

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church

Genealogy Sunday

December 22, 2019

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful heritage of Antioch

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Waterville, ME 04901
Office Phone: 207-872-8515

Pastor: Rev. Fr. James Doran, KHS
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“For us, the men and women of the East are a symbol of the Lord Who comes again.” *Oriente 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

Catechists: Lenore Boles, *Director* **Choir Director:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG **Parish Council President:** Lisa Grard
Ex-officio Council Members: Subdeacon Steve Crate; Lenore Boles, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*

TODAY'S GOSPEL¹ St. Matthew 1: 1-17

The book of the origin of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of David, the son of Abraham:
Abraham fathered Isaac; Isaac fathered Jacob;
Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers;
Judah fathered Perez and Zerah by Tamar; Perez fathered Hezron; Hezron fathered Aram;
Aram fathered Amminadab; Amminadab fathered Nahshon; Nahshon fathered Salmon; Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab; Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth;
Obed fathered Jesse;
Jesse fathered David the king;
David fathered Solomon by the wife of Uriah;
Solomon fathered Rehoboam; Rehoboam fathered Abijah; Abijah fathered Asa;
Asa fathered Jehoshaphat; Jehoshaphat fathered Joram; Joram fathered Uzziah;
Uzziah fathered Jotham; Jotham fathered Ahaz; Ahaz fathered Hezekiah;
Hezekiah fathered Manasseh; Manasseh fathered Amon; Amon fathered Josiah;
Josiah fathered Jeconiah and his brothers at the exile of Babylon.
After the exile of Babylon:
Jeconiah fathered Shealtiel; Shealtiel fathered Zerubbabel;
Zerubbabel fathered Abiud; Abiud fathered Eliakim; Eliakim fathered Azor;
Azor fathered Zadok; Zadok fathered Achim; Achim fathered Eliud;
Eliud fathered Eleazar; Eleazar fathered Matthan; Matthan fathered Jacob;
Jacob fathered Joseph, the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, Who is called the Messiah.
Therefore, all the generations from Abraham until David were fourteen generations;
From David until the exile of Babylon, fourteen generations;
and from the exile of Babylon until the Messiah, fourteen generations.



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

ABOONA'S REFLECTIONS

Time has been created by man to measure being, and as creatures are fluid in their existence so time also moves.

The Liturgical Year has a beginning (Announcements), a middle, and an end (Holy Cross). There are two great *temporal cycles* of Holy Nativity and of the Glorious Resurrection. Each has a period of preparation, a moment of festal celebration, and then continues in weeks of thanksgiving afterward. This beginning, middle, and end remind us that so too does God's Plan of Salvation – and every creature – have a beginning, a middle, and an end.

Having a beginning, middle, and end makes us note that everything has a purpose and reason for existence. There is nothing superfluous that exists. If we do not yet know its *raison d'être* of a thing this is due to our ignorance and not the futility of its being. And while man may exist at the pinnacle of the cosmos – being the juncture of matter and spirit – there is no creature that is unimportant in itself. Each has its own perfection and purpose. This is why *Adom* was set in the Garden to keep and tend it.³ All creatures, including time, should be treated and used with perfect knowledge of their origin from eternal Beauty.

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

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

³ Genesis 2: 15

While youth may have its own enthusiasm, the wisdom of age and experience are more profound and stable as accomplishments. The middle years of life should be perfected through determination and achievement in the service of God.

The Announcements (revelation) are no less important in the Liturgical Year than the last season of the Holy Cross (final judgement), and both are ordered within the Liturgical Year even as our birth in the spirit is to be directed to our final entrance into the Kingdom of Light.

Saint Paul tells us "to redeem the time"⁴, therefore every day, every moment, is meant to be transfigured by holiness and grace. Every day has a value when it is lived in its proper form under light and grace. We pray each day and honor the Hidden One. As time measures existence, and daily life is ennobled by grace and personal fidelity to the Gospel, so time itself is transformed and redeemed for God's glory and our salvation. We should not amble through life, or just bob along – time is too short for that. Indeed, our Lord reminded us that idleness is ruthless in its destruction of the good, and we shall have to answer for every idle word come the day of judgement.⁵

Time, when used correctly, permits us a more profound understanding of the life faith, hope, and charity:

Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love.⁶

The Liturgical Year is thus more than an annual cycle of Sundays and Holydays that we may or may not observe; it is a reminder that every being, especially every human person, has a purpose in existence and a human lifetime is precious. It is a treasure not to be piddled away, but one that must be freely oriented in grace toward the redeeming love of the Messiah.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

GENEALOGY SUNDAY
December 22, 2019

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

THE GLORIOUS NATIVITY
December 25, 2019

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

SUNDAY AFTER THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD
December 29, 2019

Heb 11: 23-31 St. Matthew 2: 13-18

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Dec	22	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Dec	29	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	Jan	5	Steve and Allison Crate
Sun	Jan	12	Sue Paré and Lolo Salazar
Sun	Jan	19	Lowell Hawes
Sun	Jan	26	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Feb	1	Jim & Lenore Boles

*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, Louise Saliem, Virginia Poulin, and John Scarpa

⁴ Ephesians 5: 16-17
⁵St. Matthew 12: 36-37

⁶ Reinhold Niebuhr

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 21 †Charles Owen
(the Parish)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 22 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 23 -----
- Tue 24 9:00 Anna Bearce
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
4:00 For the members of the Parish
- Wed 25 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 26 †Janet George
(Nicholas Ghaphery)
- Fri 27 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 28 †Charles Owen
(the Parish)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 29 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 30 -----
- Tue 31 4:00pm For the members of the Parish
- Wed 1 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 2 †Janet George
(Nicholas Ghaphery)
- Fri 3 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 4 †Malcolm Spencer
(Bodhi Spencer)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 5 10:00am For the members of the Parish
4:00pm Catholic Extension Society
- Mon 6 10:00 am Fr. Edward Perrone
(Edwin Laabs)
- Tue 7 -----
- Wed 8 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 9 †Mary Hawes
(Shirley Thomas)
- Fri 10 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Regular Collection: \$1488.00

Special Collection for Lebanon: \$1008.00

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

Genealogy Sunday

p 76

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 *bsatro* 69

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

Saint John: LB p 815

Sign of Peace: SB *Honor Mary*

Communion: SB *O Lord, I am not worthy; Bless
this House*

Recessional: SB *O Come, O Come*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book

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 all animal flesh and 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 15th and on December 21-22nd) 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.

Schedule for the Holy Days of Obligation in the Christmas Season

Besides the usual Sundays, each of the Christian Faithful are under *serious obligation* to assist at the Divine Sacrifice on these days:

Glorious Nativity

The Circumcision

The Glorious Epiphany

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

4:00 pm

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

10:00 am

Vigil of the Circumcision

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

4:00 pm

Circumcision

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

10:00 am

Vigil of the Epiphany

Sunday, January 5, 2020

4:00 pm

Glorious Epiphany

Monday, January 6, 2020

10:00 am

Please note that there will be **no** Masses on the *mornings* of **December 31st** and **January 7th**.