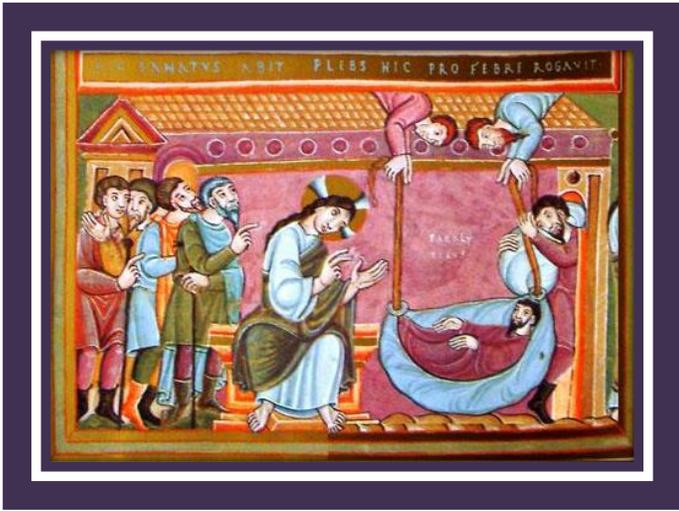


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Healing of the Paralytic

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

March 22, 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
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." *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:** Lenore Boles, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*

THIS DAY'S GOSPEL¹ St. Mark 2: 1-12

Jesus entered Capernaum again after a few days. When they heard that He was in the house, so many gathered that it could not hold them, not even in front of the door. And He was speaking the word to them.

They came to Him and brought to Him a paralytic, carried between four of them. Since they could not get near Him due to the crowd, they went up to the roof, removed the covering over the place where Jesus was, and

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

lowered the cot on which the paralytic was lying.

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven you." Some of the scribes and Pharisees were sitting there, thinking within their heart, "Why is this man speaking blasphemy? Who can forgive sins, except God alone?"

Now Jesus knew in His spirit that they were thinking these things within themselves and He said to them, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your cot, and walk'?"

"But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," he said then to the paralytic,

"I say to you, get up, take up your cot, and go to your house."

He arose immediately, took up his cot, and went out in full view of them all, so that they all marveled and praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"



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

What does it mean to trust and still walk in darkness? How are we supposed to pray?

All things originate in Divine Wisdom and are ordered accordingly by hidden eternal Charity. We may not see this wisdom and love within our lives, but this is due to our limited vision and understanding.

When we pray, we do not pray for "stuff" – or at least we are not meant to be using the Holy One as some type of vending machine. This *should be* evident to any believer, but it is not always the case. When we pray, we may ask for things, but that is the lowest goal of prayer: petition. More importantly, rather than "stuff", prayer is meant to be a source of wisdom. We pray for light to see as God sees and to understand what it is that Divine Wisdom is producing in our lives and in the circumstances of our generation. One can see that prayer is not meant to be just another form of manipulation of people and things around us, but a penetration into the Divine Light, in Whose contact we seek enlightenment to our spirit and mind so as "to see".

For this reason, the last Sunday of the Great Lent is the "Healing of the Blind Man". True sight is the end result from constant fidelity to divine healing. We are likely that blind person, as no matter how faithful we may be at any given moment there is always progress to be made and more "to see" in divine wisdom. This process of sight and wisdom ends only at death. Divine Light alone can grant us the wisdom to see His Providence, and that wisdom alone brings us the patience to walk "in darkness". Trusting, we see; and in patience we traverse safely the darkness.

Fear results in the presence of a great "evil": a difficulty, hurt, disappointment, or loss. When that evil is unknown, or hidden to our sight, fear increases proportionately. Fear paralyzes, as we all know. Fear also clouds the mind and confuses decisions. This is why there is such turmoil, and even hysteria, surrounding our present health scare. It indicates how deeply our world does not believe, does not trust, does not pray, does not enter the light of wisdom, and how blindly it wanders in that darkness. Little wonder it is presently terrified and paralyzed in fear.

This is all sad, profoundly sad.

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

The Living One guides everything in its place and directs the universe toward its proper purpose and goal. Each thing is directed according to its nature and in view of its final end. We are in that course of wisdom, and each of our lives has purpose, value, and worth. The mystery of life is to discover that purpose and worth, but only in the divine light can we see them. *Wisdom reaches from one end to another mightily: and sweetly does she order all things.*³

Ultimately, as God is the origin of all things and their Final End, all is good and each thing is meant to be a manifestation of wisdom and goodness.⁴ This is mysterious, no doubt, but true all the same. *All things work for good to those who love God.*⁵ This is not a simplistic phrase of silly optimism, but is the apostolic word from one who had entered the light and wisdom of Divinity, and that entrance into divinity had caused him great sufferings and trials in his life.

So for us, there may be bumps, or even full-blown catastrophes, in our lives, or in the larger context of human history in which we find ourselves, but in the end – *for those who have eyes to see* – the whole thing and its details are moving inexorably toward eternal Good.

It is impossible for us to see our origins, or how our lives will continue to unfold, but our ignorance is not definitive. It can be overcome, here and now, starting today. We must pray for wisdom and vision, not “stuff”. We must leave darkness behind; we must refuse to let it dominate our lives. We must overcome fear and dwell in peace.

Peace does not mean “ease”, but is the serenity that springs from order and harmony; and order and harmony can exist even in the most difficult of situations. On Calvary, Our Lord and Savior never for a moment lost the Beatific Vision. He suffered betrayal, torture, and death, true, but He never lost peace or wisdom. In patience, He endured all for our healing, and that healing in grace is the source of order and harmony. As His disciples, He proposes to us the same path, dark though it may be at times.⁶

³ Wisdom 8: 1

⁴ “All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.” From the medieval writings of Julian of Norwich.

⁵ Romans 8: 28

⁶ St. John 13: 15-17 While explicitly referring to the Last Supper, Our Lord intends that we follow Him everywhere.

We have to enter light, because we seek wisdom, but the light of God burns in brilliant fire.⁷ The Divine Light will blind on occasion, but it is in this Light that we necessarily become victorious. Because we trust and stand in awe⁸ before the Supreme Good and seek to understand that It is the source, foundation, and end-goal of everything that was, is, and shall be -- everything that happens to us and around us in this valley of tears – we can exercise patience, and we have no fear. We may hurt, but we are never paralyzed.

If God is with us, who can be against us?⁹

*But see, the eyes of the LORD
are upon those who fear him;
upon those who hope in his kindness,
to deliver them from death
and preserve them in spite of famine.
Our soul waits for the LORD,
who is our help and our shield,
for in him our hearts rejoice;
in his holy Name we trust.
May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us
who have put our hope in you.*¹⁰

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC

March 22, 2020

I Tim 5: 24-6: 5 St. Mark 2: 1-12

THE HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN

March 29, 2020

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

⁷ Hebrews 12: 29

⁸ The “fear” of God.

⁹ Romans 8: 31

¹⁰ **Psalm 33** from *Safro* of the Week of the Prodigal Son

VOCATION ICON

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

| | | | |
|-----|-------|----|---------------------------|
| Sat | Mar | 21 | Jim & Lenore Boles |
| 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 |

*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

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

| | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Sat | 21 | †Edwin Laabs, Sr <i>(Ed Laabs and Family)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Sun | 22 | †Edwin Laabs, Sr <i>(Ed Laabs and Family)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Mon | 23 | ----- |
| Tue | 24 | †Edwin Laabs, Sr <i>(Ed Laabs and Family)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Wed | 25 | †Edwin Laabs, Sr <i>(Ed Laabs and Family)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |

| | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Thu | 26 | †Edwin Laabs, Sr <i>(Ed Laabs and Family)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Fri | 27 | †Edwin Laabs, Sr <i>(Ed Laabs and Family)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Sat | 28 | †Edwin Laabs, Sr <i>(Ed Laabs and Family)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Sun | 29 | †Edwin Laabs, Sr <i>(Ed Laabs and Family)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Mon | 30 | ----- |
| Tue | 31 | †Edwin Laabs, Sr <i>(Ed Laabs and Family)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Wed | 1 | †Tom and Ida George <i>(James and Nancy Nichols)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Thu | 2 | †Hoda Nasr <i>(Carla Caron)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Fri | 3 | Private Intention <i>(Abouna James)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Sat | 4 | †Charles Owen <i>(the Parish)</i> -- 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 <i>(Pam & Dan Casavant)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Thu | 9 | †Deceased of the Deeb and Sumayah Ferris Families <i>(Allison Crate)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Fri | 10 | Private Intention <i>(Abouna James)</i> -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection: \$1,406.00

(Deficit 2020: \$13,938.00)

Please remember that 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.

The most recent "big bill" is for repairs to the **elevator**.¹¹ Testing and maintenance remaining 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 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 obliged to follow the abstinence from all meat, meat products, and dairy products on these 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 should be exempted from fasting and abstinence, especially those who are taking medications associated with chronic illnesses.*

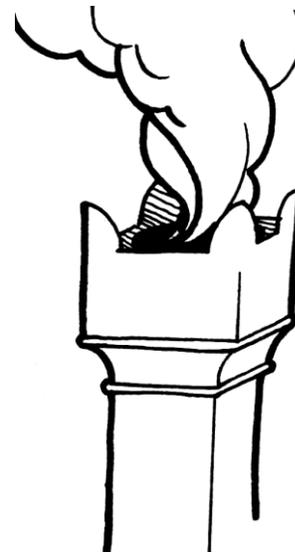
F.) *Saturdays and Sunday, although abstaining in the quality of foods, are not, in the eastern tradition, days of fasting.*

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.*



¹¹ Remember, just over a year ago maintenance cost us \$2,000.00.

Stations and Benediction of the Life-giving Cross

Will need to be cancelled
for the remaining Fridays of Great Lent

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

The Healing of the Paralytic p 237

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *shareero* 120

Glory: SB *irhamni*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *bo'outho* 121B

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

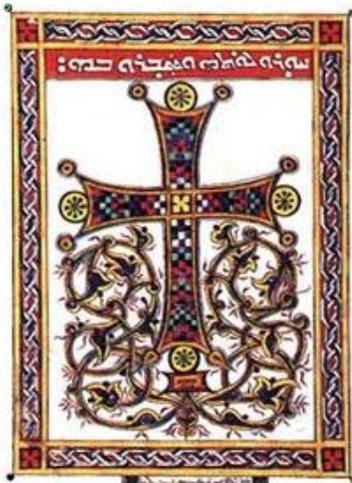
Saint Peter, Chief of the Apostles: LB p 774

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

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

Recessional: SB *The Lord is with us*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book



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.

*May their memory be eternal
in the fullness of the Kingdom*



Annunciation to the every-virgin Mary

March 25th