

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Genealogy Sunday

December 20, 2020

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful heritage of Antioch

3 Appleton
Street
Waterville, ME
04901

Pastor: Rev. Fr. James Doran, KHS
Subdeacon: Mr. Stephen Crate
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Office Phone: 207-872-8515

"For us, the men and women of the East are a symbol of the Lord Who comes again." *Oriental 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 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 \$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 Romans 1: 1-12

Paul, called and sent as servant to Jesus the Messiah, appointed for the Gospel of God, which had previously been promised through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures; this concerns His Son, One Who was born in the flesh from the seed of the house of David, and Who was known by power and by the Holy Spirit as the Son of God, and Who arose from the dead, our Lord Jesus the Messiah.

It was through Him that we received grace and ministry among all the nations, so that they might be obedient to the faith for the sake of His Name.

You also, who have been called by Jesus the Messiah, are among their number.

To all those in Rome, beloved of God, who have been called and made holy; peace and grace be with you from God our father and from our Lord Jesus the Messiah.

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

Firstly, I am thankful to God for you all in Jesus the Messiah, that your faith is being reported across the whole world. God, Whom I serve spiritually in the work of the Gospel, is witness to how I am constantly mindful of you in my prayers. Even now I crave that, God-willing, a way might be opened for me to come to you, since I very much long to see you and to bring you a spiritual gift to strengthen you, and so, too, that our shared faith might comfort us.



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

The Church of Christ is a profound Mystery on earth, just as is the Word Incarnate, the Lord Jesus, born as a babe in Bethlehem, and glorified in divinely transcendent splendor at the Right of the Hidden Father. The Latter is the Eternal One descending among us in time and place, while the other is consecrated mankind moving upward to the Hidden One. The Church is a supra-temporal and supra-personal supernatural community that proclaims the Gospel of healing to all mankind from generation to generation until final fulfillment in the Kingdom ending time.

All time has been touched by grace, but this year has been unique in just about every way possible. So it is that at the end of 2020 we are once again

asked to do the exceptional by having **registration be made necessary** for the Masses of **Christmas**.

Also among the changes, we have added a third Mass for Christmas, but it is important that everyone be aware that *reservation of place is necessary*. Anyone who is not already signed up for one or another of the three Christmas Liturgies – 5:00pm, 9:00am, or 11:00am – will **not** be able to enter.

We must also thank those generous souls who have **volunteered to disinfect, clean, and sanitize** the *church pews, missals, and the bathrooms* after each Liturgy, preparing it all for the possibility of having a second and even a third Mass within a twenty-four-hour period.

This same disinfecting routine will be required for as long as the pandemic continues. These same actions will be necessary when we try to re-establish a third Mass on Sunday, or for the Holydays, in a Liturgical Vigil.

For those unable to attend on December 25th, do remember that the Liturgy of the Glorious Nativity is *the same at each of the times*, and indeed will be the same also on the *following Sunday*. Everyone needs to spread out and allow the social-distancing asked of us all during these difficult months.

For those who may have had family members who attend only Christmas Mass each year, it is especially important this time around that they be told, and understand, that *the numbers will be limited to those who have already pre-registered and "signed up"* for this year's Christmas Masses. We would not wish to have people disappointed at the door. These lists are full already and places are taken.

Please note that everyone registered has had to sign up *through the ushers*; there has been *no phone or email registration*, thus anyone who is not already listed and signed up at this point will not be able to attend on the Day itself of the Holy Nativity.

On a totally unrelated matter, it has been asked often which book might be a good overall view or explanation of the Church/Faith. Of course, the

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

first answer is the **Catechism**, which lays out comprehensively the principal articles of the Faith along with brief explanations, but for a global view of the Church, the Body of Christ, as it lives and functions in the world there are few books better than **The Spirit of Catholicism** by Fr. Karl Adam. This is a small but detailed, very readable exposé, and an outstanding explication of the Catholic Church. It is excellent in the manner that it covers so many aspects of the divine life of grace – the Christic-life given to men – especially as this life is expressed in the apparent dilemmas of authority/freedom, community/individual, and in the dynamics of grace/sin that necessarily belong to the living Church of God as she exists here and now.

For Catholics, and for those who might be interested in the Faith, this book is an excellent depiction of the Catholic Faith of which we are so proud and whose noble honor we are grateful to bear. In calling us, may the eternal Good One make us also worthy to be transfigured in His Body, the supra-temporal and supra-personal divine reality in which we have been consecrated through faith and Baptism.

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Dec	20	Sue Paré & Lolo Salazar
Sun	Dec	27	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Jan	3	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Jan	9	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Jan	17	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Jan	24	Michael & Gayle Misner
Sun	Jan	31	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	Feb	7	Steve & Allison Crate

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$3,432.00

(Deficit 2020: \$33,797.00)

The next second collection will be on **Christmas Day: Pastor’s Collection** (this collection is a gift placed at the disposal of the pastor’s personal discretion)

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

In November, we had to replace the **hot water heater for the bathrooms** in the parish hall. This cost us **\$596.40**. Any good and generous souls moved to contribute to this charitable work (who wants only cold water?) is invited to do so.

God bless you for your generosity.

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

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS

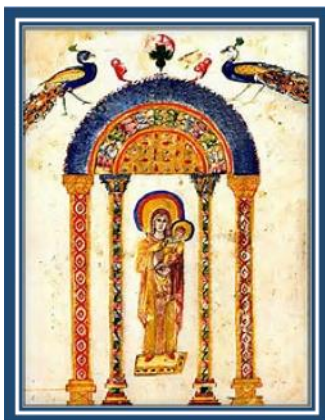
December 20, 2020

Rom 1: 1-12 St. Matthew 1: 1-17

SUNDAY AFTER THE GLORIOUS NATIVITY

December 27, 2020

II Cor 11: 1-9 St. Matthew 23: 29 – 24: 2



INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 20 9:00 For the Members of the Parish
11:00 Catholic Extension Society

Mon 21 -----
Tue 22 Steven Braunstein
(Simon Misner-Elias)
Wed 23 †Michael & Bridget Kilroy
(Barbara Atkins)
Thu 24 †Amin & Hoda Saad
(Barbara Atkins)
Fri 25 9:00 For the Members of the Parish
11:00 Private Intention
Sat 26 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sun 27 9:00 For the Members of the Parish
11:00 †Joseph Smus
(The Smus Family)
Mon 28 -----
Tue 29 Steven Braunstein
(Simon Misner-Elias)
Wed 30 †Paul & Yvette Mitchell
(Barbara Atkins)
Thu 31 †John & Prinella Mitchell
(Barbara Atkins)
Fri 1 9:00 For the Members of the Parish
11:00 Private Intention
Sat 2 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sun 3 9:00 For the Members of the Parish
11:00 Catholic Extension Society
Mon 4 -----
Tue 5 †Robert Mitchell
(Barbara Atkins)
Wed 6 †John Marchetti
(Mike & Maureen Martin)
Thu 7 †John Sleiman
(Barbara Atkins)
Fri 8 Private Intention
(Abouna James)

The Life-giving Cross

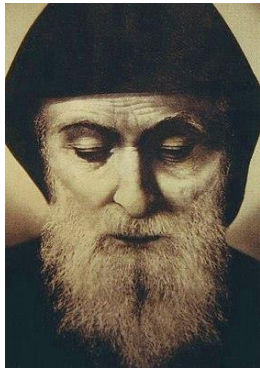
Please, take notice of our present protocols:

- 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 "50".
- 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*.

Think about your Christmas Giving opportunities!

Make known to your friends and family the wonders of the Maronite tradition through her saints.

We still have available Chorbishop Eid's wonderful introduction to **Saint Sharbel**, now updated and in its fourth edition. Chorbishop Joseph Eid was Vice-Postulator for the Beatification of Mar Sharbel, and originally he wrote this work to introduce the great hermit to an American audience. This book is available online at the **parish website** and from the **sacristy** directly after Mass.



Beautiful brand-new hardcover edition, with dust jacket, only \$25

PLEASE NOTE **THE GIVING TREE** DURING THIS SEASON OF **ANNOUNCEMENTS** IS DEDICATED TO CHARITABLE AID TO THE DOMESTIC ABUSE SHELTER.

*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: Tala Poulin, Daja Gombojav, Anne El-Habre, Richard Karter, Lolo Salazar, and all those who suffer from disease, want, or depression.

❖ ھوذا كسب

Genealogy Sunday

p. 66

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *shareero* 68A

Glory: SB *al majdu*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *b'safro* 69

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'maryam yoldat*

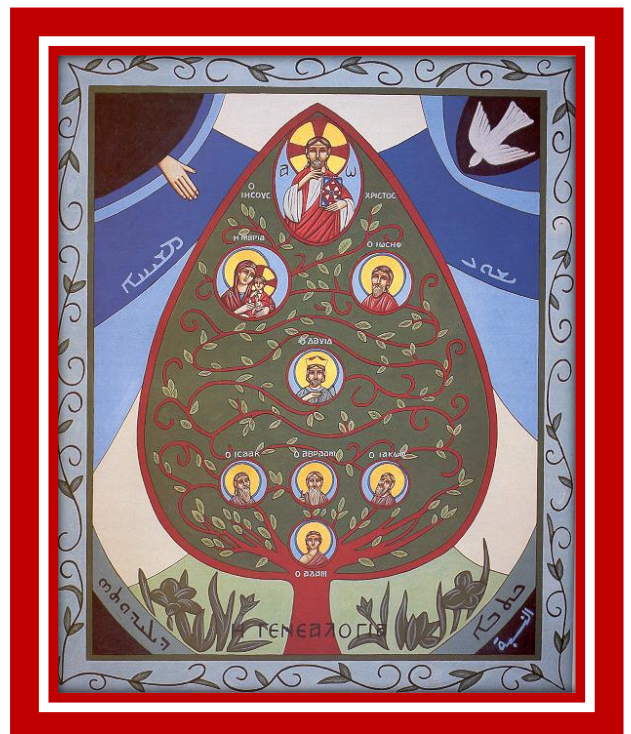
ANAPHORA:

Saint Peter, Chief of the Apostles: LB p 774

Sign of Peace: SB *Peace like a River*

Communion: SB *O Body of my Savior; Arsal Allah*

Recessional: SB *O Come, O Come*



The Nativity Fast

December 15-23rd inclusively

As we were reminded by our Patriarch in his recent Lenten Letter, it is our tradition to fast in preparation for the great feasts, and all are encouraged to do so faithfully, *par.* 25:

This fast is known as “The Fast of the Nativity”, during which the faithful abstain from eating meat, dairy products, and eggs, from December 16th and ends December 24th.

NB *for the faithful in the USA, who celebrate Christmas Eve much as Christmas, the dates are 15th-23rd December inclusively.*

We are reminded in *paragraph 21* of the same letter that “a fast” is **to go without all foods from midnight to noon**, after which we abstain from animal flesh and almost all animal products – this is most similar to a “vegan” diet as one would call it these days.

When a fast day falls on a Saturday or a Sunday (as will be the case this year on December 19-20th) one can eat as they wish throughout the day, but should still abstain from all animal flesh and animal products.

These observances are **for all who have attained the age of the use of reason**, *par.* 22.

