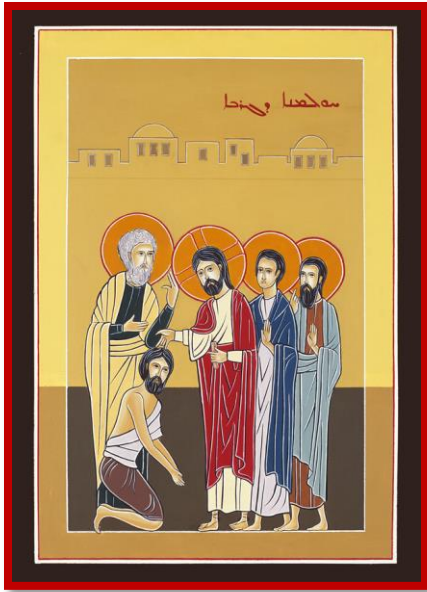


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The Cleansing of the Leper

Second Sunday of the Great Fast

February 21, 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." *Oriental Lumen*, John Paul II

- Qourboneh:** Masses: Sunday 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 stipends: weekday intentions \$10; weekend intentions \$15
Monthly Memorials: Sanctuary Candles \$30; Altar Bread \$25; Sacramental Wine \$45
Catechism: Lenore Boles, *Director* **Choir Director:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG **Parish Council President:** Ex-officio
Council Members: Lenore Boles, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*

THIS DAY'S EPISTLE¹ Romans 6: 12-23

Do not let sin therefore rule over your mortal bodies, as if you were obeying its urgings, and do not make the members of your bodies into instruments of evil for accomplishing sin; instead make yourselves ready for God, because you have risen from the dead, and have the members of your bodies become instruments for effecting the righteousness of God.

And sin has no authority over you, for you are now under grace rather than under the Law. What then? Given that we have come to be under grace rather than the Law, shall we sin? Not at all! Do you not realize that when you give up yourselves to obey a thing, whether this be sin or the sort of obedience that leads to righteousness, then you are the slaves to whatever you obey?

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

But thanks be God, that although you were once the slaves of sin, you have obeyed from the heart the standard of teaching that was entrusted to you, and that once freed, you have become slaves to righteousness.

I speak now in a human manner, because your flesh is weak:

just as you once gave up the members of your bodies to obey uncleanness and evil, so now surrender them to serve justice and holiness.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

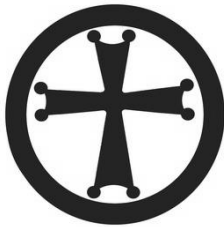
And what fruit did you produce then?

Something of which you are now ashamed?

The end of those things is death.

But now that you have been freed from sin and have become the slaves of God, the return you receive is sanctification and its end: eternal life.

For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God: eternal life in our Lord *Yeshu' Msheeho*.



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

Free-will is a mysterious thing, boggling the minds of philosophers throughout the ages. Some have become so frustrated by the mystery that they simply deny the immediate experience of mankind and say that there is no freedom. For these, life and the cosmos is nothing but matter, force, and mechanism. Human life for them is thus no different. Manifestly, things are otherwise; human freedom is both our greatest glory and our greatest

risk. It can lend itself to selfless, honorable, noble, and majestic actions, as well as originate selfish, ignoble, dishonorable, evil, and heinous ones.

The will of man is, however, a blind power. It is a faculty that follows what the mind perceives to be *good* – rightly or wrongly so – thus it is imperative that one possess *clarity of thought* and a proper formation of the intellect to see and judge with objective clarity. This is easier said than done. A perverted mind will cause an individual to choose and pursue things that are objectively bad, distorted, sinful, or wrong.

Clearly, formation and education are fundamental in this – *ex-ducere*: to “lead out from” immaturity to maturity – but they are not the whole of it. The man who is educated must also be a man of prayer. Without prayer, contact with the Creator, refuge in the Redeemer, and presence before the Origin of all things, the perfecting of the mind will be impossible. A person may “know a lot of stuff”, but that is not a complete formation of the mind – it is merely the transference and reception of data.

The properly trained and educated individual is also taught to develop the “second nature/true possession” and ability to use correctly the mind and spirit; hence the vital importance of a life of prayer. Without a prayer life one will always be stunted in formation and hobbled in her potential to live. It is the basic reason why we must spend time in developing a prayer life, and why this habit of prayer is centrally important to our advancement along the path of the Kingdom.

Prayer, along with fasting and alms, are the three classic “works” of Christianity. Taught in the Gospel and demonstrated in the lives of saints from the beginning, these are the “actions” or “fruits” of the life of grace. **Prayer, fasting, and alms** are “fruits” in such a way that they demonstrate the presence of the Holy Trinity and His action at work within a person. One who does not pray habitually, or who does not fast, or who does not operate in the realm of charity and compassion through “good works”, proves by *these* absences the absence of grace and the hand of God in his life.

² Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”

The Great Fast is the Great “Strengthening”, or perhaps more understandable, the Great “Training”. Resolutions are made here. Here we touch the Face of God by allowing His grace and action to bear fruit within our lives, but for this to occur we must see what must be done, and in order to see what must be done, we must pray. Prayer opens the spirit, elevates the mind, purifies the body, and strengthens the will. Opened, elevated, purified, and strengthened we can then move along freely – liberated, quite literally – toward the fullness of Light that is the Divine Presence.

We are meant to “read” the works of God in both His “Book of Nature” – all creation and concrete events – and in His grace-giving and salvific “Book of Revelation”; we do this by acuity of mind (properly educated, and trained in catechesis) and through contemplation in prayer. Both these, nature and grace, are needed in full expression to truly walk in the ways of the Lord.

Thus it is that Great Lent is time when we reflect on how we pray and on our knowledge of the Catholic and Apostolic Faith. We should add to our prayer during Lent, augment it even if only slightly. The Church, for example, adds daily recitation of the classic psalm of penitence, **Psalm 50 (51)**, to her daily Office.

Prayer life especially needs **regularity** – writing out **a schedule** in the beginning of training, if need be – and skilled in good habit for it to flourish. Pious daydreaming and holy rumination result in very little, except for maybe the deception that one is “praying”. Form, structure, regularity, and perseverance are all needed to pray as our Lord taught us.

Let us use the “tith of time” that is the Lenten season to enter into its beauty, structure, and delight with readiness and desire.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE CLEANSING OF THE LEPER

February 21, 2021

Rom 6: 12-23 St. Mark 1: 35-43

THE HEALING OF THE HEMORRHAGING WOMAN

February 28, 2021

II Cor 7: 4-11 St. Luke 8: 40-56



The Sanctuary Lamp burns in February *in memory of Patricia Thomas* at the request of Barbara Poulin.

May her memory be eternal!



VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Feb	21	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Feb	28	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Mar	6	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Mar	14	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Mar	21	Michael & Gayle Misner
Sun	Mar	28	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	April	4	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	April	11	Sue Paré & Lolo Salazar

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$2,698.00

(Budget Deficit 2021: \$4,291.00)³

Upcoming Special Collections combined together and done twice for the Bishop’s Appeal⁴ and for the replacement of our ancient furnace:

February 28th and March 28th

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

³ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59/Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00

⁴ Assessed at \$4,000.00; the furnace replacement will cost around \$50,000.00

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

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 21 9:00 For the Members of the Parish
11:00 Private Intention

Mon 22 -----

Tue 23 David Nicholas
(Mary Nicholas)

Wed 24 Philip Nicholas

Thu 25 Orozovich Family thanksgiving
(Mary Nicholas)

Fri 26 Benjamin Misner-Elias
(Misner Family)

Sat 27 Fortieth Day of Joan Gottardi
(Steve & Allison Crate)

Sun 28 9:00 For the Members of the Parish
11:00 Private Intention

Mon 1 -----

Tue 2 †Preston Smith
(Mary Nicholas)

Wed 3 All the Faithful Departed
(Mary Nicholas)

Thu 4 Nicholas Family

Fri 5 Michael Misner-Elias
(Misner Family)

Sat 6 †Rosanna Joseph
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Sun 7 9:00 For the Members of the Parish
11:00 Private Intention

Mon 8 -----

Tue 9 Steven Braunstein
(Simon Misner)

Wed 10 †Patricia Thomas
(Dan & Pam Casavant)

Thu 11 †Rosanna Joseph
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Fri 12 †Rachel Salazar
(Peter & Kim Parê)

The Life-giving Cross

Please, take notice of our present protocols:

- 1.) All Catholics, of whatever Ritual Church, are more than welcome at Saint Joseph. We are all one Body of Christ.
- 2.) During this pandemic, there is no obligation to assist at the Divine Sacrifice.
- 3.) Those who are sick, or carry symptoms of sickness, must remain at home.
- 4.) All are recommended to give contact information (a list is provided at the door) in order to inform you if need arise from a case of the virus.
- 5.) All vulnerable, elderly, and at-risk individuals should remain at home and follow the Liturgies as posted on the parish's website.
- 6.) The **Vigil** Masses are suspended until further notice.
- 7.) All who are retired, or who may have a freer weekday schedule, are asked to consider assisting at Mass during the weekdays, **Tues-Fri, 9:00am**; and on **Saturday at 10:00am**.
- 8.) **Everyone is asked to wear a face-mask.**
- 9.) Hand sanitizers are available at the entrances and at the confessional.
- 10.) Seating at church must be "*first-come-first-served*" and will be closed at "50".
- 11.) Everyone must sit in such a way that there is *no one immediately in front* of them and *no one immediately behind* them. The pews have been blocked off for this purpose.
- 12.) To control crowd flow and bring greater security, **doors** will be **locked** at the beginning of each Liturgy.
- 13.) A *six-foot distancing* is to be observed by those who approach the Divine Altar and wish to receive the Divine Eucharist in **Holy Communion**.
- 14.) And, lastly, at the end of Mass, those who wish to **remain and pray** in the church are welcome to do so, but all others are asked *not to linger and visit within the church*. Please exit through the Appleton Street doorway. If one wishes to visit, please do so outside the church, being *mindful of the proper physical distancing*.

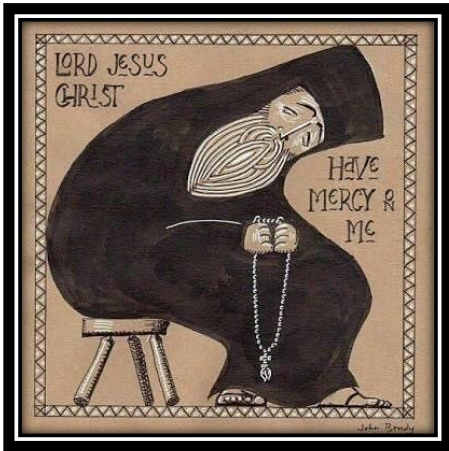
Disinfecting Crews' Schedule

With deep gratitude to those who have stepped forward to aid in the health and security of our parish by disinfecting and cleaning the church and the restrooms each Saturday. **Crew A: Crew B: Crew C: Crew D:**

Following Saturday morning:
Following the Sunday Vigil:

Prayer for the Gift of Tears:

Almighty and merciful God,
Who for Thy thirsting people didst bring
forth from the rock a fountain of living water:
draw forth, we beseech Thee,
from the hardness of our hearts
the waters of compunction,
that we may weep for our sins,
and by Thy bounty may merit to obtain
their forgiveness.



From February 17th through March 28th, you are invited to join other Christians for **40 Days for Life** – forty days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion.

www.40daysforlife.com/augusta-maine

You are invited also to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside *Maine Family Planning* in Augusta. Please spread the word about this important community outreach.

For more information and to volunteer: contact Judy Iceenogle, 207-872-6558/
ricejuice@twc.com

*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: Sally Derosby, Tala Poulin, Daja Gombojav, Anne El-Habre, Richard Karter, Lolo Salazar, Charlotte Iserbyte, Rita Hikel, and all those who suffer from disease, want, or depression.

﴿ هُوَ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴾

The Cleansing of the Leper

p. 196

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *toobaik 'eedto* 108

Glory: SB *irhamni*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *bo'outho ya'qoub (Lent)* 109

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *iqbal*

ANAPHORA:

Saint Peter, Chief the Apostles: LB p 774

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *I am the Vine; Father of Truth*

Recessional: SB *From the Depths* 89

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

February 21:

9:00am: A. Michaud/M. Carter

11:00am: I. Misner-Elias

February 28:

9:00am: M. Carter/ N. Carter

11:00am: L. Michaud/ I. Misner-Elias

March 7:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ N. Carter

11:00am: I. Misner-Elias

March 14:

9:00am: M. Carter/ N. Carter

11:00am: L. Michaud/ I. Misner-Elias

March 21:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ M. Carter

11:00am: I. Misner-Elias

Hosanna Sunday, March 28:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ N. Carter

11:00am: L. Michaud/ I. Misner-Elias

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 are exempted from fasting and abstinence, especially those who are taking medications associated with chronic illnesses.*

F.) *Saturdays and Sunday, although observing 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).

The Traditional and Patriarchal Norms for the Great Fast

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, minimally, must be observed on all Fridays of Great Lent. The 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.*

QUANTITY: *In our tradition, the fast means no food whatsoever between midnight and noon, only water and medication are permitted.*

QUALITY: *Also, in our traditional 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 eaten.*

*Saint Polycarp
of Smyrna,
Martyr*

February 23rd

