

# Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



## Fourth Sunday of the Resurrection

May 12, 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](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."* *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 at least **two 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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**Catechists:** Lenore Boles, *Director & K-1<sup>st</sup>*; Shana Page, 3-5<sup>th</sup> **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*; Shana Page, *Rosary Sodality*

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### TODAY'S EPISTLE Hebrews 13: 18-25

Pray for us, for we are confident that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in every respect. I especially ask for your prayers that I may be restored to you very soon.

Now may the God of peace, Who brought up from the dead the Great Shepherd of the sheep by the Blood of the Eternal Covenant, *Yeshua Moran*, make

you complete in everything good so that you may do His will. May He carry out in you what is pleasing to Him through *Yeshua Msheeho*, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Brethren, I ask you to bear with this word of encouragement, for I have written to you rather briefly. I must let you know that our brother Timothy has been set free, and if he comes in time, he will be with me when I see you.

Greetings to all your leaders and to all the holy ones.  
Those from Italy send you greetings.  
Grace be with all of you.



## **ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS**

It is necessary to be reborn,  
it is necessary to be *regenerated* in the strict sense  
by water and by the Spirit, so that,  
*transported to the divine level*, we might be able  
to contract with God a new intimacy, an intimacy having  
unlimited consequences, for it opens to us a new world  
in which are found reserved for us the conditions  
of perfect knowledge and of perfect beatitude.<sup>1</sup>

The Gospel is about intimacy, and intimacy is all about contact with others. Love is the source, basis and motivation in this contact, a love that must ultimately be stronger than death<sup>2</sup>, because intimacy is hard. It is difficult because it means the opening of one's self toward another, and that demands the potential for embarrassment and the vulnerability we usually try to avoid.

Consequently, in order to live the redemptive Gospel, we must be made anew, regenerated into new beings that think, love and operate on a wholly different level than that of mere nature. This why one must be "born again of water and Spirit" in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Without this we remain purely natural - insufficient on its own to intimately connect with the Divine Hidden One. However, *transported to the divine level by grace*, everything opens to us from the Heart of the Good One. A new world is unveiled and at that level of existence, the possibilities are unlimited. The saints have proven to us the power of grace and the beauty of human life when it opens to divine intimacy.

This Divine Intimacy, the opening of the Divine Heart to those regenerated by grace, is a light and a perfect good. Do we understand this? Of course not. Who has ever known or "understood" someone before you have fallen in love with him? But once smitten, who hasn't reveled in the beauty of love? It knocks us senseless, this is true, but love has a relish and beauty that only lovers can know. This is one of the reasons why Saint Paul spoke of being "out of his mind" in a recent Epistle read at the Qourbonoh. He knew from experience how the charity of God, when fully embraced, makes someone "nuts". It is quite true to say that all the saints were "out of their minds", because in fact they did allow themselves to be elevated above the wounded world into which they had been born.

The worldly have never understood holiness. They are confused, and confounded, by the saints. On the other hand, the saints "know" what existence is all about, and they rest contented in the works of God. This is another meaning of Saint Peter writing to us that we should live "with reverence"<sup>3</sup> in this world.

This perfect knowledge found in the Bosom of the Holy One gives assurance of goodness and the security of happiness no matter how difficult life may be. This knowledge, when perfected, brings with it perfect beatitude<sup>4</sup> even if the natural world collapses around our ears. The natural world can never fulfill the wistful promises it makes, but the regeneration of the "reborn" brings with it the assurance of the guidance and loving providence - and ultimate possession - of the Good One. Even if, and *when*, everything burns down around us.

Only the lover knows what it is to love. And only the saint knows what it is to love supernaturally. In loving we learn, and in the divine intimacy we are opened to an infinitely transcendent world, one that makes all things here below wash out in mediocrity.

Difficult? Of course it is, and without grace it is impossible<sup>5</sup>, but who hasn't been attracted to adventure at some point in his life? If it weren't difficult it wouldn't be thrilling.

If not challenging, would it even be an adventure?

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<sup>1</sup> From **Charity and Liberty** by Rev. Fr. Ceslaus Spicq, OP

<sup>2</sup> Canticle 8: 6

<sup>3</sup> I Peter 1: 17

<sup>4</sup> the meaning of this word is "happiness"

<sup>5</sup> St. John 15: 5

## Catechesis

The *Adult Religion Course* is **Wednesdays, 6:30**

### VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	May 12	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	May 19	Steve and Alison Crate
Sun	May 26	Lowell & Mary Hawes
Sun	June 2	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	June 8	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	June 16	Chris & Diane Wyder

### SCHEDULE OF READINGS

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

May 12, 2019

**Heb 13: 18-25**      **St. John 21: 1-14**

#### FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

May 19, 2019

**Eph 2: 1-10**      **St. John 21: 15-19**

*Our Patriarch* is looking to engage business men and women in some of the charitable work being done in Lebanon. He also desires that business men and women do what they can to promote business interests with men and women of good will inside Lebanon

The effort is promoted under the working committee the Patriarch has established called: *The World Patriarchal Maronite Foundation for Integral Development*. Their website is [www.wpf.org.lb](http://www.wpf.org.lb). Anyone interested is asked to send his name, email, home address, and phone number. Bishop Mansour will be glad to put them in touch with those involved in Lebanon.

There is also planned a Socio-Economic Forum in Bkerke for this August 2019. For more information please contact two of our men who plan to attend: Mr. Amine Harb at [amineharb@harbco.com](mailto:amineharb@harbco.com) or Mr. Louis Ragy at [louisragy@gmail.com](mailto:louisragy@gmail.com). One may also contact the person in Lebanon who is coordinating

this effort: Patricia Sfeir at [patricia.sfeir@wpf.org.lb](mailto:patricia.sfeir@wpf.org.lb), or please contact Bishop Gregory directly.

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**Regular Collection:** \$1719.00

Please remember that our *Lenten Assessment* is **\$4000.00**. Lent being finished, any funds lacking will need to be made up from our usual account and then sent to the eparchy, so we still need to work to meet our goal (\$2215 has been contributed thus far)

Last week's collection for the **basilica of Our Lady of Lebanon: \$194.00**

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

As a parish, we will present a Spiritual Bouquet to *Fr. Chris Piselli* for his **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** Celebration of Priestly Ordination.

There is a card in the back of the church for those who wish to commit themselves to *reciting three rosaries for his intentions* and in so doing, sign their names. In addition, we will be celebrating *the Divine Qourban for his intentions* on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of May.

May the Good One shower him with His richest blessings and graces for such fidelity!

### MAY DEVOTIONS

The month's **Altar Breads** will be provided toward the Divine Qourban for the month of May *in memory of Sam & Lottie Deeb*. Donated in their names by Dame Marie Fefa, DSG

*May they be brought into the fullness of the light and joy of the Kingdom.*

### MAY 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.*

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 11 Vivian Gibbons  
Sun 12 For the members of the Parish  
Mon 13 -----  
Tue 14 Catholic Extension Society & Donors  
Wed 15 †Marietta & John Thomas  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)  
Thu 16 Catholic Extension Society & Donors  
Fri 17 Fr. Chris Piselli  
(the parish)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors  
Sat 18 Fr. Chris Piselli  
(the parish)  
Sun 19 Fr. Chris Piselli  
(the parish)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors  
Mon 20 -----  
Tue 21 Catholic Extension Society & Donors  
Wed 22 †Marietta & John Thomas  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)  
Thu 23 Catholic Extension Society & Donors  
Fri 24 Private intention  
(Abouna James)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors  
Sat 25 †Mary Smus  
(Paula, David & Patricia Smus)  
Sun 26 †John Mansur  
(Lorraine Mansur)  
Mon 27 -----  
Tue 28 Catholic Extension Society & Donors  
Wed 29 †Marietta & John Thomas  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)  
6:00 For the members of the Parish  
Thu 30 Catholic Extension Society & Donors  
Fri 31 Michael Shami  
(Abouna James)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

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.

## Fourth Sunday of the Resurrection

p 315

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

**Entrance Hymn:** LB *fsheeto* 145

**Glory:** SB *al majdu*

**Qolo/Hymn:** LB *imsheeho* 146

Creed p 748

**PRE-ANAPHORA:**

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

**Incense Hymn Offertory:** SB *l'maryam yoldat*

**ANAPHORA:**

**Saint John Chrysostom:** LB p 876

**Sign of Peace:** SB *too ba*

**Communion:** SB *O Bread of Life; Seek ye first*

**Recessional:** SB *Alleluia #1*

\*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book