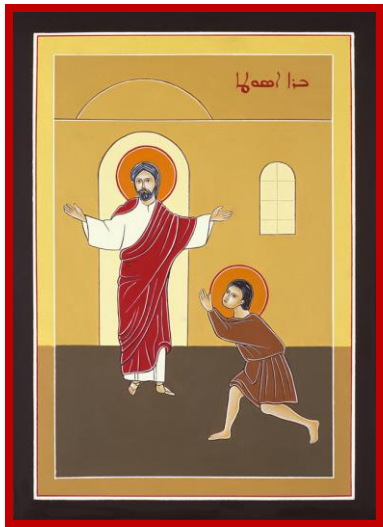


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast

March 7, 2021

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, KHS
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

Qourboneh: Masses: Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.; Tues. – Fr. 9:00 a.m.; Sat. 10:00a.m.

Sick Calls: To receive the Divine Eucharist and/or the Sacred Anointing, please call the rectory.

Confessions: One half-hour before the Sunday 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 stipend: \$15

Monthly Memorials: Sanctuary Candles \$30; Altar Bread \$25; Sacramental Wine \$45

Catechism: Lenore Boles, *Director* **Choir Director:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG **Parish Council President:** Ex-officio

Council Members: Lenore Boles, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*

THIS DAY'S EPISTLE¹

II Corinthians 13: 5-13

Test yourselves to see if you stand firm in your faith. Prove yourselves.

Or do you not acknowledge that the Messiah Jesus is within you?

If you do not, then you are rejected.

Yet, I trust that you are well aware that we are not cast off.

I pray God that there be no evil among you, so that the evidence we need may become apparent, and that you also do good, making us out to be the ones rejected.

For we cannot act in any manner that is contrary to that which is true, and only on behalf of what is true.

Now we are happy when we are weak but you are strong, since we also pray that you would mature.

This is why I write like this while I am absent, so that when I arrive I will not need to act harshly in line with the authority that my Lord has given me, which is to build you up, not to tear you down.

So then, my brethren, be joyful, be mature, be comforted; then you will be in agreement and concord, and the God of charity and peace will be with you.

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

Offer one another your greetings with a holy kiss.

All the holy ones send you their greetings.

The peace of our Lord Jesus the Messiah, and the charity of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.



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

It is with great joy that we honor and celebrate **Saint Joseph**, our parochial patron, during a Holy Year that has been proclaimed from **December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021**.

This Year has been announced to honor the 150th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church to the sacred protection of the Foster Father of the Word Incarnate. Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed **Saint Joseph Patron of the Universal Church** on **December 8, 1870**, in the decree *Quemadmodum Deus*.

In the recent December 8, 2020 decree from the Apostolic Penitentiary, it stated that "to reaffirm the universality of Saint Joseph's patronage in the Church", a **plenary indulgence** – *the remission before God of all temporal punishment due to sin whose guilt*

has already been forgiven – is granted to all Catholics who recite any approved prayer or act of piety toward Saint Joseph, especially on **March 19th**, principal feast-day of the Saint, and on **May 1st**, Saint Joseph the Artisan. A plenary indulgence is a gift of Holy Mother Church perfecting the healing process of salvation that follows our personal conversion, confession, and prayer, leading us to beatitude.

A plenary indulgence is also available to all the faithful who do the same on the **19th of any month**, or on **any Wednesday** (the day in the week commemorating Saint Joseph in the Latin tradition).

Here in the parish, we will be reciting the **Novena Prayers** each day following the Alohoyoh Qourbonoh, from **March 11 – 19th**. You will find copies of the novena prayers in the booklets available at the entrances of the church. Please feel free to **take extra copies home** to those unable to attend – to those who may be housebound, sick, or frail – so that we may all pray as one community.

The **three actions required** for gaining a plenary indulgence are as follows:

- 1.) **sacramental confession**;
- 2.) reception in **Holy Communion of the Divine Eucharist**; and,
- 3.) **prayer for the pope's intentions**. These intentions are specified by the Holy Father for each month. Note that it is not necessary to know explicitly what they might be, and reciting the *Apostles' Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Glory be* is sufficient for this purpose.

The underlying **spiritual disposition** necessary to obtain a plenary indulgence is the **interior detachment from all sin**, even venial.

The works of piety or acts of devotion to honor and imitate Saint Joseph can be among the following:

- 1.) Contemplating the Lord's Prayer for at least thirty minutes. The Decree reads, "to rediscover our filial relationship with the Divine Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, (and) to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God's will".

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

- 2.) By participating in a religious retreat that is at least one day in length, and which includes meditation on Saint Joseph;
- 3.) By imitating Saint Joseph in his charity by accomplishing spiritual or corporal works of mercy;
- 4.) By recitation of the Rosary as a family or as an engaged couple;
- 5.) By praying the Litany to Saint Joseph (in the Latin tradition), or the *Akathistos* to Saint Joseph (in the Byzantine tradition), or any other prayer to Saint Joseph proper to other ecclesiastical traditions, **for the persecuted Church *ad intra* and *ad extra***, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution; because, as the Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary notes, “the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he must flee, where he experiences rejection and abandonment”.
- 6.) By entrusting our day’s labor to Saint Joseph the Artisan, or by invoking his assistance in finding work; finally,
- 7.) By reciting a prayer in honor of Saint Joseph, especially on March 19th and May 1st. This devotion can also be practiced on the 19th of every month, or on Wednesdays.

The Decree further states: “In the current context of health emergency, the gift of the plenary indulgence is particularly extended to the *elderly*, the *sick*, the *dying*, and to all those who, for legitimate reasons, are unable to leave the house, who, with a soul *detached from all sin*, and with the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions, in their own home or wherever the impediment keeps them, recite an act of piety in honor of Saint Joseph – *Comfort of the Sick* and *Patron of a Happy Death* – offering, with trust in God, the pains and discomforts of their life.”

From all eternity, our holy patron was chosen by Providence to watch over the early years of the Divine Son of God in His Incarnation and to act as a primary agent in His early education and formation. This unique man of faith, purity, fidelity, silence, obedience, charity, nobility, loyalty, chastity, and honor is worthy of the veneration paid to him. As the pope wrote: in his

loving obedience to Divine Providence, Saint Joseph was “creatively courageous”.

May we all strive to honor, and most importantly, imitate this great laborer in the Divine Kingdom, and pray that he obtain for each of us the “grace of graces: our own conversion”.



Go thee, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of thy most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke thy patronage also.



Through that charity which bound thee to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which thou didst embrace the Child Jesus, we humbly beseech thee graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by His Blood, and with thy power and strength to aid us in our necessities.



most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen people of Jesus Christ;

O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; show pity to us, O most mighty protector, and assist us from heaven in our daily struggle with the power of darkness.



As once thou didst rescue the Child Jesus from the supreme peril of His life, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield each one of us by thy constant protection, so that, supported by thine example and strengthened by thine aid, we may be able to live a holy life, die a happy death, and obtain eternal joy in Heaven. Amen.³

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON
March 7, 2021

II Cor 13: 5-13 St. Luke 15: 11-32

THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC
March 14, 2021

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

The Altar Breads have been donated in memory of
George Deeb by Dame Fefa, DSG

May their memory be eternal!



VOCATION ICON

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

Sat	Mar	6	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Mar	14	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Mar	21	Michael & Gayle Misner
Sun	Mar	28	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	April	4	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	April	11	Sue Paré & Lolo Salazar
Sun	April	18	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	April	25	Larry & Lisa Grard

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$2,154.00

(Budget Deficit 2021: \$6,504.00)⁴

Upcoming Special Collection combining together the Bishop's Appeal⁵ and for the maintenance projects: **March 28th**

Our first attempt, **last week's second collection**, yielded **\$220.00** - against the **\$34,000.00** we need to collect to cover the **Bishop's Appeal** and the **building maintenance projects** we must do this summer.⁶

Second Sunday each month is a second collection to cover our **monthly fuel-oil costs**.

Please remember to sustain the apostolic work of this parish through regular contributions.



The Sanctuary Lamp burns in March in memory of the *deceased of the Maroon Joseph Family* at the request of Barbara Joseph.

³ This prayer was composed by **Pope Leo XIII** and introduced in his encyclical, *Quamquam pluries*, in 1889. He asked that it be added to the end of the Rosary, especially following its recitation during the month of October (dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary).

⁴ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59/Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00

⁵ Assessed at **\$4,000.00**; the first stage of the building projects will cost around **\$50,000.00**

⁶ This makes the amount toward our matching Challenge Grant, to be presently **\$6,025**. Only **\$24,000.00** to go to achieve the 50k we need for the first stage of our building works.

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun	7	9:00	For the Members of the Parish
		11:00	Private Intention
Mon	8	-----	
Tue	9		Steven Braunstein (Simon Misner)
Wed	10		†Patricia Thomas (Dan & Pam Casavant)
Thu	11		†Rosanna Joseph (Pam & Dan Casavant)
Fri	12		†Rachel & Joseph Salazar (Peter & Kim Paré)
Sat	13		Robert Green Family (Mary Nicholas)
Sun	14	9:00	For the Members of the Parish
		11:00	Private Intention
Mon	15	-----	
Tue	16		Dana & Linda Hayes (Misner-Elias Family)
Wed	17		†Patricia Thomas (Dan & Pam Casavant)
Thu	18		†Joan Gottardi (Donna-Jo Mitchell)
Fri	19		†Joseph & Rachel Salazar (Peter & Kim Paré)
Sat	20		Fr. Doran (Ira & Catherine Mandel)
Sun	21	9:00	For the Members of the Parish
		11:00	Karen Misner
Mon	22	-----	
Tue	23		†Rachel Salazar (Suzanne Paré)
Wed	24		†Paul Ferris (Steve & Allison Crate)
Thu	25		Private Intention (Abouna James)
Fri	26		†Elsie Chapman (Allison & Steve Crate)

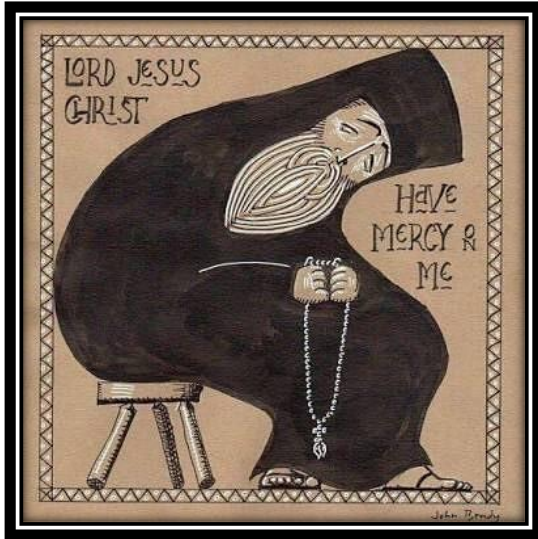
The Life-giving Cross

Please, take notice of our present protocols:

- 1.) All Catholics, of whatever Ritual Church, are more than welcome at Saint Joseph. We are all one Body of Christ.
- 2.) During this pandemic, there is no obligation to assist at the Divine Sacrifice.
- 3.) Those who are sick, or carry symptoms of sickness, must remain at home.
- 4.) All are recommended to give contact information (a list is provided at the door) in order to inform you if need arise from a case of the virus.
- 5.) All vulnerable, elderly, and at-risk individuals should remain at home and follow the Liturgies as posted on the parish's website.
- 6.) The **Vigil Masses** are suspended until further notice.
- 7.) All who are retired, or who may have a freer weekday schedule, are asked to consider assisting at Mass during the weekdays, **Tues-Fri, 9:00am**; and on **Saturday at 10:00am**.
- 8.) **Everyone is asked to wear a face-mask.**
- 9.) Hand sanitizers are available at the entrances and at the confessional.
- 10.) Seating at church must be "*first-come-first-served*" and will be closed at "100".
- 11.) Everyone must sit in such a way that there is *no one immediately in front* of them and *no one immediately behind* them. The pews have been blocked off for this purpose.
- 12.) To control crowd flow and bring greater security, **doors** will be **locked** at the beginning of each Liturgy.
- 13.) A *six-foot distancing* is to be observed by those who approach the Divine Altar and wish to receive the Divine Eucharist in **Holy Communion**.
- 14.) And, lastly, at the end of Mass, those who wish **to remain and pray** in the church are welcome to do so, but all others are asked *not to linger and visit within the church*. Please exit through the Appleton Street doorway. If one wishes to visit, please do so outside the church, being *mindful of the proper physical distancing*.

Prayer for the Gift of Tears

Almighty and merciful God,
Who for Thy thirsting people didst bring forth
from the rock a fountain of living water:
draw forth, 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.



*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 our Savior and Benefactor,
the Lord of lords and Weaver of crowns,
Thou art Lord and King of all. Amen*

Those for whom we pray: Sally Derosby, Tala Poulin, Daja Gombojav, Anne El-Habre, Richard Karter, Lolo Salazar, Charlotte Iserbyte, Rita Hikel, and all those who suffer from disease, want, or depression.

❖ تَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

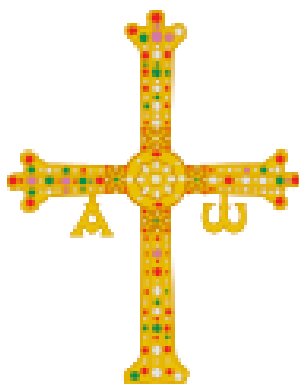
p. 217

From February 17th through March 28th, you are invited to join other Christians for **40 Days for Life** – forty days of prayer and fasting

www.40daysforlife.com/augusta-maine

You are invited also to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside *Maine Family Planning* in Augusta. Please spread the word about this important community outreach.

For more information and to volunteer: contact Judy Iceenogle, 207-872-6558/ ricejuice@twc.com



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

Entrance Hymn: LB *toobaik 'eedto* 114

Glory: SB *irhamni*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *bo'outho d'mor ya'qoub* 115

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

Saint John, the Evangelist: LB p 815

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *O Lord, I am not worthy; Seek ye first*

Recessional: SB *Praise God from Whom*

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

March 7:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ N. Carter

11:00am: I. Misner-Elias

March 14:

9:00am: M. Carter/ N. Carter

11:00am: L. Michaud/ I. Misner-Elias

March 21:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ M. Carter

11:00am: I. Misner-Elias

Hosanna Sunday, March 28:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ N. Carter

11:00am: L. Michaud/ I. Misner-Elias

Glorious Resurrection, April 4:

9:00am: A. Michaud/M. Carter/N. Carter

11:00am: L. Michaud/I. Misner-Elias

New Sunday, April 11:

9:00am: M. Carter/ N. Carter

11:00am: L. Michaud/ I. Misner-Elias

*Have no faith in the sly one,
who deceives the one who fasts.
When he sees someone deprived of bread,
he feeds him with jealousy;
when he sees someone praying,
he suggests to him distraction after
distraction, and steals from his heart
and the prayer from his lips.
O Lord, allow us to see how he fools us
and seeks to snatch reality away from us.*

*Blessed the one who accepts his trials;
he shall triumph and be crowned.
Ocean of Compassion,
give unto us an abundance of mercy.
Open our eyes and grant us to see clearly.
Cursed be the evil one,
and may all bless Thee, O Lord.*

*May Christ,
Who accepted the fasting of our ancestors,
accept our fasting and our prayers,
and have mercy upon us.*

*Exalt, O Lord, the memory of Thy Mother
and Thy saints;
Through their prayers grant pardon to us
and to our deceased.
Through the prayers of Thy Mother,
the prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
watch over the living, and in Thy mercy
forgive those who have died.⁷*

The Supplication of Evening Prayer in Fridays of Great Lent

*O Son, by Thy Fast Thou didst save the
Church from error; hear our supplications
and have mercy on us.*

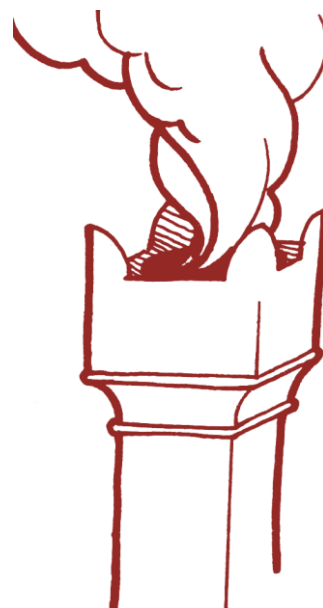
*Thou didst reconcile heaven and earth,
grant peace to Thy Church and keep her
children in the light of the Cross.*

*The evil one hates our fasting,
and in his perversity would like to see
our offering rejected by Thee.*

*Protect our fasting
from the deceit of the devil.
Let us turn away his deceit
from these holy matters.*

*Let us cleanse our fasting and our mouths
from all duplicity.*

*Have mercy on us, O First-Born,
and aid us to expel the greediness
that lies within our thoughts.*



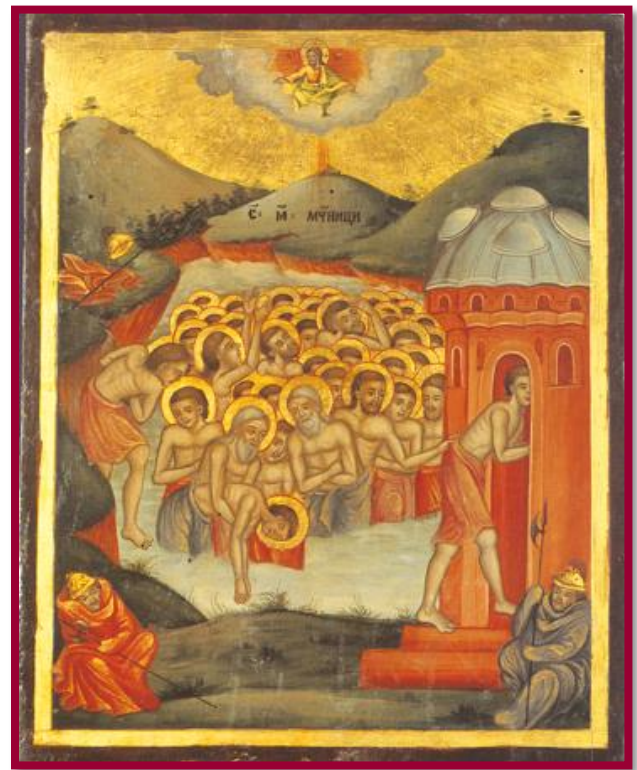
⁷ Bo'outho, Friday Ramsho in Great Lent

The Traditional and Patriarchal Norms for the Great Fast

- A.) Ash Monday and the First Week of Great Lent and Great Week of the Passion and especially Great and Holy Friday of the Crucifixion through to noon on Saturday of the Great Light are *Days of Fast and Abstinence according to our tradition.*
- B.) *For all, as a minimum requirement according to law, we must fast on Ash Monday and on Good Friday. Abstinence, minimally, must be observed on all Fridays of Great Lent. The days of fast are strictly to be meatless.*
- C.) *From the age of reason onward, all are obliged to follow the abstinence from all meat, meat products, and dairy products on these fast days.*
- D.) All Fridays throughout the year are *traditional days of fast and abstinence from all meat and dairy products.*
- E.) *In general, the sick, expectant mothers, and the elderly who need to eat regularly are exempted from fasting and abstinence, especially those who under medical care for chronic illnesses.*
- F.) *Still observing the quality of food stuffs, Saturdays and Sunday are not, in the eastern tradition, days of fasting.*
- G.) *Breaking the Fast is permitted also on the following feastdays:*
- 1.) Saint John Maron (March 2);
 - 2.) The Forty Martyrs (March 9);
 - 3.) Saint Patrick (March 17th);
 - 4.) Saint Joseph (March 19th); and,
 - 5.) The Annunciation (March 25th).

QUANTITY: *In our tradition, the fast means no food whatsoever between midnight and noon, only water and medication are permitted.*

QUALITY: *Also, in our traditional eastern tradition, the days of fast are in practice more or less vegan, that is, no meat, no seafood, no meat products, no dairy products, and no eggs are eaten.*



The Forty Crowned Martyrs

March 9th