immature for many years, it is only within a stable and nurturing relationship (usually decades-long) that a predictable, constant, and partnered effort can be present to lead and educate the immature infant/child/adolescent to maturity and wisdom. This is "education": to lead from immaturity to maturity. This natural familial bond was elevated by our Lord to the level of a Divine Mystery in which the very union and relationship between the man and the woman becomes a source of service to God, a place of grace and holiness to the couple, and a source of radiant sanctity to their children and the community. A man and woman so "crowned" are both a reflection and an extension of the Divine Mystery of Christ and the Church.

Children are gifts granted to an adult couple as an act of trust and confidence from God, the Source of all life. Children are each uniquely individual persons created in the divine image, who must be respected, cherished, nurtured, loved, and educated into maturity. All this is purely the nature of things – the *natural law* – and does not include the additional considerations proper to Christians. But the order of grace and salvation builds and elevates this natural order.

Anything less than this fundamental approach to the birth and formation of children cheapens human life overall, because it violates the nature of things. The modern view of the child as a type of commodity (something one *acquires* for oneself) has led to the degradation of parents, the dissolution of family life, and the disintegration of social responsibility.

When one begins to consider the reality of easily-obtained abortion in modern society, it must be kept in mind that *two* people have generated the child. Bringing children into the world and rearing them are not something that the mother does alone, with the father as some type of throwaway accessory. Fathers are more than sperm donors, regardless of how they are presented by modern propaganda.

A child, not being property, does not belong to one parent more than to the other. From the moment of her creation, the human child is a unique person and existentially a free being. Each human being, whatever his age, is a creation formed in the *image of God*.

A child is fully human from the first moment of his existence and, as a human person, fully *equal* to his parents. He may be dependent on them and the rest of his family for care and nurturing as he matures, but he is not a possession of the parents. He is certainly not a mere “body part” to be discussed as a share of the “health care” of his mother. To view the child before birth as somehow less than human is both wrong philosophically and morally abhorrent – no matter how often we hear this pronounced in the media.

Until the baby and the child are respected as being fully human, family and society will continue to

crumble (the relationship of *jus* being profoundly wounded). As *Mother Theresa* once stated, “as long as a mother can kill the child in her womb, there will never be peace on earth”.

Human parents are also to be considered as equals in the generation of the child. The mother has no superior claim to the infant. Although nurtured in the womb of the mother, the child belongs in no way “more” to the mother than to the father. From the viewpoint of human life’s creation, both have an equal say in the life of their child – and equal responsibility!

The modern conversation about a “woman’s right to her body” is equally unacceptable as it makes of the child a “thing”. The child is not part of a woman’s body even though he is nurtured *in* her body. While each person’s own organs have all the same genetic code, scientifically, we know today that the child, from the moment of conception, has her own unique genetic code and form, independent from both her mother and her father.

Abortion is not exclusively a “women’s issue”. Parents are more than just donors of gametes, so the *father* must also be considered in all discussions concerning a child’s health (or even in the unfortunate topic of abortion). We should not allow ourselves to be misled by this propaganda tactic of excluding the father.

Family structure, the basic social unit of a community, and family support are central to the abortion question. Human beings are not mere animals, a type of barnyard creature that goes into heat once a year and breeds, dropping offspring, nurturing it for a moment, and then walking away. For this reason, the report in the *Morning Sentinel* of a 26%-increase of child abuse cases reported⁶ in Maine for last year is horrifying. And even if it may only be the fact that more cases have been accurately reported, the previous years’ statistics indicate that abusive households are increasing numerically in our community.

As long as *family*⁷ is not a consciously cherished part of our community, one that is nurtured by society

⁶ Wednesday, July 31, 2019.

⁷ It should be noted here that “family” is not merely what has been called for the last fifty years the “nuclear family”. “Family”

is what once was known in the Head-of-Falls neighborhood: djidoo, sitoo, parents, children, aunts, uncles, cousins, and, well,

and its laws, we will continue to have the increased frequency of abortion, child abuse, mental illness, and social disintegration. These all too often find their origins in unstable home life and in unhealthy family relations. It is not by chance that the legalization of abortion, the Woodstock generation's public collapse of sexual behavior, and the increase of divorce all arrived contemporaneously in the 1960s and '70s. They are all intertwined in causality and in effect.

We might also add another element to this modern disorientation and upheaval - the prevalence of *artificial contraception*. While this has always infected some families throughout the ages, it became increasingly prevalent and destabilizing to families from the 1930s onward. This we leave for another consideration.

In summary: **Two** parents: male and female; the existential autonomy and **equality** of the human child from conception; the necessity of the **family's extended support**, and all the other healthy structures for our well-being: these are the fundamentals required for the rearing and education of children. When all or some of these necessary things are missing, one is tempted to get rid of the central "complication": the child. In this way abortion is born.

But the absence or woundedness of these fundamentals are symptoms of much deeper diseases within the human heart.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS
October 6, 2019

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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS
October 13, 2019

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

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Oct	6	Sue Paré and Lolo Salazar
Sun	Oct	13	Lowell Hawes
Sun	Oct	20	Larry & Lisa Grard
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

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Regular Collection: \$1616.00

**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!

Many, many thanks to all who devoted to so much to time and effort to this year's hafli.

Your labors showed great success. Congratulations especially the chairs and principal organizers **Ruth Lunn** and **Lenore Boles**.

It was an extraordinarily beautiful day!



just about anyone else whom we loved, and who loved us, and who worked together for the good of the community.

*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.

Memory Eternal

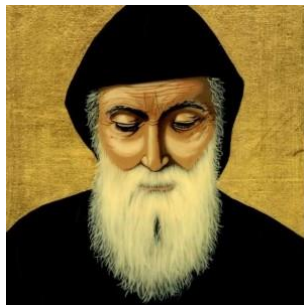


*In memory of Janet George, the Altar Breads for
October have been contributed by Dame Fefa.*

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

**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.



INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Sat | 5 | †Charles Owen
(the Parish)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Sun | 6 | For the members of the Parish |
| Mon | 7 | ----- |
| Tue | 8 | †Sleiman & Latiffy George
(Ghaphery Family) |
| Wed | 9 | †Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery
(Ghaphery Family) |
| Thu | 10 | Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Fri | 11 | Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| 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

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 glory

Qolo/Hymn: LB etow 234

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *L'Maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

Saint Mark, the Evangelist: LB p 835

Sign of Peace: SB *Peace like a River*

Communion: SB *O Lord, I am not worthy; For the Beauty*

Recessional: SB *The Lord is with us*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book

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?



*Saints Sarkis and Bachus, Martyrs
 October 7th*