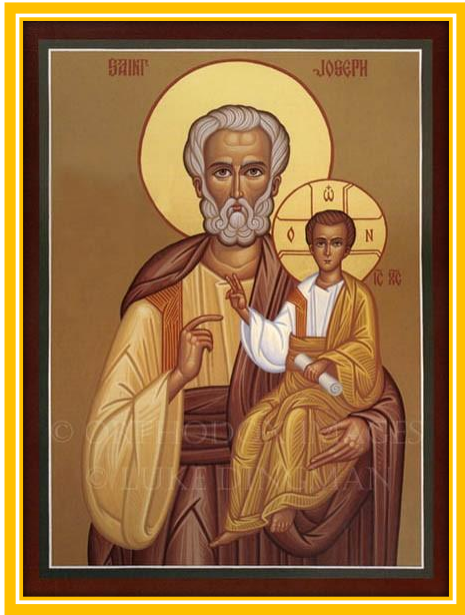


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Revelation to Saint Joseph

December 12, 2021

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

- Qourboneh:** Sunday: (Vigil, Sat. 4:30pm) Sunday Morning 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.; Tues. – Fr. 9:00 a.m.; Sat. 10:00a.m.
Sick Calls: To receive the Divine Eucharist and/or the Sacred Anointing, please call the rectory.
Confessions: One half-hour before the Sunday 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 stipend: \$15
Monthly Memorials: Sanctuary Candles \$35; Altar Bread \$30; Sacramental Wine \$55
Catechism: Steve Crate, *Director* **Choir Director:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG **Pastoral Council Chair:** Suzanne Paré
Pastoral Council Members: Suzanne Paré, *Chair*; Gayle Misner-Elias, *Secretary*; Steve Crate, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*; Matthew Stone, *Finance Committee*

THIS DAY'S GOSPEL¹

St. Matthew 1: 18-25

And the birth of Jesus the Messiah was thus. While His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they had cohabited, she was found to be with Child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband was a *righteous* man, and unwilling to expose her:

and he thought of putting her away privately. And while he contemplated these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said to him:

Joseph, Son of David, fear not to receive Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her, is from the Holy Spirit: and she will bear a son; and thou shalt call His Name *Yeshu'*, for He will *resuscitate* His people from their sins.

¹ Based on The New Testament, translated from the Syriac Peshitto Version, Gorgias Press, New Jersey, 2001, translated by James Murdock, STD, 1893

Now all this that occurred was to fulfill what was spoken of the Lord by the prophet: Behold, a virgin will conceive, and will bear a son, and *thou* shalt call his name Emmanuel, which is interpreted, *Our God with us*. And when Joseph rose from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took his wife. And he knew her not until she had borne her Firstborn Son, and (he) called His Name *Yeshu'*.



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

The second half of the 19th century saw great waves of immigrants coming into the United States, and to many of the staunchly Protestant population it was horrifying. To see such an influx of the Catholic "unwashed masses" (their interpretation) from Ireland, Italy, Quebec, and then, later, from Eastern Europe was overwhelming, so it became their project to establish schools at public expense in order to make these new immigrants into respectable WASPS.

Originating in the northeastern US, when the secular school system started up in the 19th century it presented a moral problem for Catholic families across the country. By the natural law, and teaching of the Apostolic Faith, it is the parents who are the primary educators of their children, not government officials; and while this does not

mean that they must teach and instruct their children in all fields, it does mean that they have the grave moral responsibility to oversee the formation and instruction of their children. Education must place God front and center just as He is the Origin of all things and the Final End of all existence.

As western society became more and more confused on these matters, **Pope Pius XI** promulgated his encyclical on the Christian Education of Youth, *Divini illius Magistri*, on December 31, 1929, from which we might read:

In fact, since education consists essentially in preparing man for what he must be and for what he must do here below, in order to attain the sublime end for which he was created, it is clear that there can be no true education which is not wholly directed to man's last end, and that in the present order of Providence, since God has revealed Himself to us in the Person of His Only Begotten Son, Who alone is "the way, the truth, and the life", there can be no ideally perfect education which is not Christian education.

Putting Catholic children into the hands of non-Catholics, or worse, agnostics, for their education and formation was not then, and is not now, an option. There was therefore conflict, sometimes dramatic, between secular authorities and Catholic parents for the better part of a century over this issue. The strife continues to this day, albeit in a greatly diminished manner now that the secular mindset has simply swamped so many (most?) Catholics.

The Catholic Educational System - from elementary schools up through Colleges and Universities - was founded and developed thus in response to the government's pressure to monopolize the education of the little ones. This usurpation of parental responsibility was, and is, rightly intolerable to Catholic families. The family's primary obligation is to pass on the Catholic Faith, Christian identity, the practice of the virtues, and the faithful observance of the faith. All else is secondary.

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

The national parochial school system was a glorious achievement. It has been a fundamental contribution to the magnificence of the Church of Christ, and all the more so being the result of the selfless sacrifices of what was at the time a mostly immigrant and impoverished Catholic population. Their poverty made that achievement all the more admirable. The Catholic faith gave strength to their efforts, and clarity of thought focused their priorities so that even the poor of this earth accomplished great things for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Joining consecrated members of Christ as “one flesh”, chrismated and “crowned” they are to transmit the apostolic faith to the next generation. It is for this reason that the Lord God elevated the state of wedlock to a Divine Mystery. Marriage is not primarily about the individual man and woman, it is, rather, turned intrinsically toward the future. The fundamental purpose of *Holy Crowning* is to establish a Catholic household. Children and their education are the primary gift, responsibility, and fruit of sacred matrimony. From out of this consecrated union, “education” arises.

Our immigrant ancestors left us a brilliant example of *magnanimity* by their accomplishment, but this makes the weakening, dismantling, and disappearance of the Catholic school system at every level all the more tragic today.

The Problem of the Newman Club

September 1949

by Carol Robinson

Continuation of last week's
Integrity article

Part II

Times Have Changed

When the Newman Club was founded around the turn of the century,³ secular education, though rationalistic and uncatholic, was not yet oriented against the natural law, against morality, and against God. It had some virtues and a Catholic could, by supplementing it with Catholic learning, come out fairly well-educated while remaining a good, even if not a spectacular, Catholic. Any present-day treatment of the Newman Club must take into account the tremendous recent worsening of the schools. The very principles of reason are being superseded by a systematized atheism. In the face of this it is impossible for even the Newman Club to play a supplementary or defensive role. It will have to join the intellectual battle and that means that its students (and teachers), or at least some of them, will have to be given sharp and sound and profound instruction, not only in doctrine but in theology integrated with psychology, science, history and the rest of the subjects.

Everyone Goes to College

Everyone goes to college today who has the time or money and the greater percentage are not real students. The general policy of the Newman Clubs has been to cater to the soft-headed majority of fun-loving collegians. It is true that it cannot neglect these, since they are in the majority and are likewise in spiritual need. Yet the intellectual is the rightful inhabitant of the campus and in the long run the person most likely to influence educational circles and through them the masses. He should be cultivated, and he should not be expected to accommodate himself to juke boxes and dances. Any effort to reach both the student and the collegian should be spiritual and liturgical, for here is their common ground. Otherwise let there be separate and suitable activities. The collegians can have preparation-for-marriage courses while the intellectuals study Saint Thomas. In this way the best in both groups can be cultivated.

The Scarcity of Time

Lastly there is the problem of time. Students are overwhelmed with extracurricular activities of which the Newman Club is just one. To our mind the Newman Club

³ The 20th century, that is.

is usually too deferential in regard to the students' time. It should insist with the students, as does Catholic Action and the Legion of Mary in their activities, that nothing (except classes) takes precedence over the Newman Club. Christianity cannot play second fiddle to athleticism, or to other clubs or to dates. Naturally this insistence will have to be backed up with the good use of the students' time by the Newman Club. If there is not some way of cutting through the everlasting parliamentary procedural organizational red tape which characterizes Newman Club meetings, then let the club be run on different lines. Let it also simplify the planning of activities, preferably by cutting many of them out. Why, for instance, does the Newman Club have to sponsor so many dances (which, they say, the members demand) and then have to beg the students to buy tickets to said dances? The fact must be faced that the youth of today is already surfeited with pleasure, and that when the world is in the balance, even students must put away childish things. It is true that students are immature, but must the Newman Club help prolong their adolescence?

Need for Apostolic Orientation

We should like to suggest that the key to the solution of the Newman Club problem lies in apostolic orientation, somewhat in the manner of the parochial apostolic orientation suggested by Abbé Michonneau and explained in *Revolution in a City Parish*. This would involve a profound change in thinking. Instead of seeing the Newman Club as a pathetic and rather hopelessly ineffectual *defense* weapon within the confines of a huge, godless educational factory we must learn to see the Newman Club as a mustard seed of the re-Christianized education of the future, the spark on the campus which can start a spiritual conflagration. We must realize that the only defense today is an offensive.

It is not necessary to point out that the secularists and neo-atheists of American campuses influence not just by their teaching but by the tremendously powerful atmosphere which they create. This atmosphere is the product chiefly of their unconscious presuppositions. The very air they breathe out (and the Catholics breathe in) is heavy with rationalism, secularism, and a sort of triumphant sensualism. The students are the heirs to a lot of false promises, but being young and innately idealistic they identify sincerity with feeling (hence free love and other moral aberrations in respect to sex). Since their rational faculties have only been superficially trained, they readily concur in a superficial intellectual synthesis which has an immediate plausibility.

It is to this atmosphere of glorious and triumphant paganism that Catholics have to bring the message of

Christianity, see and make others see the perspective of eternity rather than the narrow confines of a few mortal years. They have to convince their fellows of the superior reality and value of the spiritual over the sensual and emotional life. They have to restore the objectivity of morals and truth.

This is not easily done, but it has to be done. Without it there is no possibility of success. The first necessity is to see that it has to be done and to realize with all due gravity that it is a whole atmosphere, reinforced by every campus activity and every class, that has to be combatted. It is almost a "mystique" one is up against, rather than a series of intellectual errors.

Faith as a Weapon

The only way to combat this mystique is with an alternate mystique. The Christian lives by faith, which is a true mysticism and his view on the world should be colored by faith. As the pagan student approaches life and learning with his unconscious materialistic bias, so the Christian student should come upon the scene with a complete basic structure of principles in the light of which he makes all his judgments. It would not be necessary to stress this were it not for the habit Catholics have of clearing their minds of what they already know with certainty, in order to approach a problem "scientifically."

Newmanites would do well to read Newman's own sermons on faith and reason in order to correct this basic error. It will change their whole approach to their academic career. If the sociology professor demonstrates the necessity of euthanasia or birth control, the students who use their faith will not denude themselves of the truth on these matters to follow the teacher's "scientific" reasoning, nor will they argue that these measures are evil in themselves and therefore cannot be used, however desirable their use might be from the point of view of social welfare.

No, instead the students will approach the question with their own *a priori* certainties. They will say to themselves: "Euthanasia and birth control are wrong, we know that with certainty (and we are not going to re-examine these questions again and again to see if they are true although we might demonstrate their truth to anyone who asks sincerely). We also know that God's laws are always in harmony with the common good (since He is the ultimate common good) and that these practices, being contrary to God's laws, are sure to make a social mess. The professor must be wrong either in his facts or his logic or his definition of the common good. Let us peacefully examine his argument to see where he is wrong and what the right developments would be."

Students who proceed in this way will get a Christian education in spite of the school and stand a much better chance of influencing their teachers and fellow students. It will gradually be perceived that they have a total view of the world, a view which explains the facts of history, science and experience in a much better way than does the materialist view. Their Catholicism will not appear as an occasional and unaccountable negation as it now appears to non-Catholics, and often to Catholics themselves.

We have stressed this basic intellectual approach (that is colored by, indeed saturated with, faith) because it is fundamental to the intellectual apostolate. It will mean a deep faith on the part of Newmanites, and we will come to the cultivation of that later, but it will mean primarily a *use* of faith, a refusal to hold faith in abeyance before the "scientism" of modern education.

To be continued.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE REVELATION TO SAINT JOSEPH

December 12, 2021

Eph 3: 1-13 St. Matthew 1: 18-25

GENEALOGY SUNDAY

December 19, 2021

Rom 1: 1-12 St. Matthew 1: 1-17

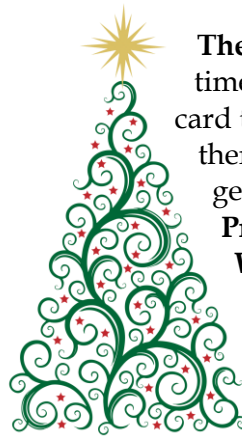
VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Dec	12	Sue Paré & Lolo Salazar
Sun	Dec	19	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Dec	26	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Jan	1	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Jan	9	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Jan	16	Michael & Gayle Misner
Sun	Jan	23	Steve & Allison Crate

⁴ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59/Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00

⁵ This makes the amount toward our matching Challenge Grant (20k), to be presently **\$15,310.00**. This lengthy collection



The Giving Tree is up for a short time, so please take note and choose a card to help those in need. This year there are two beneficiaries of your generosity: **The Family Violence Project** and the **Home for Little Wanderers**. Each gift card has a list of options/ suggestions to guide you. Please place your gifts around the tree before December 23rd. For more information, or to schedule a weekday drop-off, contact Ruth Lunn, rlunn6452@gmail.com.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$2,574.00

Immaculate Conception: \$130.00

(Budget Deficit 2021: **\$31,238.00**)⁴

An additional \$200.00 has come in this week toward the needed construction collection of \$39,000.00.⁵

Second Sunday each month is a second collection to cover our **monthly fuel-oil costs**.

Please remember to sustain the apostolic work of this parish through regular contributions.

Think about your Christmas Giving opportunities!

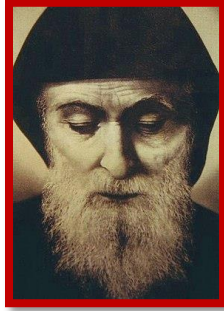
Tell your friends and family of the wonders of the Maronite tradition through her saints.

is being made to cover the needed **building maintenance projects**, estimated at \$60,000.00.

We still have available Chorbishop Eid's wonderful introduction to **Saint Sharbel**, now updated and in its fourth edition.

Chorbishop Joseph Eid was Vice-Postulator for the Beatification of Mar Sharbel, and originally he wrote this work to introduce the great hermit to an American audience.

This book is available online at the **parish website** and from the **sacristy** directly after Mass.



Brand-new beautiful hardcover edition, with dust jacket, only \$25

The Life-giving Cross

Please, take notice of our present protocols:

- 1.) All Catholics, of whichever Ritual Church, are more than welcome at Saint Joseph. We are one Family of God and one Body of Christ.
- 2.) Those who are sick, or carry symptoms of sickness, must remain at home.
- 3.) Wearing a face-mask is optional, but is **recommended** for all those indoors.
- 4.) As discussed in pastoral council meetings, in order to bring greater security and peace of mind, the **doors** will be **locked** and secured at the beginning of each Liturgy.
- 5.) Hand sanitizers remain available at the entrances and at the confessional.
- 6.) The canonical and serious obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holydays has now been restored for all the Catholics of Maine.
- 7.) And, lastly, at the end of Mass, those who wish to **remain and pray** in the church are welcome to do so, but out of **respect** for the House of God and **charity** to one's neighbor **all are asked not to linger, socialize, or visit within the church.** If one wishes to visit, please do so outside or in the parish hall.

Holyday Schedules

For the Holy Day of Obligation of the Glorious Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24th

Mass: 9:00am

Ramsho of Christmas: 3:30pm

Vigil Mass: 4:30pm

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25th

Mass: 10:00am

NB: There will be **no Sunday Vigil** Christmas afternoon.

Felicitations to the Ever-Virgin Mary

Sunday, December 26th

Sunday Masses: 9:00am & 11:00am

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sun 12 9:00am For the Members of the Parish
11:00am Suzanne McBride
(Michael Eagan)
- Mon 13 -----
- Tue 14 †John Marietta & Paul Thomas
- Wed 15 The Nicholas Family
(Mary Nicholas)
- Thu 16 †Adolf Veilleux Family
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- Fri 17 The Nicholas Family
- Sat 18 †Joan Gottardi
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)
- Sunday Vigil 4:30pm Private Intention
- Sun 19 9:00am For the Members of the Parish
11:00am †Adolf Veilleux Family
(Michael Eagan)
- Mon 20 -----
- Tue 21 †All the Faithful Departed
(Mary Nicholas)
- Wed 22 Special Intentions
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- Thu 23 Special Intentions
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- Fri 24 Michael Eagan, Jr.
(Michael Eagan)
- Vigil of the Glorious Birth of our Lord
4:30pm Private Intention
- Sat 25 For the Members of the Parish
- Sun 26 9:00am For the Members of the Parish
11:00am †Joseph & Mary Smus
(Paula, David, & Patricia)
- Mon 27 -----
- Tue 28 †Darrell Mitchell
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)
- Wed 29 Special Intentions
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- Thu 30 †Abbot William
(Abouna)

Fri 31 William Eagan
(Michael Eagan)

Vigil of the Circumcision of our Lord
4:30pm Private Intention

*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: Fr. William Bartoul, Gayle Misner-Elias, Margaret Mae Lambert, Jodie LaChance, Mary Theresa Huebner, Mary Morin, Larry Grard, Sarah Grace Misner-Elias, Catherine Mandel, Cindy Elias, David Bourque, Barbara Joseph, Madeleine Dombroski, Sally Derosby, Tala Poulin, Richard Karter, Lolo Salazar, Charlotte Iserbyte, Rita Hikel, and all those who may suffer from illness, disease, want, or depression.

The Revelation to Saint Joseph p. 57

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *Msheeho natareh* 65B

Glory: SB *glory*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *soogheeto (ramsho)* 66

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

Saint James, Brother of the Lord: p 794

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *O Lord, I am not worthy; O Come Divine Messiah*

Recessional: SB *Holy, holy, holy*

The Nativity Fast

December 15-23rd inclusively

As we were reminded by our Patriarch in his recent Lenten Letters, it is our tradition to fast in preparation for the great feasts, and all are encouraged to do so faithfully, *par.* 25:

This fast is known as "The Fast of the Nativity", during which the faithful abstain from eating meat, dairy products, and eggs, from December 16th and ends December 24th.

NB for the faithful in the USA, who celebrate Christmas Eve much as Christmas, the dates are 15th-23rd December inclusively.

We are reminded in *paragraph 21* of the same letter that "a fast" is **to go without all foods from midnight to noon**, after which we abstain from animal flesh and almost all animal products – this is most similar to a "vegan" diet as one would call it these days.

When a fast day falls on a Saturday or a Sunday (as will be the case this year on December 19-20th) one can eat as they wish throughout the day, but should still abstain from all animal flesh and animal products.

These observances are **for all who have attained the age of the use of reason**, *par.* 22.

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

December 12th:

9:00am: M. Carter/ N. Carter
11:00am: L. Michaud/ S. Nappi

December 19th:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ M. Carter
11:00am: I. Misner-Elias/ L. Michaud

December 26th:

9:00am: M. Carter/ N. Carter
11:00am: I. Misner-Elias/ S. Nappi

January 2nd:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ M. Carter
11:00am: L. Michaud/ S. Nappi

January 9th:

9:00am: M. Carter/ N. Carter
11:00am: S. Nappi/ I. Misner-Elias

January 16th:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ N. Carter
11:00am: L. Michaud/ I. Misner-Elias

! : Priest
مَلَمًا لَكُلَّجِهْ

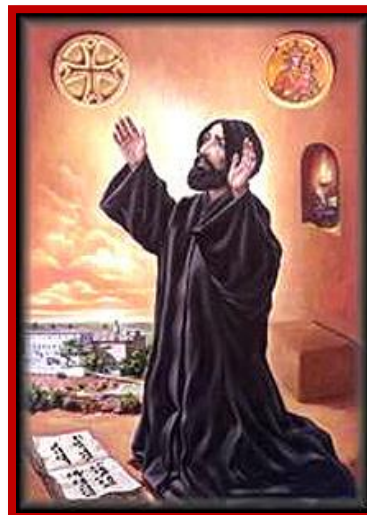
Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!

(literally: Peace [be] to all you!)

! : People
هَحْر وَهَسَا وَكُر!

W'am rouHoh deelokh!

(literally: and with spirit your!)



Saint Nemptallah
El-Hardini

December 14th