

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



New Sunday

April 28, 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
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"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 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 & K-1st*; Shana Page, 3-5th **Choir Director:** Dame Fefa Marie Deeb, DSG **Parish Council President:** Lisa Gard **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 5: 11-21

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others, but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope we are also well known to your consciences.

We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast of us, so that you may have something to say to those who boast in outward appearance rather than of the heart. For if we are out of our minds, it for God. If we are in our right mind, it is for you.

For the love of Christ impels us, because we are convinced that One died for all; therefore, all have died.

He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised.

Consequently, from now on we regard no one according to the flesh; even if we once knew Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him so no longer.

So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away. Behold, everything has been made new!

And all this is from God, Who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

So we are ambassadors for Christ, God as it were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

For our sake He made Him to be sin Who did not know sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.



ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

Every being is *true* in the measure that it reproduces the idea which God has of it, and *false* when it contradicts or turns away from this divine idea.

A man is *true* when he entirely corresponds, as he should, to the mind and will of God.¹

Each us of, from all eternity, has an intended and unique destiny set for us by the love of God. This is the reason for our existence and the purpose of our life. *Salvation* in this world is the healing and elevation that is needed for us to arrive at that living goal. *Judgment* at death is the measurement of whether we have attained this image and corresponded to the full image within God. We note straight away that "heaven" is not a response to whatever it is that we might have done in our lives, but the response to *arriving at what we are meant to become*.

At the beginning of the Great Lent, it was stated that we were to consider and come to know the purpose of life and meaning of creation. This is a weighty proposition to be sure, but it sets out the fundamental truth of existence: things are "true" when they realize fully what they are meant to be, and what they are meant to be can only be known in the Mind of the Creator. Everything that falls short of this correspondence is "false", and, on the moral level, a "failure", a "mistake", and a "sin".

Even when this misstep is not a gravely serious one it still displaces us from where we were intended to be by the Creator of All. Each conscious choice has consequences and each sin moves us farther away from the path God had intended for each of us. This is how we all "fall short of the glory of God".² Everything that is sin or is motivated by self-centeredness makes us less than the people Eternal Love has intended us to be. In this way, we falsify ourselves and cut-short our true fulfillment both now and here after. As "Heaven" is a goal to be attained beyond death (and not something that just happens to us) so too is the full measure of our personhood and true happiness even in life.

For us to be "true", then, is to achieve correspondence with the idea held in the Divine Mind of the infinite One Who is charity. He creates in love, from love, and for love, so that eternal idea is thus our "goal" in life to complete. Conforming to the Divine Mind we are not only made "true", the pursuit of perfection necessarily moves us away from sin in our lives and away from all that makes us "false". In this we accomplish our purpose and fulfill the love of God as reaffirmed in the Hoosoyoh on the Thursdays of the Resurrection: our life in this world is merely a passage in wisdom toward the fullness of truth, where we become "true" in divine charity.

When we understand this, it becomes clear why Saint Paul calls the work of Our Lord one of "reconciliation", and why he implores all to discover this conformity in Christ. "Reconciliation" is to bring all creatures back to the measure of their original purpose as set out from all eternity within Infinite Charity. This reconciliation is the "new creation" of the Resurrection, where the glorified existence of Our Lord initiates the onslaught against death, sin and the devil.

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

² Romans 3: 23

Divine Life blazes out from the Tomb creating anew, and the Living Cross acts as a life-giving beacon during these “last days” of human history. By the grace of faith and our baptism, we have been placed onto the living path and we have been spliced into this surge of Divine Life as it rises against all that stands as obstacle to the Divine Plan.

Crashing up against the constant petty measure and falsity of “the flesh” and “selfishness” - both in our own lives and in the world around us - the “new creation” surges onward to the Last Day. Within it, we are guaranteed victory insofar as we stay united with the Victorious One. He has told us through His apostles that the “gates of hell shall not prevail” against His work and the reconciliation it brings. This means that in the end the *defensive* weapons (the “gates”) of the city of death, of the devil, and of sin will never be able to definitively withstand His *offensive* weapons of grace and the Life-giving Mysteries. His ultimate Triumph is assured. In the meantime, He reigns glorious at the Right Hand of the Hidden Father and directs the course of history.

By maturing in the *faith*, through deepening the life of personal *prayer*, as a result of a more profound participation in Church and the *Divine Mysteries*, and by developing the *spirit of discernment* are we able to learn who it is that God wishes us to be according to His Creative Heart. This is the life-giving path of reconciliation to the Almighty.

May wisdom and grace bring us ever more into this ministry of “reconciliation” as we each strive to become “true” - and then ever “truer” - corresponding to the eternal image which God holds out to each one of us as our “true self” and our true purpose of life. By *grace* we turn from sin and selfishness during the life-long process of conversion; and in *wisdom* and *hope* we know ourselves to be truly on the side of final victory as we strive toward the Day of the Lord.

VOCATION ICON

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

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|-----|--------|------------------------|
| Sat | Apr 27 | Jim & Lenore Boles |
| Sun | May 5 | Chris & Diane Wyder |
| Sun | May 12 | Bruce & Doreen White |
| Sun | May 19 | Steve and Alison Crate |
| Sun | May 26 | Lowell & Mary Hawes |
| Sun | June 2 | Larry & Lisa Gard |

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

NEW SUNDAY
 April 28, 2019
II Cor 5: 11-21 St. John 20: 26-31

OUR LADY OF LEBANON
 May 5, 2019
II Tim 2: 8-13 St. Luke 24: 13-35

Msheeho gom men qabro!

May the Unclouded Bright One reward you all for your generosity at the occasion His Son’s Resurrection for all the gifts and kindness shown to the pastor, along with the gifts and financial donations that have come into the parish for our ongoing maintenance costs and expenses in the Lenten Assessment.

Thank you!

Catechesis

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

APRIL 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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Regular Collection: \$1545.00

Please remember that our *Lenten Assessment* is **\$4000.00**. Lent being finished, this assessment will be sent to the eparchy in the next two weeks, so we still need to meet our goal (\$2005 has been contributed thus far)

Plumbing Work done on the *Rectory Water Main: \$937.84*, this has been generously covered by **Richard Karter**. May the Good One bless him with the fullness of grace for this generosity.

The **Holy Land Collection** for our brothers and sisters in the Middle East: **\$321.00**

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

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.

INTENTIONS FOR THE QURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 27 †Charles Owen
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 28 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 29 -----
- Tue 30 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 1 †George Deeb
(Dame Fefa)
- Thu 2 Catholic Extension Society & Donors

- Fri 3 Private intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 4 †Gerald Fortin
(Sheila Bonenfant)
- Sun 5 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 6 -----
- Tue 7 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 8 †Marietta & John Thomas
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- Thu 9 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 10 Private intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 11 Vivian Gibbons
- Sun 12 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 13 -----
- Tue 14 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 15 †Marietta & John Thomas
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- Thu 16 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 17 Private intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

May Devotions

The month's Altar Breads will be provided toward the Divine Qourban for the month of May *in memory of Sam & Lottie Deeb*. Donated in their names by Dame Marie Fefa, DSG

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

New Sunday

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *msheeho* 166A

Glory: SB *al majdu*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *ngeedo* 167

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns* (special)

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *too ba*

ANAPHORA:

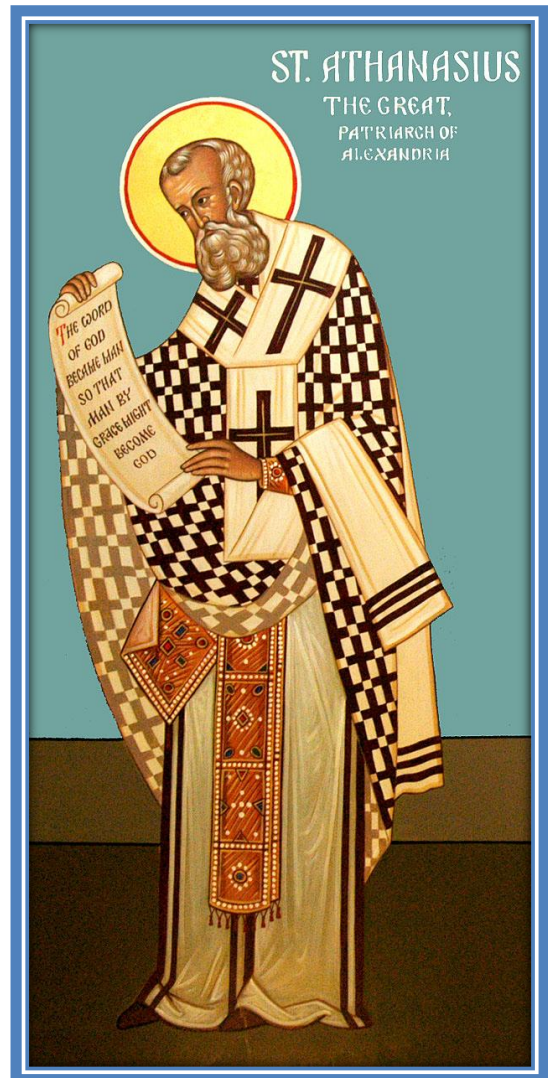
Saint John Chrysostom: LB p 876

Sign of Peace: SB *You have united*

Communion: SB *Your Body is our Food; Let the holy anthem rise*

Recessional: SB *Christ is Risen*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book



*Saint Athanasius the Great
Father and Doctor of the Church
Thursday, May 2nd*