

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Seventh Sunday of Pentecost

July 12, 2020

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

- Liturgies:** Ramsho, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.; Masses: Sunday 10:00 a.m.; Tues. – Fr. 9:00 a.m.; Sat. 10:00a.m.
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, 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 \$30; Altar Bread \$25; Sacramental Wine \$45
- Catechism:** Lenore Boles, *Director* **Choir Director:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG **Parish Council President:** Lisa Grand
- Ex-officio Council Members:** Lenore Boles, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*

THIS DAY'S EPISTLE¹ II Corinthians 3: 1-6

Must we start to prove to you who we are all over again?
Do you require references concerning us to be written for you, as do other men?

Or should you be writing references for us?
Actually, you are our own letter, written on our hearts, about which everyone knows and has read, for you are aware that you are a letter from the Messiah, one that we have carried – written by the Spirit of the living God rather than with ink – and on the tablets of the heart rather than on tablets of stone.

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

This is the sort of confidence towards God that we have in Messiah, not that we are so proud that we reckon any of this to come from ourselves, but our power is from God, Who has made us worthy to be the bearers of this new Covenant that is spiritual rather than written; for the writing kills, whereas the Spirit gives life.



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

Contrary to contemporary propaganda, religion does not make one nuts; it is not infantile; it does not manifest immaturity, nor does it remove our responsibility to think clearly. Quite the opposite, the revelation of faith is an illumination of the human spirit that *refines all aspects* of human life and its view of the world. It straightens out our perspectives when we become serious about it and allow it to penetrate our lives.

The first purpose of faith/grace is to heal. Initiating that process, it anchors human life in hope, as it sets ablaze the human heart with divine charity. Faith cannot do this without encompassing the spirit, the mind, and the body.

True religion and true faith are not for the weak and timorous: *the Kingdom of Heaven is taken by violence and the violent bear it away!*³

Faith elevates, clarifies, and opens to the human mind and spirit that-which-is, objective reality that surrounds us. It gives vision and insight, and it allows us to truly see reality. Grace is a light in a wounded world; it is encouragement in a defective world; and it is a fire that enkindles human life born into a cold place where charity seldom reigns.

The theological virtue of faith, understood correctly, then, is that which makes a person sane⁴ in a very wounded world. It is light to the path of life and it turns a person outward to the objective reality in which he lives.

Our lives are meant to be inspired and oriented to Divine Beauty. **Psalm 27: 4:** *One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek ... all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD.* ***This*** is the reason for our existence: to seek out beauty, to become beautiful, and to achieve a final repose in eternal Divine Beauty, to find God.

Beauty is the pleasing unity and harmony within a diversity. In final analysis, every existing being manifests beauty in some way. With grace, of course, the pursuit of beauty is more profound: ultimately the human heart does not rest until it reposes in God, for Whom it was created.

The failure in the modern world is the absence of this pursuit of beauty in life. This will always finish in the darkness of despair. The modern world's *primary* concern is with personal pleasure and self-absorbed satisfaction. This ego-ism blinds the mind to order and beauty – it neither sees objective beauty, nor does it create it. This egocentrism turns the mind inward seeking firstly its own goals.

Sin is central to all this ego-ism, not because sin is bad, but it is bad because it is indifferent (at best) to beauty and true love. For its own selfish purposes, sin clouds vision. Sin blinds a person to true beauty.

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

³ St. Matthew 11: 12

⁴ In its Latin origin, *sanus*, means to be healthy/whole.

Rid ourselves of sin and selfish attachments, and we develop the eyes of the spirit to see the beauty surrounding us; and where there is no apparent beauty discoverable, we will work to put it there. But this is just the beginning of the spiritual life. When we fully seek the definitive beauty of the Holy One as our central and all-encompassing goal, we are liberated. The pursuit of Divine Beauty is the reason why each of us exists! Especially in the Maronite tradition it is clear that our lives of virtue are meant to be balanced, moderate, filled with goodness, inspired and elevated by grace, and oriented toward Eternal Beauty:

*grant that by our good works,
we may be a pleasing perfume;
by our right conduct, a pleasing fragrance;
by our genuine faith, a pure incense;
by our witness, a resplendent temple.*⁵

It is clear that we must be inspired by beauty and holiness in order to completely follow our Lord: *For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.*⁶

Yesterday, we commemorated Saint Benedict of Nursia, patron saint of Europe. He was born in a world stressed by plague, invasions, unrest, and discord, but in its chaotic disorder his religious life flourished. His quest for God became the foundation of his “conversion”. In the grace-filled journey toward Divine Beauty everything becomes transparent: nature, events, circumstances, crosses, and disappointments. Through all these the eyes of faith and the heart enflamed by charity discern, see, and embrace the Face of God Who is at work in all things that surround us, and at every given moment of time. The monastic institution and the way of life as established by Saint Benedict unleashed a new thing upon the earth, and that beautifully ordered life transformed all. While we may not be monastics, our desire to see the Beauty of the Lord must still be the same.

The true faith and the apostolic patrimony are what raised up the classical western world from out the darkness of paganism, and from out of the social discord of Saint Benedict’s day at the dusk of the classical world of Rome. From disorder and

confusion, the western world was made brilliant – even by worldly measure – but most importantly, human society was made a place where the living God could be served freely in truth, a space conducive to holiness for the serious, and where souls could be sanctified easily in the light of grace.

Sin and failure, sadly, remain and have always been, but evil was then called “evil” even if it was committed. Good was accomplished by the simple and the common who had the ears and heart to listen to the word of God in truth. Today, the world’s deception is to call evil “good” and good “evil”.⁷

Christendom was everything that the “Brave New World” coming into being before our eyes is not. The upending of the Christian vision of the world has been going on for five hundred years, but now in a constantly accelerated mode these last decades.

The loss of the desire to pursue beauty, or to seek the Beauty of the Lord, is cause of great sadness in the modern world. Like a forest fire, once established the faster and more intensely it burns, the blindness of mind and heart among so many has become the new pandemic: a virus which can only be resisted by grace. This is why we have witnessed such an acceleration in confused judgement and decomposition of thought in the last fifty years.

May the God of Saint Benedict – the Unclouded Bright One – illumine us all with clarity of vision, soundness of heart, burning desire for beauty, and the hope that sustains a long journey in the quest to gaze upon the Beauty of the Lord in His Kingdom.



⁵ *etro*, Sunday Ramsho, season following Pentecost

⁶ II Cor 2: 15

⁷ Isaiah 5: 20; St. John 16: 2

The Life-giving Cross

Please, kindly take notice of our present practices:

- 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. All information remains *confidential* to the *parish* and is not transferred to any state agency.
- 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 **Saturday Vigil** Masses are cancelled until further notice.
- 7.) The **weekday Masses** have been moved into the main church to easily allow for "physical distancing" among the pews.
- 8.) 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**. This would free up more room on Sunday for those who must work during the normal workweek.
- 9.) Please remember in all this that the apostolic work of Saint Joseph must be sustained. Contributions to the parish may be made by mail, parish website, and by regular bank transfers.
- 10.) Please *do not use your hands* to cover sneezes and coughs. Everyone must have a *hand-kerchief*, tissues, or face-mask to safely control and cover all coughs, sneezes, congestion, etc.
- 11.) Hand sanitizers are available at the entrances and at the confessional.
- 12.) Arrivals at church must be "*first-come-first-served*". These also have the first choice of where they wish to sit.
- 13.) Everyone must sit in such a way that there is *no one immediately in front* of them and *no*

- one immediately behind* them. Kindly follow the directions given by those trying to usher.
- 14.) Everyone will need to *charitably assist* one another to sit throughout the entire church, occupying *all* pews and spaces available with "physical distancing".
 - 15.) To control crowd flow, **doors** will be **locked** at the beginning of each Liturgy, and this for the foreseeable future.
 - 16.) A *six-foot distancing* must continue to be observed by those who approach the Divine Altar and wish to receive the Most Holy Eucharist in **Communion**.
 - 17.) 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*. If one wishes to visit, please do so outside the church, being *mindful of the proper physical distancing*.

God bless everyone for making these efforts and being charitably attentive in how we present ourselves together before the Hidden Good One.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

July 12, 2020

II Cor 3: 1-6

St. Luke 10: 1-7

SOLEMNITY OF THE PROPHET ELIAS

July 19, 2020

Ro 11: 1-8

St. Luke 4: 22-30

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Sat | 11 | †Paul & Charlene LaVerdiere
(Audrey Yotides)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors |
| Sun | 12 | †Nancy Joseph
(Herb Joseph, Sr) |
| Mon | 13 | ----- |

Tue 14 Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Wed 15 †Marissa Lehto
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Thu 16 Anna Bearce
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Fri 17 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Sat 18 †Justin Schulte
(Dotty Harala)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Sun 19 For the Members of the Parish

Mon 20 -----

Tue 21 Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Wed 22 Hope Beverly Fournier
(Michael & Maureen Martin)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Thu 23 Anna Bearce
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Fri 24 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Sat 25 †Philip Piazza
(the D'Amico Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Sun 26 For the Members of the Parish

Mon 27 -----

Tue 28 Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Wed 29 Susan Marchetti
(Michael & Maureen Martin)

Thu 30 Anna Bearce
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Fri 31 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

*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: Rosanna Joseph,
Doreen Nader, and all those who suffer from the
covid virus.

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	July	12	Steve and Allison Crate
Sun	July	19	Sue Paré and Lolo Salazar
Sun	July	26	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Aug	1	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Aug	9	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Aug	16	Michael & Gail Misner
Sun	Aug	23	Bruce & Doreen White

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection: \$2509.00

(Deficit 2020: \$32,692.00)

**Next "second collection" will be for the Catholic
Communications Campaign on July 26th**

*Please remember to sustain the apostolic work
of this parish through regular contributions made
in the liturgical **collection** on Sunday, or by **mail**,
or through the parish **website**,
or through **regular bank drafts** mailed in.*

**While our work and purpose
may be supernatural,
the incessant expenses and bills
are altogether of this world!**

Seventh Sunday of Pentecost "B"

p 495

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *safreh* 200

Glory: SB *al majdu*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *shareero* 201A

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 *tou ba*

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

Recessional: SB *Glorious in majesty*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book

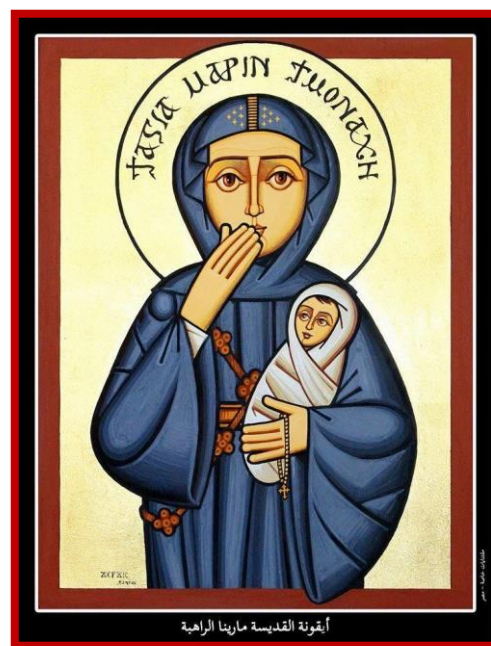
The costs of *these* liturgical banners have been generously covered, but for those who wish to contribute to beautifying our church with more banners

for the various seasons of the year can do so.

The printing and materials cost \$400, so anyone wishing to dedicate a banner for any intention is invited to do so.

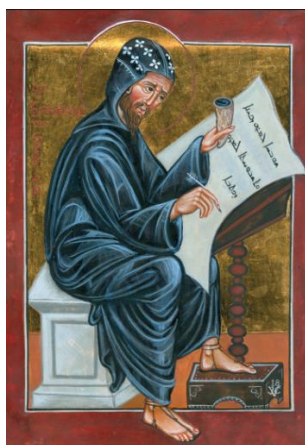
The one for whom, or in whose memory, the alms are done will have their name placed on the back of the banner.

We now begin work on the banners for the **Season of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.**



*Saint Marina,
Nun of Qannoubine*

July 17th



The glorious icon of Mar Ephraim found on the parish's new banners was written in 2019 in Great Britain by **Juliet Venter**. We are grateful for her work.

www.Juliet-icons.co.uk