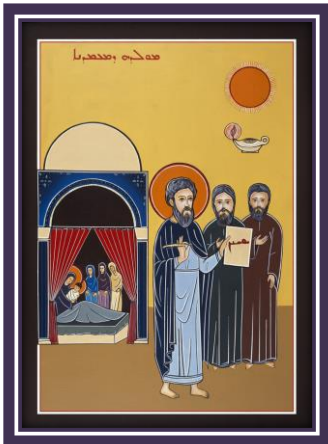


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The NATIVITY of JOHN, THE FORERUNNER



December 9, 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." 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 **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 Galatians 4: 21 – 5: 1

Tell me, you who want to be under the Law, do you not listen to the Law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the freeborn woman. The son of the slave woman was born *naturally*, the son of the freeborn through a *promise*.

Now this is an allegory. These women represent two covenants. One was from Mount Sinai, bearing children unto slavery; this is Hagar. Hagar represents Sinai, a mountain in Arabia; it corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in bondage along with her children. But the Jerusalem above is freeborn, and she is our mother. For it is written:

*Rejoice, you barren one who bore
no children;
Break forth and shout,
you who were not in labor;
For more numerous are the children of
the desolate woman
than of her who has a husband.¹*

Now you, brethren, like Isaac, are children of the Promise. But just as then the child of the flesh persecuted the child of the spirit, so it is the same now.

But what does the Scripture say?

*Drive out the slave woman
and her son!
For the son of the slave woman
shall not share the inheritance
with the son²*

of the freeborn.

Therefore, brethren, we are children not of the slave woman but of the freeborn woman.

So as to be free the Messiah has set us free.

Stand firm, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.



ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

This "newness of life"³ is to be first of all an adhesion to the antecedent love of God and of Christ, a response of charity which is translated through the offering of all of oneself,⁴ hence an offering of gratitude which constitutes a most spiritual worship.

Out of love, the Christian consecrates himself to God and delivers himself to His service.⁵

Love for love requires personal engagement. This is the meaning of "devotion". It does not refer to religion or sentiment at all; its meaning is from "de voto" in Latin: "from out of the will". Devotion is therefore the greatest expression of love as it is action that is willed in regard to the beloved.

In love this devotion is reciprocal, it must be received and returned between the friends who love one another. This is why when we speak of religion it is said that love culminates in immolation and sacrifice. Neither of these words means anything like "death" or "blood" as they are conjured in the imaginations of many when they hear them, but they refer to offering and gift to another. Immolation refers to the preparation of an offering by the sprinkling of incense on it, and sacrifice means quite literally "to render sacred". No blood, no pain, no suffering is there in making something sacred - except insofar as these things become an expression of a loving will devoted to its beloved - but the Good One has expressed and given His love to us by such means. Devotion is the perfect response to the Good One: love for love and personal engagement.

Thus it is that the lover "immolates" himself each day for his beloved. When this is translated into religion it means that while the eternal Compassionate One has expressed His charity from all eternity - through creation and redemption - and then in time through the incarnation of the Divine Word, we, the recipients of this love, must turn toward this transcendent love and respond accordingly. In this way we become more and more like the Beloved, assimilated to the Mystery of charity that is perfectly expressed in the Messiah and achieved in His death and resurrection. From devotion in love we pass to assimilation, glory and the celestial life.

On this level of charitable friendship there are no distinctions of race, wealth, profession, age, or gender. One may be poor in riches, but everyone can love. Indeed, much of the despair of the modern world comes from the forgetfulness of this truth. Poverty is not a barrier to love, but riches often distractingly are so.

¹ Isaiah 54: 1

² Genesis 21: 10

³ Romans 4: 4

⁴ Romans 6: 3; 12: 1-2

⁵ From **Charity and Liberty** by Rev. Fr. Ceslaus Spicq, OP

All the recipients of God's redeeming love, all those destined to be the children of God, are to hear and respond to only one rule: "abide in charity".⁶ Transformed by grace, devoted love reciprocated gratefully to the Loving One of all consolation constitutes a most spiritual "reasonable" worship. This worship brings us into union with God in grace, which by its presence garbs the lover in a new quality: a singular holiness.

From this love we move with certainty into His service.



SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE NATIVITY OF JOHN THE FORERUNNER

December 9, 2018

Gal 4: 21 -- 5: 1 St. Luke 1: 57-66

THE REVELATION TO JOSEPH

December 16, 2018

Eph 3: 1-3 St. Matthew 1: 18-25

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Dec	9	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Dec	15	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Dec	23	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	Dec	30	Larry and Paula Mitchell
Sun	Jan	6	Lowell & Mary Hawes

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Regular Collection: \$1310.00

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

INTENTIONS FOR THE QURBONEH (MASSES)

Sat	8	10:00	†Charlene LaVerdiere (Stephen Maroon)
		4:00	†Fr. Paul Coury (the Parish)
Sun	9	For the members of the Parish	
Mon	10	-----	
Tue	11	Catholic Extension Society & Donors (the Donors)	
Wed	12	Catholic Extension Society & Donors (the Donors)	
Thu	13	†John Christensen (Dan & Pam Casavant) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors	
Fri	14	†Pam Smiley (Dan & Pam Casavant) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors	
Sat	15	†Agie Nemer (Gladys Avcollie & Badiha Spencer)	
Sun	16	For the members of the Parish	
Mon	17	-----	
Tue	18	Catholic Extension Society & Donors (the Donors)	
Wed	19	Catholic Extension Society & Donors (the Donors)	
Thu	20	†John Mitchell (Dan & Pam Casavant) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors	
Fri	21	†Pam Smiley (Dan & Pam Casavant) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors	
Sat	22	†Paul Coury (the Parish)	
Sun	23	For the members of the Parish	
Mon	24	----- 6:00 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)	

⁶ St. John 15: 9-10; I St. John 4: 16

Coffee Schedule

Dec 9	Pam Casavant, Lenore Boles
Dec 16	Betty Michaud, Jane Lee
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

The Nativity of John, the Forerunner

p 48

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *msheeho* 62A

Glory: SB *al majdu*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *hasoyo* 63

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*
Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *ikbal*

ANAPHORA:

Saint John, the Evangelist: LB p 815

Sign of Peace: SB *tooba*

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

Recessional: SB *Immaculate Mary*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book

DECEMBER 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.

*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.

Christmas Choir Rehearsals:

Wednesdays, December 12 & 19

at 6:00 p.m. - thanks, *Dane Fefa*

CATECHISM

Following the Sunday Mass there will be classes for the youngsters *one half hour each week following the Divine Qoorbonoh.*

The adult conferences will resume in March.