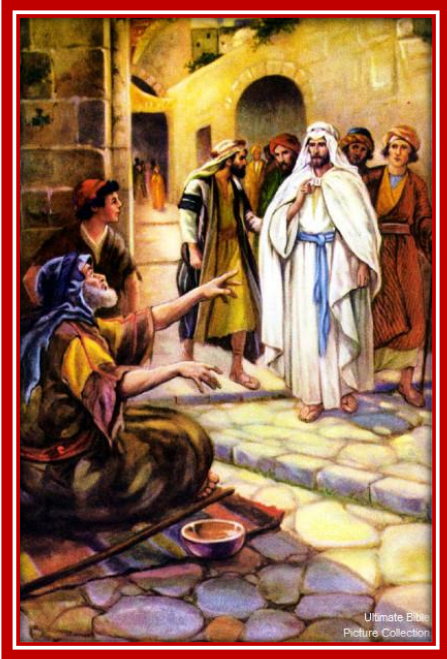


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Healing of the Blind Man

- HOSANNA WEEK -

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

March 29, 2020

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, KHS

Subdeacon: Mr. Stephen Crate

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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 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:** Lenore Boles, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*

THIS DAY'S GOSPEL¹ St. Mark 10: 46-52

They came to Jericho.

As Jesus, His disciples, and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, a blind man named *Timai bar Timai* was sitting beside the road, begging.

He heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, and he began to shout, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Many people warned him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, saying, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

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

Jesus stopped and ordered them to call him. So they called the blind man and said to him, "Take courage! Get up – He is calling you."

The blind man threw off his cloak, stood up, and came to Jesus.

Jesus said to him, "What do you wish me to do for you?"

The blind man replied, "Rabbi, that I may see."

Jesus said to him, "See! Your faith has saved you."

At once, he received his sight.

And he went along the road.



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

Lift our minds and hearts, and proceed without fear and anxiety. This week I have been reading Reasonable Pleasures by Fr. James Schall, SJ. Beautifully written, it is excellent and thought-provoking. When I first picked it up I thought it to be for distraction, but as I read more and more I realized that it went straight to the heart of our present crisis. Without vision, the people perish.³

During these days of trial, we are being asked: where is our vision? What do we seek? Where lies our treasure? In a world that displays the ephemeralness of everything, it is the sightless that scatter and perish, but not before having clung and panicked about their situation.

We have purpose, and no reason to scatter into a vortex of anxiety.

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

³ Proverbs 29: 18

Fr. Schall's thesis is that there is an order among the things of the world and especially a coherence of the things that surround the Catholic Faith. We possess treasures and should not let ourselves be waylaid by the "what if's" and anxiousness that results from conditional phrasing. Underlying all reality, down to the tiniest particle, the Hidden God is in charge. All things He directs and governs. We must enter the light of faith more deeply, see, and then focus on what we do have right now, at this minute, but in awareness of the divine presence. With all things calming around the planet – and apparently cleaning up already our polluted world (fish have returned to the canals of Venice!) – Providence giving us time to do a profoundly good Lent. Should we waste this gift?

Reading and praying, in any case, lifts the mind and spirit – infinitely better than indulgent eating from out of boredom and fear, or in binge-watching and zoning out for hours before a screen. Sad use of precious time those!

Reasonable Pleasures considers the nuances, multiplicity, richness, and variety of all that is enfolded within the true Faith as a *coherent whole*. The Faith is not a mere cerebral exercise, or a form of intellectualism; its abundance and variation are what lend it *credibility* for even the most obtuse. One does not have to be learned or even especially bright to love the centuries-long musical tradition of Church, for example. God enlightens the mind and heart through a panoply of rich treasures that radiate goodness in both little ways and in great things, enveloping the human experience and elevating the person to the obscurely radiant Divine – for those who have eyes to see, and ears to hear. This is why our own individual lives are so important as visible examples for others to see: we must live in that purity of heart, and in the joy that can come only from grace. This is the most common way that others are brought to embrace the Gospel.

Grace and faith give light, heal blindness, and, when fruitful, give transcendent vision, clarified mind, and luminous heart to the believer.⁴ To live focused and centered on the Hidden One of all consolation

⁴ A splendid gift is placed before us, and we do not take notice of it in spite of our eyes. Rare are those who behold this treasure and recognize it for what it is. Have mercy, O Lord, on the blind who see nothing but gold. Bo'outho, Ramsho, Thursday in Lent

delivers us from this valley of tears into the freedom of the children of God.

After Mass last weekend, a young couple pushing a baby-pram stopped me outside the church to thank us for keeping our church open. They weren't particularly religious – although vaguely aware that they had been baptized Catholic as babies – but they gave a donation to the church. Because our doors were not locked, this little community and her example had given them hope. Another family from across the country sent online a small donation with an attached note thanking us for being open. *Their* church had been closed, and they were happy, they said, to see the priest among the flock to lead, give hope, and guide. Is this not why we are here?

We are all in this together, and the coherence of the Catholic Faith – especially for us in our Syriac tradition – radiates hope and beauty. It gives us cause, always, to rejoice.

Fear is the emotional response to a remote “evil”.⁵ When something bad is on our doorstep we respond emotionally to a proximate “evil” with *anger*. Fear is our apprehension from an *approaching but distant* evil. When we see, or cannot see fully, an approaching evil thus causes fear and anxiety.

As Christians, we are heirs of ancient treasures that are ever present. The treasures of faith, the examples of the saints, and the traditions of our hope, link us necessarily to that supernatural love and charity that knows no fear.⁶ This crisis is *not* a disaster, but an act of providence to draw the children of God deeper into their Faith. It is, for us, a call to enter more profoundly into our heritage as Maronite Catholics. We know the magnanimously beautiful example of Saint Rafka in how we should face illness and suffering – it is not in anxiety, terror, and fear! May she strengthen our steps.

⁵ Commonly used, the word “evil” today means a heinous act or actions that go beyond all measure of what is humanly imaginable. To the modern mind, it is this *excess* that makes an act “evil” and not just “bad”.

What we call “evil” in a philosophical sense, however, is anything that lacks “good” or perfection that it should have. This also may be modified for the individual by *subjective* view. A child may hate the medical treatment he has to undergo, but the medicine is not for all that “evil” although it might be perceived in that manner by the child, who as a result will be *scared*.

Things become hopeless and discouraging only when vision is extinguished and hope is snuffed out, but these losses can happen only *after* charity has grown cold and broken. This week's brief blast of snow was indicative of that charity that has been smothered, sadly, in the hearts of far too many. We live in a world that is, humanly, very distant from the Hidden Goodness to which it is called.

So, pray, contemplate, and read. We are still in the Great Fast, so let us not lose these last days of grace. Sitting endlessly in front of a screen would be truly tragic – a capitulation before the unknown. It wastes our time, fritters away grace, repudiates divine love, and enfeebles us. Our rosary, making spiritual communions, the Jesus Prayer, *lectio divina*, spiritual reading, and the rest of our spiritual arsenal need no electricity, but are themselves a source of energy. In that power, they generate hope and vision; and these enkindle charity. In these blindness is lifted, spirits are clarified, and illuminative fire strengthens us in encouragement.

Catholics should be the most fearless of all those in this valley of tears. Look within our present circumstances for the divine and resonant Voice that speaks to us at all times.

Maronites, as disciples of our God and Savior and heirs of the martyrs, should be among those who, in that true vision and reassuring strength, are ready to bring consolation and service to those who are not so fortunate and who wander in this present darkness.

March Devotions for the Holy of Holies

The *Altar Breads*, *Sacramental Wine*, and the *Sanctuary Lamp* have been offered this month by Dame Marie and by Ruth Lunn as alms in commemoration of **George Deeb**; and **Emily & Ashlin Baker**, and for **Thomas Porfirio**.

An evil can be **natural/physical**, such as a hurricane or sickness, or it can be moral. A **moral** evil is any action that lacks its proper ordering toward objective good and in this way fails to reflect the eternal goodness of God. Any action that fails in the perfection of goodness is a moral “evil” in this sense, and is defined a “sin” from the moral point of view, regardless of the perpetrator's judgement. Not all sins are the same, because not all defects are equal, which is why some moral actions fail greatly and others are failures in a smaller manner: mortal/venial sin.

⁶ I John 4:18

Stations and Benediction of the Life-giving Cross

Will be cancelled. All social gatherings, including muffins after Mass, and the festivities of Hosanna Sunday, will also be cancelled until further notice.

Coming into the Harbor on Hosanna Sunday will be cancelled. Holy Land Collection is postponed.

There will be no Parish Council in April.

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Mar	29	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	April	5	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	April	12	Steve and Allison Crate
Sun	April	19	Sue Paré and Lolo Salazar
Sun	April	26	Lowell Hawes
Sun	May	3	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	May	9	Jim & Lenore Boles

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN

March 29, 2020

II Cor 10: 1-7 St. Mark 10: 46-52

HOSANNA SUNDAY

April 5, 2020

Phil 1: 1-13 St. John 12: 12-22

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sat	28	†Edwin Laabs, Sr -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sun	29	†Edwin Laabs, Sr -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Mon	30	-----
Tue	31	†Edwin Laabs, Sr (Ed Laabs and Family) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Wed	1	†Tom and Ida George (James and Nancy Nichols) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Thu	2	†Hoda Nasr (Carla Caron) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Fri	3	Private Intention (Abouna James) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sat	4	†Charles Owen (the Parish) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sun	5	For the Members of the Parish -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Mon	6	-----
Tue	7	Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Wed	8	†Pat Paradis (Pam & Dan Casavant) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Thu	9	†Deeb & Sumayah Ferris Families (Allison Crate) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Fri	10	Private Intention (Abouna James) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sat	11	†Charles Owen (the Parish) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sun	12	For the Members of the Parish -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Mon	13	-----
Tue	14	Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Wed	15	†Byron Andrew Crave (Pam & Dan Casavant) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Thu	16	†Jackie Vigue (Pam & Dan Casavant) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Fri	17	Private Intention (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 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: Rosanna Joseph, Doreen Nader, Louise Saliem, and Virginia Poulin

G.) *Breaking the Fast is permitted also on the following feastdays:*

- 1.) Saint John Maron (March 2);
- 2.) The Forty Martyrs (March 9);
- 3.) Saint Patrick (USA) (March 17th);
- 4.) Saint Joseph (March 19th); and,
- 5.) The Annunciation (March 25th).

QUANTITY: *In our tradition, the fast means no food whatsoever between midnight and noon, only water and medication are permitted.*

QUALITY: *Also, in our eastern tradition, the days of fast are in practice more or less vegan, that is, no meat, no seafood, no meat products, no dairy products and no eggs are to be eaten.*

The Traditional and Patriarchal Norms for the Great Lent

- A.) Ash Monday and the First Week of Great Lent and Great Week of the Passion and especially Great and Holy Friday of the Crucifixion through to noon on Saturday of the Great Light are *Days of Fast and Abstinence according to our patriarchal tradition. cf. par. 22*
- B.) *For all, as a minimum requirement according to law, we must fast on Ash Monday and on Good Friday. Abstinence is to be observed on all Fridays of Lent. These days of fast are strictly to be meatless.*
- C.) *From the age of reason onward, all are meant to observe the abstinence from all meat, meat products, and dairy products on fast days even if they are strictly not obliged to fast.*
- D.) All Fridays throughout the year are *traditional days of fast and abstinence from all meat and dairy products.*
- E.) *In general, the sick, expectant mothers, and the elderly who need to eat regularly are exempted from fasting and abstinence, especially those who are taking medications associated with chronic illnesses.*
- F.) *Saturdays and Sunday, although abstaining in the quality of foods, are not, in the eastern tradition, days of fasting.*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection: \$1,077.00

(Deficit 2020: \$15,961.00)

The Bishop's Lenten Appeal is assessed at **\$4,000.00** each year. This amount must be paid to the eparchy whether we collect it or not. Please be generous to these good causes.

Recent testing and maintenance for *the elevator* have an outstanding cost: **\$1060.00**. Generous souls wishing to contribute directly to offset this expense are heartily encouraged to do so.

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



The Ladder of Divine Ascent

Schedule for the Ceremonies of the Great and Holy Week of the Passion

Great and Holy Wednesday (Spy Wednesday)

Alohoyo Qourbonoh: 9:00am
The Rite of the Lamp: 6:30pm

Great and Holy Thursday of the Divine Mysteries (Maundy Thursday)

Liturgy and Transfer of the Divine Mysteries:
6:30pm

Great and Holy Friday of the Crucifixion (Good Friday)

The Signing of the Chalice: 11:30am
Death and Burial of Our God and Savior and
the Adoration of the Life-Giving Cross: 6:30pm

Great and Holy Saturday of the Light

Liturgy of Forgiveness: 11:30am

Sunday of the Glorious Resurrection

First Alohoyo Qourbonoh: 6:00pm (Saturday)
Mass and the Rite of Peace: 10:00am



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

Entrance Hymn: LB *shareero* 123

Glory: SB *irhamni*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *bo'outho* 124

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *ikbal*

ANAPHORA:

Saint Mark, the Evangelist: LB p 835

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *Your Body is our Food; Father of
Truth*

Recessional: SB *The Lamb*



Saint John Climacus

March 30th