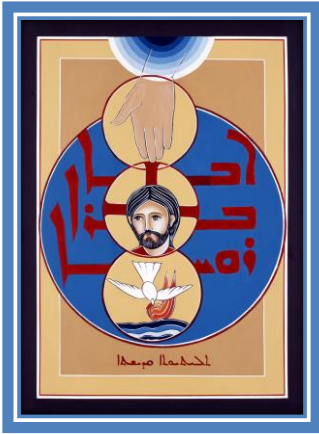


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



GENEALOGY Sunday



December 23, 2018

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." *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 **three 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 Gard **Ex-officio Council Members:** Subdeacon Steve Crate; Lenore Boles, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Shana Page, *Rosary Sodality*

TODAY'S EPISTLE Romans 1: 1-12

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the Sacred Scriptures, the gospel concerning His Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but proclaimed as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness

through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Him we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, for the sake of His Name, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

First, I give thanks to my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is heralded throughout the world. God is my witness, Whom I serve with my spirit in proclaiming the Gospel of His Son, that I remember you constantly, always asking in my prayers that somehow by God's Will I may at last find my way clear to come to you. For I long to see you, that I may share with you some spiritual gift so that you may be strengthened – or rather, so that you and I may be mutually encouraged by one another's faith, both yours and mine.



ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

Christians know familiarly the charity which the Father bears for them and they assimilate it; they are converted from the instant that they perceive¹ this revelation.²

The glorious birth of Jesus in Bethlehem is not simply a birth, although it is that, it is the revelation of Eternal One *personally* entering time. We seldom consider the fact that the Hidden One remains hidden even after this Nativity in the crib. Indeed, even the Eternal Son remains hidden to human eyes as the Word Incarnate walked the roads of Galilee and Judea. With Jesus, we see a Man and hear the Word.

What is "unveiled," revealed to the Israel and all the world, is the eternal "Voice" that now speaks *directly to us*. As our hymn, *Shoobho l'haow qolo*, states in the Novena of the Nativity Fast:

*Glory to the Voice Who became a body;
And the Great Word Who became flesh;
Ears truly heard Him, eyes truly saw Him.*

This then is more than the birth of "the son of Mary," it is the revelation of the Face of the Hidden Father. On the human side, this is the "unveiling" of the truth, value and dignity of human nature as it was initially created in Paradise. *Yeshua Msheeho* is the New Adam in His Birth. This is an important truth for the modern world where so much of human existence – having attempted to be "on its own" with secularism over the last two centuries – is now beginning to unravel.

The Celebration of the Glorious Nativity – Christmas – recalls God's intent and love for all mankind. It is a reminder of the true destiny of each human being: to be modeled on the Incarnate Word born to the Mother of God. Adam and Eve were themselves created in this image in Paradise.

The Gospel is meant to be embedded in history or it comes to nothing. To leave God off in His Transcendent Heaven – a type of vague Unknown – obscures the divine plan of salvation. "Faith" then becomes something of a fairytale. Without recognition of the full humanity as revealed within Christmas, we would fail to see God's plan here and now. Human nature left on its own is wounded, beautiful at times perhaps, but fundamentally in distress from the fall of our first parents.

Christianity is not a form of religious idealism or feeling, existing somewhere outside history. The Christian must be rooted in his own generation. The grace he receives is to bring about a transformation first in his own mind and spirit and then, through him, to the world around him. The Christian is meant to be the face of Christ to his peers. Hence, the Birth of the Great Voice in Bethlehem is also firmly rooted in history (so much so that it has given us our modern calendar) firmly set in a stable, bundled and laid in a feeding-trough.

¹ I John 4: 17

² From **Charity and Liberty** by Rev. Fr. Ceslaus Spicq, OP

The Incarnation is the power of God in history, initiated in the Glorious Birth and spreading out from there through Christians. For the Saint Paul, the supreme characteristic of true charity is the celestial "super-knowledge" found in sacred contemplation/communion: an *experiential knowledge* that begins here on earth through grace and faith, and is perfected in the fullness of the Kingdom where we shall see the Word Eternal in all its glory.

December 25th begins the "Twelve Days of Christmas." These end on the Feast of the Glorious Epiphany, "Twelfth Night". We should note that *three* of our Holy Days of Obligation are found during these "Twelve Days of Christmas." In addition to the normal Sundays, they are: the Glorious Nativity, the Circumcision (January 1st) and the Glorious Epiphany (January 6th).

Let us approach the clearness of the Eternal Voice; and let us admire the beauty of the Great Word Incarnate as we take our place among the simple shepherds of Bethlehem and adore Him especially these days.

Faith in God can, and does transform the world. Time is rejuvenated. Fidelity in faith and grace to God-Made-Visible in the world - born in Bethlehem - is liberating. "For us men and for our salvation He came down from Heaven ... and became man."

Glory to the Voice Who became a body!

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Dec 23	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	Dec 30	Larry and Paula Mitchell
Sun	Jan 6	Lowell & Mary Hawes
Sun	Jan 13	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Jan 19	Jim & Lenore Boles

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Regular Collection: \$1595.00

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

INTENTIONS FOR THE QURBONEH (MASSES)

Sat	22	†Fr Paul Coury (the Parish)
Sun	23	For the members of the Parish
Mon	24	----- 4:00 pm For the members of the Parish
Tue	25	10:00 am Catholic Extension Society (the Donors)
Wed	26	Catholic Extension Society & Donors (the Donors)
Thu	27	†Sumayah Ferris (Dan & Pam Casavant) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Fri	28	†Pam Smiley (Dan & Pam Casavant) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sat	29	†Agie Jankowski (Gladys Avcollie & Badiha Spencer)
Sun	30	For the members of the Parish
Mon	31	----- 4:00 pm For the members of the Parish
Tue	1	10:00 am Catholic Extension Society (the Donors)
Wed	2	Catholic Extension Society & Donors (the Donors)

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

GENEALOGY SUNDAY

December 23, 2018

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

THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD

December 25, 2018

Heb 11: 1-12 St. Luke 2: 1-20

FINDING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

December 30, 2018

Heb 7: 11-19 St. Luke 2: 41-52

Thu	3	†John Christensen (Dan & Pam Casavant) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Fri	4	†Claire Robyn (Lenny & Robyn LeGrand) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sat	5	†Charles Owen (the Parish) -- For the members of the Parish
Sun	6	Sr. Teresa Joseph Cerny
Mon	7	-----
Tue	8	Catholic Extension Society (the Donors)
Wed	9	Catholic Extension Society & Donors (the Donors)

Coffee Schedule

Dec 23	Sharon Crowe, Jeanne Thomas
Dec 30	Mary Bard, Jody Veilleux
Jan 6	April Mitchell, Mary-Jo Hodgkin
Jan 13	Elaine Hoag, Cindy Elias
Jan 20	Jan Bourque, Shana Page
Jan 27	Dale Sturtevant & Elizabeth Wilson
Feb 2	Lauraine Mansur & Ruth Lunn

*Congratulations to all the winners
of the Cash Calendar drawings!*

And thank you to all who have contributed to sustaining the future of this parish apostolate. These are the winners to date:

12/11/18	Nancy Karter	\$25.00
12/12/18	Rosanna Joseph	\$50.00
12/13/18	Kevin Michaud	\$25.00
12/14/18	Laura Hatfield	\$75.00
12/15/18	Audrey Yotides	\$25.00 (donated to church)
12/16/18	Gladys Avcollie	\$150.00
12/17/18	Norman Mathieu	\$25.00

The next calendar will be in *March 2019*

Masses for the Holydays of Obligation during the Glorious Nativity

Vigil: 4:00 (*Carols 3:35*)/ **Christmas Day:** 10:00 am

Feast of the Holy Circumcision Vigil: 4:00 pm /
New Year's Day: 10:00 am

*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, Louise Saliem, Virginia Poulin, and Beverly Rideout.

Benealogy 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 John, the Evangelist: LB p 815

Sign of Peace: SB *too ba*

Communion: SB *O Bread of Life; Arsal Allah*

Recessional: SB *The Lamb*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book