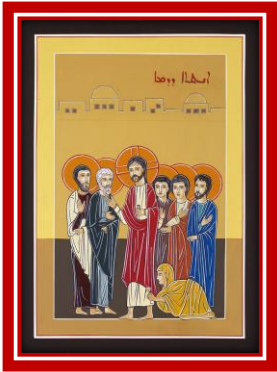
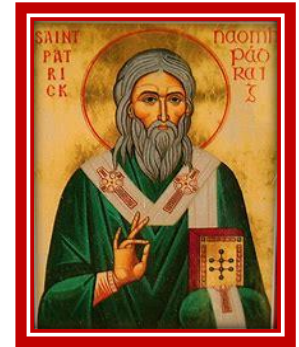


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman

March 17, 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

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

TODAY'S EPISTLE II Corinthians 7: 4-11

I have great confidence in you, I have great pride in you. I am filled with encouragement; I am overflowing with joy all the more because of all our affliction.

For even when we came into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted in every way – external conflicts, internal fears.

But God, Who encourages the downcast, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus, and not only by his arrival but also by the assurance with which he was encouraged in regard to you, as he told us of your

yearning, your lament, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more.

For even if I saddened you by my letter, I do not regret it; and if I did regret it (for I see that that letter saddened you, if only for a while) I rejoice now, not because you were saddened, but because you were saddened into repentance. For you were saddened in a godly way, so that you did not suffer loss in anything because of us.

For godly sorrow produces a salutary repentance without regret, but worldly sadness produces death. For behold what *earnestness* this godly sorrow has produced in you, as well as *readiness* for a defense,

and *indignation*, and *fear*, and *yearning*, and *zeal*, and punishment.

In every way you have shown yourselves to be guiltless in the matter.



ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

In an individual moral life,
full liberty characterizes maturity,
the age at which one is deeply spiritualized;
the perfect, according to the Apostle,
are those spiritual persons
who have fully delivered themselves to the Spirit.¹

We have all admired the exquisite finesse and beauty in Olympic sports. Flawless coordination and subtlety in movement, pushing physical capacities to their limit through mental focus and intent, it is all made to look so easy: mind and body in perfect harmony. These athletes have perfectly interiorized their sport and assimilated its form. With them it looks not only "easy", it looks "natural" to them. This is true also of the saints. Reading their lives, many assume that they are some other kind of being. This is false, of course; they are men and women who have been transformed by grace. They have interiorized the Life of God.

Still, we do know that the Olympic achievement mentioned above is the result of hours and years of intense discipline, practice, repetition, application, and mental focus. But this clashes with the fact that when we watch them perform it all looks effortless! The athletic example is an excellent image for spiritual accomplishment on the path of the Gospel. Saint Paul was the first to use it in his writings.² With those who have advanced in holiness and sanctity, it is the same: intense application and focus on goal. Men and women of holiness have labored mightily over years and decades to arrive at the beautiful harmony that is the work of God. This is why the "lives of the saints" often recount what the

individual did in the last twenty or so years of their lives. The early years, and often decades, are obscure. This was the time that they were training, entering into fitness, and collaborating with transforming grace.

Saint Anthony the Great did not begin to teach or accept disciples until he was well advanced in age. He first had lived slightly isolated among men for ten years, then trained for another decade farther way, and more properly as a hermit (this was done in a neighboring cemetery). Finally, for another twenty years, he entered complete seclusion remotely in the desert, living among the ruins of an old Roman fortress. Only in his late fifties did he finally acquiesce to the demands of others. He came forward to instruct others. Saint Athanasius tells us that he exited as "an athlete", neither emaciated by his fasting, nor corpulently indolent by his isolation. So it is for each one of us, even if not to the same degree: goodness and holiness come to those trained and fit in the ways of the Kingdom of God.

Salvation does not just "happen". It is the end result of a beautiful symphony and harmony in action, both of God's initiative in merciful strength and man's freedom in collaboration. Holiness, peace, and salvation are the harmonious conclusion to this wondrous interplay between the Good One and individual free-choice.

Discipline, effort, and Lenten observance may seem a strain to some, but the disposition to see only *precepts* and *rules* characterizes the "beginner" mentality. That conflict indicates the lack of exercise in the ways of the saints. Note that we do not speak here of those who simply ignore or consciously reject the Gospel's moral compass. Those place themselves outside the pale, and their ultimate salvation is endangered.

To see only laws and rules in these habitual practices indicates another characteristic of the immature: carnality. "When we were children,"³ our primary concern was about ourselves. A child's imagination may be great and vastly creative, but it remains most often focused on himself. In addition, we might note that there is a great difference between the willful capriciousness of a child and the mature moral determination of the "perfect". The weak and undisciplined person never enters the Olympics, and

¹ From Charity and Liberty by Rev. Fr. Ceslaus Spicq, OP

² I Corinthians 9: 25

³ Galatians 4: 3

the undisciplined and selfish do not, finally, enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

The way of perfection, and the path of grace, is to disengage oneself from the hold of exterior restraints (not in *rebellion*, but *by interiorizing virtuous action*) and to free oneself of the tyrannical internal tendencies of ego-ism and the other wounds of original sin. Like a baby swaddled in a blanket, the carnal man, the immature Christian, is tied up both interiorly and exteriorly. Saint Augustine commented on Psalm 146: 7 (“The Lord has released the bound.”):

*The babies which you see carried in the arms of their mothers cannot yet walk; their legs are all wrapped up in bonds. These fetters which we inherit from Adam have been unfastened by Christ.*⁴

This is not a happy picture, or a comfortable one. The person who is still a “child” on the path of the Gospel is always at risk of simply dropping it all and walking away from salvation much as a child does in a pique of anger – or dissatisfaction – and huffs out of a game. There is a grave responsibility for parents to educate their offspring, when they are still young, that they may grow into the taught habits of the Christian life. Trained up from a young age, prayer, penance and self-control become second nature.⁵

Much as it is more painful to get braces as an adult than it is when one is a child (we lose bone resiliency) so trying to master the ways of evangelical virtue, discipline and a spirit of penance later in life is also more difficult.⁶ Without conscious action, we become psychologically impervious to what is new – even if that newness is the Christian life. The negligence and indulgence of parents have often squandered the opportune time to educate, and in doing so these parents have reared children hardened to grace and the Gospel – and to that degree, lost them to healing salvation. This will not be unnoticed on Judgment Day.

⁴ *Tracts on the Gospel of St. John, CLI, 5*

⁵ Proverbs 22: 6 *Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

⁶ We speak here of purely natural elements. God’s grace can transform in an instant the most hardened of sinners, but this would be a miracle.

⁷ Romans 8: 28 *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.*

Once interiorized and assimilated grace flourishes. This is the beauty that liberates. It frees the spirit more and more as one matures in grace. The discipline of the Gospel and fidelity to the precepts of the Church are no longer seen as things to whine about or criticize, because, in maturity, they have become part of us. Can one possibly imagine Saint Sharbel griping about his diet in his hermitage, or the sharpness of the cold of the mountain?⁷

Looking at these examples, we can better appreciate how grace strengthens the individual. It purifies and perfects the nature which had been given to us wounded in our natural birth.⁸ Understanding this, we can see how *grace gives us to ourselves fully*. Overcoming our wounds and repenting of our personal sins, we are made free to the degree that we mature under the luminous workings of grace.

A Christian, worthy of the name, will never see the law of the Gospel or the precepts of the Church as anything other than an educator of *interior liberty*.

Let us enthusiastically embrace the Great Fast, grow within its light, and receive the “wings” that it imparts to the spirit.⁹ In this we mature into the Catholics we are meant to be.

Catechesis

The *Adult Religion Course* will run through to the end of May. **Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.**

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Mar 17	Lowell & Mary Hawes
Sun	Mar 24	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Mar 30	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Apr 7	Bruce & Doreen White

⁸ From the maternal womb, we enter a world that ends in death; from the Womb of the Church, baptism, we enter a world that is meant to finish in the Kingdom of Life.

⁹ *Through fasting and prayer, souls are made pure, bodies are made chaste, spirits are uplifted, passions are restrained, mercy abounds, and the Holy Spirit dwells in the soul that was created to be the temple of God.* (from the Sedro of the first weekdays of Great Lent)

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE HEALING OF THE HEMORRHAGING WOMAN

March 17, 2019

II Cor 7: 4-11 St. Luke 8: 40-56

THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

March 24, 2019

II Cor 13: 5-13 St. Luke 15: 11-32

THE DAILY INTERCESSION FOR THE FIDELITY OF THOSE IN APOSTOLIC OFFICE:

Remember, O Lord of goodness, Your holy Church, and have mercy on all her faithful. In Your compassion, heal the wounded and injured among Your Flock. Punish injustice, console hearts and strengthen all our brothers and sisters. Bestow the grace of conversion on all.

With Your indestructible power, strengthen the bishops of the true Faith that they may be upright and courageous in their apostolic office. May they show fidelity as they stand ever before Your eternal justice. Unto Your honor and glory, may they prove themselves upright, dauntless and persevering in the task confided to them: to lead all the faithful into the fullness of Your redeeming light and glory. We pray to You, O Lord.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Regular Collection: \$1993.00

Please remember that our *Lenten Assessment* is \$4000.00. (\$900 has been contributed thus far.)

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

MARCH 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 QURBONEH (MASSES)

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Sat | 16 | †Charles Owen |
| Sun | 17 | For the members of the Parish |
| Mon | 18 | ----- |
| Tue | 19 | †Jeanine Morissette
(Dan & Pam Casavant)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Wed | 20 | †Leonette Michaud
(Dan & Pam Casavant)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Thu | 21 | Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Fri | 22 | †Edmond & Lucille Paré
(Suzanne Paré) |
| Sat | 23 | †Ron Stevens
(Herbert Joseph)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Sun | 24 | †Rev. Fr. Paul Coury
(the Parish) |
| Mon | 25 | ----- |
| Tue | 26 | Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Wed | 27 | †John Nadeau
(Dan & Pam Casavant)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Thu | 28 | Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Fri | 29 | †Colette O'Malley
(Dan & Pam Casavant) |
| Sat | 30 | †Charles Owen
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Sun | 31 | †Paul and Charlene LaVerdiere
(Audrey Yotides) |
| Mon | 1 | ----- |
| Tue | 2 | Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Wed | 3 | Private intention
(Badiha Spencer)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Thu | 4 | Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Fri | 5 | John Scarpa
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Sat | 6 | †Charles Owen
(the Parish) |
| Sun | 7 | For the members of the Parish |

Choir Rehearsals for this Sacred Season:

Thursdays 6:00 pm.

March 21st, March 28th, April 4th, and April 11th

MARCH DEVOTIONS

The Sanctuary Lamp (representing all the parish before Our Hidden Lord) will burn for the month of March *in memory of George Deeb*. Donated in his name by Dame Marie Fefa, DSG

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

Sharing of the Green Winners!

Rita Hikel, \$25; Lila Hallowell, \$50; Lori Furrow, \$75; Rita Karter, \$25; Dame Fefa, \$50; Rosanna Joseph, \$25; Dale Sturtevant, \$75; Richard Karter, \$100; Mark Nale, \$25; and Hebert Karter, \$50.

Congratulations to all the winners, and thanks to all who contributed to this springtime fundraiser.

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.

BENEDICTION OF THE CROSS

preceded by Stations,
will take place on Fridays of Lent at 6:30 pm.

The Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman p 207

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *eeto* 111

Glory: SB *al majdu*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *bo'outho* 112 (*learn*)

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *ikbal*

ANAPHORA:

Saint Peter, Chief of the Apostles: LB p 774

Sign of Peace: SB *Gift of Peace*

Communion: SB *O Bread of Life; Eagles' Wings*

Recessional: SB *Wahabeebee*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book

A.) **Ash Monday and Great and Holy Friday of the Crucifixion** are obligatory days of *Days of Fast and Abstinence* for all 18-60. All from age 14 onward are obliged to follow the abstinence from all meat products on these fast days even if they are strictly not obliged to fast. On all other weekdays, Monday-Friday, one is encouraged to observe the ancient traditions and fasts.

B.) **All Fridays of Lent** are required days of abstinence from all meat products.

QUANTITY: In our tradition, the fast means no food whatsoever between midnight and noon, only water and medication are permitted. Following noon, only one meal proper within the next twelve hours, although a second "collation" during that time is permitted to sustain strength (this is the equivalent of about two/three ounces of food).

QUALITY: Also, in our eastern tradition, the days of fast are in practice **vegan**, that is, no animal products, no meat, no seafood, no meat products, no dairy, no eggs, nor dairy products are to be eaten.