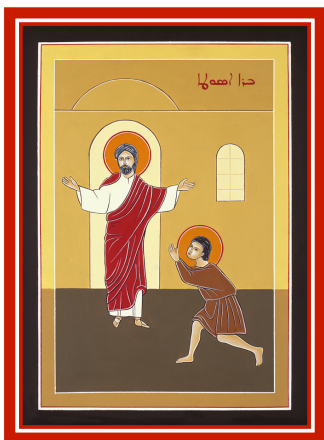


# The Prodigal Son / fourth Sunday of Lent



March 4, 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](mailto:stjoesinmaine@yahoo.com)

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*"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

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**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. Luke 15; 11-32

And He said, "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of property that falls to me."  
And he divided his living between them.  
Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living.  
And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want.  
So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to himself he said, "how many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger!  
I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.'  
And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.  
And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son."  
But the father said to his servants, "Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on

his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."

And they began to make merry.

Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound."

But he was angry and refused to go in.

His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, "Behold, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!"

And he said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."



### ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

Though cherubim fear the One  
Who is clothed with Fire,  
a woman takes hold of His cloak and is not burnt.  
Though fiery ranks tremble in awe  
before their Lord,  
this woman who kisses His cloak fears not at all.<sup>1</sup>

Among the Syriac fathers and writers, the Divinity is often portrayed as shrouded in Fire and Light. It

is a Fire that both illuminates and consumes depending on the disposition of the soul. As fire in a hearth is a source of warmth, joy and light, so a fire in the middle of the room is dangerous, consuming and destructive. Fire is the same in both cases; it is the placement of the fire that determines the outcome. So it is with the spiritual life; the person who is properly disposed by grace will find life in the Divine Fire, but the one who is distracted, inattentive and sinful will be burned. God is infinite Charity and loves all, but sin makes us indisposed to receive that love, thus the unrighteous burn – in justice.

Thursday last, March 1<sup>st</sup>, was the commemoration of Saint Domnina. She was one of the earliest disciples of Saint Maron and thus one of the "mothers" who helped establish *Beit Maroun*, the Maronite Catholic Church that we know today. She died mid-fifth century, probably just over forty years after the death of our great father in Christ.

While many of the holy ascetics who followed Saint Maron imitated him in his solitude as "monos",<sup>2</sup> "monk", when Saint Domnina finished her days here below there were 250 women following her example.

In her ascetic practices, Saint Domnina was especially known for her gift of tears. For centuries, tears have been seen as both an effect of sorrow for sin, contrition and the awareness of present evil, and as a circumstance that fosters that contrition. Repentance, contrition and wisdom: the perfect conditions for true prayer.

Prayer disposes the mind and heart to grace and its light in order to increasingly form the interior of a man into conformity to "the world to come". All grace, although it acts in the present, is ultimately eschatological in purpose.

This transformation by grace (and its final expression) will take place fully and be confirmed in the eschatological transfiguration of the risen body.

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<sup>1</sup> *Qolo*, Sunday of the Hemorrhaging Woman

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<sup>2</sup> Greek for "one".

Prayer, fasting and alms are meant to be the fruitful results of the baptismal water. Baptism is associated with the divine fire in Syriac Christianity and the Baptism of the Messiah is seen as setting the river Jordan on fire.

The Great Fast is a sacred time for us to develop our life of prayer and to approach the Divine Mystery – “Lord, teach us how to pray”. In our tradition, this is to accede to the Fiery Throne of the Hidden One.

The *qualitative* transformation by grace is facilitated by the three classic works of Christian asceticism: prayer, fasting and alms. Prayer understood in its most simple reality is simply the elevation of the heart and mind to God. The *lectio divina* is the most fundamental form of prayer and among its most ancient practices.

In grace and through prayer we are to be immersed daily in the fiery river that flows from the Divine Throne, where we shall find warmth, beauty and illumination. For sinners and the unrighteous, on the contrary, this divine fire remains impenetrable and not transformative. It burns, but does not consume.

When the labor of prayer is perfected, we are to be transformed – even if only briefly here below – into the likeness of the watchers,<sup>3</sup> creatures of heavenly flame. The Day of Judgment is simply the full revelation to all what one has oneself already become. From that Day forward, the state of souls shall become permanent: the warmth and light of the Divine Fire of Love will remain with the just, while simultaneously it shall forever burn, scald, but never consume the sinner. Let us use this present fluid time of change and grace – today – to establish and make permanent day by day our places in God’s love. At death it will be too late.

May the intercession of Saint Domnina be our rampart as we walk behind her and imitate her life of prayer in the pursuit of divine love.

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<sup>3</sup> In the Syriac tradition, this is the term used for the “angels”.

## Maronite formation Classes

The **Maronite Formation Classes** for adults will begin on Wednesday, **March 7<sup>th</sup>**, 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 a couple copies for sale at \$25 each. Although it is out of print, you may also find your own copies online.

## 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:** \$1984.00  
**Eparchial Lenten Appeal to date:** \$487.00

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

## March Memorial Offerings

Sanctuary Candles / Altar Breads / Altar Wine

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

## VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	March 10	Larry & Paula Mitchell
Sun	March 17	Lowell & Mary Hawes
Sun	March 24	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sun	April 1	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	April 8	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sat	April 14	

### SCHEDULE OF READINGS

#### THE PRODIGAL SON

March 4, 2018

**II Cor 13; 5-13      St. Luke 15; 11-32**

#### THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC

March 11, 2018

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

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

Anyone wishing to give a good home to a concrete *garden statue of the Holy Mother of God* (about 150 pounds to move) can contact **Mrs. Pauline Moen** at 873-3474

### INTENTIONS FOR THE QURBONEH (MASSES)

Sat	3	†Annie Shaheen (Laya Joseph) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sun	4	For the members of the Parish
Mon	5	-----
Tue	6	Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Wed	7	†For the Souls in Purgatory (Deacon Andre)
Thu	8	†Andree Nasr (Fefa Deeb) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Fri	9	Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sat	10	†Annie Shaheen (Laya Joseph) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sun	11	For the members of the Parish

### COFFEE SCHEDULE 2018

Mar 4	Lenore Boles & Jan Bourque
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

### Parish Council

Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Lenten Prayer for Tears

*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 and Dominic Fabrizio.

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### **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"*

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**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 Prodigal Son** **p 217**

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

**Entrance Hymn:** LB *eelto* #114

**Glory:** SB *irhamni*

**Qolo/Hymn:** LB *bo'outho* #115

**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 *tooba*

**Communion:** SB Here I am Lord / I will return

**Recessional:** SB Joyful, joyful

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

**Choir Rehearsals:**  
**Thursday Evenings at 6:00 p.m.**  
**March 8, 15, and 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

