

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



REVELATION TO SAINT JOSEPH

December 16, 2018

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful
heritage of Antioch



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Waterville, ME 04901
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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.” *Orientalis 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 Gard **Ex-officio Council Members:** Subdeacon Steve Crate; Lenore Boles, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Shana Page, *Rosary Sodality*

TODAY'S EPISTLE Ephesians 3: 1-13

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for your benefit, and how the Mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words.

When you read this you will understand my insight into the Mystery of Christ.

In former generations this Mystery was not made known to mankind, as it has now been revealed to His holy Apostles and prophets by the Spirit, that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same Body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.

Of this Gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of His power.

To me, the very least of all the holy ones, this grace was given to preach to the Gentiles the inscrutable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for all what is the plan of the Mystery hidden from ages past in God, Who has created all things, so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the Church to the principalities and authorities in the heavens.

This was according to the eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in Whom we have boldness of speech and confidence of access to God through faith in Him.

I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.



ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

The Christian life in charity is not a mere moral discipline, but union with the Lord Who is Spirit,¹ according to our highest faculties.²

Our "highest faculties" are the supreme human powers of intellect and will. They are what make each of us "capax Dei": with disposition to be united with the Divine. These are the powers that properly define us as human beings, distinguishing us from all the other animals in God's creation. Although some moderns think – as a caricature – that Christianity is only there to make "good little boys and girls," union with the Hidden One is the true purpose and goal of Christianity. Without union to the Divine salvation is impossible.

What is called "heaven" is simply the definitive transformation of the human person, in grace, as

participant in the Divine Nature and sharer in the divine Mystery. Contemplation in this world is thus the achieved realization of life in the presence of the Divine Loving One. "Now this is eternal life, that they should know Thee, the only true God, and Him Whom Thou hast sent, Jesus Christ."³

Salvation begins with faith, knowledge and understanding. Although the ultimate reality of God is hidden to us – even with faith – there is much that can be grasped and known. We will never have full comprehension of the divine mysteries, but that does not stop us from knowing much. We pray that God illumine the eyes of the heart⁴ that we might continually progress in knowledge and moral awareness.⁵ Morality flows from the principles and knowledge that one possesses. Illuminated by the Gospel, we live in imitation of Christ. Informed by CNN, we live in the manner of modern mass media.

When Saint Paul writes about charity, he does so less about its objects – the lovable things – than its Source. He considers first of all the love which comes from God and from Christ, and only subsequently the good things that grace does within us. Note that this is not a speculative or purely dry grasp of some historical facts, but is fundamentally a development of *experiential* knowledge of present realities. The deepening participation in divine charity refines the faculties of discernment and spiritual perception. This is the reason prayer must hold a central place in our lives; it is the only path, other than the divine Mysteries, through which the Hidden One can draw us into His light. Healed and elevated by grace, a loving heart is both *delicate* and *lucid*.

Delicate in perception and lucid in clarity of thought, the human spirit is transformed as it progresses on the path of supernatural love. Charity "senses instinctively" whatever might be pleasing or displeasing to God.⁶ Charity appreciates and "experiences" all the riches of salvation, especially that which pertains to the love of Christ. These two things cannot be separated or dissociated. It is an illusion to think one can attain God by some natural and merely meditative technique, as this would be dissociation from the personal love expressed in revelation by grace. Vague, objectless "love" degenerates into mere sentiment and "feelings,"

¹ II Cor 3: 17

² From **Charity and Liberty** by Rev. Fr. Ceslaus Spicq, OP

³ St. John 17: 3

⁴ Ephesians 1: 8

⁵ Philippians 1: 9

⁶ Col 1: 9; Heb 5: 11-14

utterly useless without the anchor of the supreme example of the Messiah, Immanuel, "God-with-us." This is the central and supreme epiphany of the divine love among God's People.

God has spoken in time so that we might learn from His manifest example and word. Heart and mind, both are essential on the road to salvation. Philosophical consideration may be brilliant, but it does not sanctify. On its own, it is not contemplation. Altruistic behavior may be rewarding in itself, but it remains locked in *this* world without the inspiration and motivation in Christ. Mind and human heart reintegrated in the Divine Spirit, revolve habitually around the light of the Sacred Heart, and it is this that allows for a *Christified* understanding and action in human life.

Divine grace allows us to know so that we might love, and in loving we come to better understand. That deepened understanding in turn draws us further into a profounder love, and in such an expanding spiral all is meant to proceed until the Great Dawn rises before all minds and spirits on the Last Day, when all shall be made manifest before the Throne of Justice and Light.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS	
<u>THE REVELATION TO JOSEPH</u>	
December 16, 2018	
Eph 3: 1-13	St. Matthew 1: 18-25
<u>GENEALOGY SUNDAY</u>	
December 23, 2018	
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

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
Sun	Jan 13	Larry & Lisa Grard

<u>LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS</u>
Regular Collection: \$1692.00
<i>Blessed be the Merciful One Who gives us the ability to sustain this apostolate.</i>

INTENTIONS FOR THE QURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 15 †Agie Jankowski
(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 †Fr 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)
- Thu 27 †Sumayah Ferris
(Dan & Pam Casavant)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 28 †Pam Smiley
(Dan & Pam Casavant)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 29 †Agie Jankowski
(Gladys Avcollie & Badiha Spencer)
- Sun 30 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 31 -----
6:00 pm For the members of the Parish

- Tue 1 10:00 am Catholic Extension Society
(the Donors)
- Wed 2 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
(the Donors)

Coffee Schedule

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
Jan 27	Dale Sturtevant & Elizabeth Wilson

*Congratulations to all the winners
of the Cash Calendar drawings!*

And thank you to all who contributed to sustaining the future of this parish apostolate. These are the winners to date:

12/01/18	Nancy Fairfield	\$150.00
12/02/18	Jane Nutting	\$100.00
12/03/18	Michelle Hunter	\$75.00
12/04/18	Sylvia Cobb	\$50.00
12/05/18	Lisa Nadeau	\$25.00
12/06/18	Suzanne Pare	\$100.00
12/07/18	Travis Fortier	\$25.00
12/08/18	Sally Desrosby	\$50.00
12/09/18	Cindy White	\$75.00
12/10/18	Fay Richards	\$100.00

The next calendar will be in *March 2019*

Masses for the Holydays of Obligation during the Glorious Nativity

Vigil: 6:00 pm / **Christmas Day:** 10:00 am

Feast of the Holy Circumcision **Vigil:** 6:00 pm /
New Year's Day: 10:00 am

Final Christmas Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday,
December 19 at 6:00 p.m. - thanks, *Dane Fefa*

*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.

The Revelation to Saint Joseph p 57

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *msheeho* 65B

Glory: SB *glory*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *sogheeto* 66

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

Saint John, the Evangelist: LB p 815

Sign of Peace: SB *Gift of Peace*

Communion: SB *Oh Body of My Savior; For the Beauty*

Recessional: SB *O Come, o come, Emmanuel*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book