

# Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



## The Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

September 13, 2020

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful heritage of Antioch

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Street  
Waterville, ME  
04901

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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

- 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 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:** Ex-officio  
**Council Members:** Lenore Boles, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*

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### **THIS DAY'S EPISTLE<sup>1</sup> Romans 8: 18-27**

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not equal to the glory that is to be revealed in us, for all created things are hoping and waiting for God's children to be revealed.

For all created things were subjected to a meaningless existence, not by their own choice, but by the one who subjected them. He did this in hope that these created things would be freed from an enslavement that leads to decay, and into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

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

We know that all creation still groans in labor to this day; and not just it, but we too, who have received the first-fruits of the Spirit, we also groan inwardly while we await the adoption and the redemption of our bodies, because in hope we live.

But then, hope that is seen is not hope. For if it is seen then what would there be to wait for? For if we hope for something we cannot see, then we wait with expectation.

Likewise, the Spirit also helps our weaknesses. We do not know for what we ought to pray, but the Spirit prays instead of us, using inexpressible sighs.

And then He who scrutinizes the heart knows what the Spirit thinks because when He prays within the saints, He does so in accordance with God's will.



*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)<sup>2</sup>

## **ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS**

Our new Sunday schedule will take some time to get used to – for all of us. May we all accept it as a “cross”, which, by definition, is life-giving. May the light of the Resurrection strengthen us all at this time and fortify our charity in illuminated hope.

In previous bulletins I have mentioned that it would be a good use of the present time – during

this pandemic “slowdown” – to read again the **Catholic Catechism**, to re-inform and develop our knowledge of the Faith. Refresh and re-invigorate is our intent, but now, as we consider the life and work of Saint Ephraim, there is an added value. While reading the words of the Catechism we can better appreciate how much sacrifice, fidelity, strenuous effort, and even blood has been poured out so that we might easily arrive at such a beautiful, profound, and accurate expression of the healing revelation of the Hidden God of mercy.

A gentleman said to me a couple years ago that his greatest revelation at university had been when he came to understand that *there is a reason for each thing as it is taught by the Church*. She is the Divine Spouse and Body of Christ, her loyalty is indefectible. He had been ignorant of that fact in his adolescence, and its discovery had been transformative to his life, and so it is now to the life of his family.

Thinking of the value of human words – their possible precision and their shocking insufficiency at times – we can better appreciate how much this doctrinal expression has cost over the centuries in time, in strife, in conflict, always in an effort to hammer out, articulate, verbalize, and formulate the clarity of the Apostolic Faith.

The Faith is a pure gift, but its human communication involves human minds. The vocabulary, the definitions, the very words chosen with precise forethought, have all cost many men and women a great deal as the centuries rolled on so that we might be heirs of such an extraordinary and beautiful heritage. Sadly, we overlook this fact, and too often fail to appreciate our ancestors; we too easily take our *catechesis* for granted. Worse, many simply reject it out of hand and cast it aside. Having failed to perceive its light, they march forward into darkness.

*He who hears you, hears Me;  
he who rejects you rejects Me,  
and he who rejects Me rejects Him Who sent Me.<sup>3</sup>*

Our Catechism is nothing less than of the voice of Christ and the unique path to salvation.

<sup>2</sup> Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”

<sup>3</sup> St. Luke 10: 16

This centuries-long fidelity is our gain, and their faith is our faith, handed down to us from the Apostles. Their loyalty to the Lord God preserved the Message originating in the Word Incarnate and handed on to us to this day. How do we personally receive this word, this Message; how do we grapple with it, and transmit it to others?

Are we faithful links in an unbroken apostolic chain, or do we risk breaking off that line, and disconnecting those who will come after us? Our fidelity is the present link that assures salvation transmitted to the twenty-second century.

Refresh the spirit and the mind in the faithful teachings of the Fathers, ponder their writings and reflect on their words. Pray in their spirit and be nourished in their gracious strength. It should be our honor to be called to walk in the footsteps of loyal men such as Saint Athanasius and Saint Ephraim.

Words matter, and when they reflect divine revelation in grace they bring us to intimacy with the unique Life-giving Source of Salvation. How have we received, and how do we communicate that luminous verbal path?



## 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. 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 **Sunday 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**. This would free up more room on Sunday for those who must work during the normal workweek.
- 8.) Please **do not use your hands** to cover sneezes and coughs. Everyone must wear a **face-mask** to safely control and cover all coughs, sneezes, congestion, etc.
- 9.) Hand sanitizers are available at the entrances and at the confessional.
- 10.) Seating at church must be "*first-come-first-served*". Seating 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.) Everyone will need to **charitably assist** one another to sit throughout the entire church, occupying **all** pews while respecting "physical distancing".
- 13.) To control crowd flow, **doors** will be **locked** at the beginning of each Liturgy.
- 14.) A **six-foot distancing** must be observed by those who approach the Divine Altar and wish to receive the Divine Eucharist in **Holy Communion**.
- 15.) 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**.

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Sep	13	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Sep	19	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Sep	27	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Oct	4	Michael & Gayle Misner
Sun	Oct	11	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	Oct	18	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Oct	25	Sue Paré & Lolo Salazar
Sun	Nov	1	Daja Gombojav & Family

Fri	18	Private Intention (Abouna James) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sat	19	†Adolph Veilleux Family (Pam & Dan Casavant) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sun	20	For the Members of the Parish
Mon	21	-----
Tue	22	Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Wed	23	†Theresa Casavant (Pam & Dan Casavant) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Thu	24	†John & Marietta Thomas (Pam & Dan Casavant)
Fri	25	Private Intention (Abouna James) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sat	26	†Adolph Veilleux Family (Pam & Dan Casavant)
Sun	27	For the Members of the Parish
Mon	28	-----
Tue	29	†Bernard Thomas (Patricia Thomas, Michelle & Nicole)
Wed	30	Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Thu	1	†Maroon Thomas Family (Pam & Dan Casavant)
Fri	2	Private Intention (Abouna James)

**LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS**

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

**Regular Collection: \$2,260.00**

(Deficit 2020: \$44,217.00)

**Today is a special collection for the Holy Land**

*(This collection is usually made on Good Friday, delayed this year due to the pandemic.*

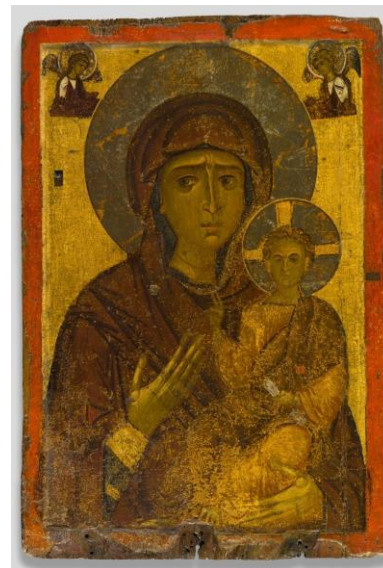
*Part of this collection is sent to the Holy Land by the USCCB and another part is sent directly to the Maronite Eparchy of Haifa.)*

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

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

**INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)**

Sun	13	For the Members of the Parish
Mon	14	-----
Tue	15	Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Wed	16	†Maroon Thomas Family (Pam & Dan Casavant) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Thu	17	†John & Marietta Thomas (Pam & Dan Casavant)



# The Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost "A"

p. 425

*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:** Richard Karter, Lolo Salazar, Rosanna Joseph, Doreen Nader, and all those who suffer from disease, want, and depression.

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**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* 179

**Creed** p 748

**PRE-ANAPHORA:**

**Transfer of Gifts:** LB *The Lord Reigns*

**Incense Hymn Offertory:** SB *V'maryam yoldat*

**ANAPHORA:**

**The Twelve Apostles:** LB p 754

**Sign of Peace:** SB *tou ba*

**Communion:** SB *O Bread of Life; Father of Truth;  
Here I am, Lord*

**Recessional:** SB *Alleluya* #1

Saint Francis Catholic Cemetery is performing its annual fall clean-up. All flowers and decorations must be removed from the burial plots. All plot holders are advised to remove, **before October 1<sup>st</sup>**, any items that they may wish to keep. Concrete urns may be left on the lots but should be emptied and turned over to avoid breakage.

## SCHEDULE OF READINGS

### THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Sept 13, 2020

Rom 8: 18-27      St. Luke 18: 9-14

### THE SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY CROSS

Sept 20, 2020

I Cor 1: 18-25      St. John 12: 20-32

*Saint  
Cyprian  
of  
Carthage,  
Martyr*

*September  
16<sup>th</sup>*

