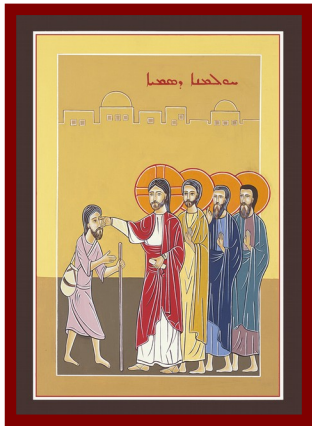


Healing of the Blind Man / Sixth Sunday of Lent Hosanna Week



March 18, 2018

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



3 Appleton Street
Waterville, ME 04901
Office Phone: 207-872-8515

Pastor: Rev. Fr. James Doran
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." Orientale 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

Choir Director: Fefa Deeb **Parish Secretary:** Paula Mitchell **Catechists:** Lenore Boles, Director & K-1st; Jane Lee, 2nd; Shana Page, 3-5th **Parish Council:** Sheila Bonenfant, Lisa Grard, Lowell Hawes, Rosanna Joseph, David Lee, Ruth Lunn, Kevin Michaud, Paula Mitchell, Elizabeth Wilson **Ex-officio council members:** Subdeacon Steve Crate; Lenore Boles, Catechism; Shana Page, Rosary Sodality; Larry Mitchell, Knights of Columbus

THIS DAY'S GOSPEL St. Mark 10: 46-52

And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, Bartimaeus (the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.

And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me."

And many rebuked him, telling him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

And Jesus topped and said, "Call him."

And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, He is calling you."

And throwing off his cloak he sprang up and came to Jesus.

And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

And the blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may see."

And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you whole."
And immediately he received his sight and followed Him on the way.

ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

O Christ, the Light of the world,
enlighten our minds.
May our faith in You be fruitful.
We give You praise.¹

Charity and the Works of Mercy

"Love makes the world go round," it is said, and for the most part this is true: God initiated creation, the providence of the world and the redemption of mankind from divine love. The restoration of all things in the Parousia will also be an act of eternal love. However, the quotation is false if understood in the modern sense where "love" is identified with "feeling". If we equate love with sentiment and feeling then we are doomed to constant frustration in our lives. If we try to construct true love out of emotion we shall always be disappointed.

Indeed, it is this modern and contemporary misunderstanding that has allowed "charity to become cold":² marriages fail when "feelings" cease; families disintegrate when "feelings" are not acknowledged; and, friendship flounders when "feelings" are firstly self-interested self-seeking.

Although emotions swirl all about it, some quite wonderful and others rather horrid, love is not essentially feelings. Feelings may be perfectly good and lovely sometimes, but they are not free human acts. Emotions are responses to our environment and are not freely experienced; they are not anymore free than one can decide whether the snow falling outside the window is wet or not.³ Circumstances, whether outside or within, cause responses, and internally these reactions are called "feelings" or emotions.

The image of God in human beings includes the capability of free choice: free will. We can "fall

¹ *Qolo*, Sunday of the Blind Man

² St. Matthew 24: 12

³ Although it seems that recent psychological research indicates that certain emotions in specific instances might be able to be modified or controlled by training.

into" sentiments and feelings, but we choose to love or not to love. As with any act of free will, knowledge, choice⁴ and action must be present. "Good intentions" are often simply *velleities*,⁵ and it is true that the "path to hell is paved with good intentions". Making a free choice to do something good, but then not to put it into action is practically as lame as velleity. Virtue, beauty and true nobility exist only when something good is seen, chosen and then actually acted upon.

True love has two basic elements: wishing/choosing good is what we call **benevolence**; and, subsequently acting on this choice, **beneficence** is to actually do good. Any human action that lacks either of these elements is not "love".⁶ It may be "feeling in love", but it simply is not love. True love and the works of mercy can be accomplished only by freely chosen acts of the will. This is why true love "costs"⁷ and the ultimate expression of this is seen in the crucifix.⁸

Love is fundamentally a beautiful thing, and when it is inspired by divine grace – the true meaning of **charity** – then it becomes completely sublime. In English, it is unfortunate that we have only one word for love. Other languages and cultures have developed a more sophisticated approach and have often two or three words that describe the quite broad spectrum we call "love".

"Love" these days, in its most general understanding, can mean anything from basic physical sexuality to self-sacrificing devotion; but when properly understood, "love" that is radically inspired by divine grace is properly known as "charity". We confuse the two often, but it is better to speak of "God's charity" or the "charity" in the context of grace rather than to lump all things into one – often air-headed and vague – idea called "*luv*". Think flower-painted VW vans

⁴ "intention"

⁵ "velleity" comes from the word for "to will" in Latin, **velle**, and is used to indicate an *inefficacious act of will* – literally, having the "quality" of choice but inefficacious all the same. Here lies the all too pervasive "good intention" that gets us nowhere.

⁶ St. James 2: 16

⁷ St. Luke 9: 23

⁸ St. John 15: 13

Love, even in the world's best understanding, is something that moves us beyond ourselves; it turns us toward others. Nonetheless, the fullest and divine understanding of love – charity – is that which originates in, properly belongs to, and is graciously given to us by God.

The supreme gift of our Savior to mankind, the result of His life-giving Death on Calvary, is God Himself in the Person of the Spirit – the immediate source of grace. This divine Living Water infuses into the human heart the love that is proper to Hidden One: *eternal charity*.

It is charity that constitutes the Christian as a child of God; it is what gives him the ability to love with the love that is properly God's. Charity requires that we see so that we may judge correctly.⁹ Charity is a type of dilection proper to the children of God, one meant to be a sign of the authentic disciple of the Lord.¹⁰

As this divine Gift elevates the human condition to an altogether different plane of existence, it inspires the possessor to adopt moral actions that conform to this new dignity: he is to become *an imitator of God*.¹¹ This moves us beyond "just being 'nice'". Anyone can be "nice", only grace can transform us into the children of the Light.

Breaking us out of our own self-centeredness that comes, sadly, so naturally to each of us, grace inspires the Christian life to become *a progressive conquest of freedom*. It is less a question of shattering bonds, or of purification (these are only means) than of undergoing a "spiritualization". Grace detaches us from not only our selfishness and places the world in clearer perspective. Grace permits us to judge "the world" correctly and unhook the moorings that tie us to this world here below. Freed from surrounding distractions, we are able to redirect our vision and begin to see reality with the eyes of the Great Light unclouded: charity grants wisdom and sight to those previously blind. This profound deliverance can derive only from the very Person of the Holy Spirit.¹²

Arriving now at this last week of Lent, "Hosanna Week",¹³ we should reflect on the third classic "work" of Christianity: **alms**. Contrary to the common misunderstanding, "alms" is not "money given", but is a modern contraction of the ancient word "ελεημοσυνη/eleēmosúnē", the Greek word for "compassionateness". One may easily recognize its cognate in "kyrie eleison": "Have mercy on us, O Lord".

While "money" may often be the way that compassion is expressed, it is not limited to this means. Rich or poor, each of us is able to be compassionate and do good, we need only begin to see and notice those around us. This is why "vision" and "sight" are necessary for charity to flourish. The blind man in today's Gospel, once healed, follows our Lord. With true vision and the true ability to love as part of our lives, alms are inevitable.

Without grace a person can certainly be "good", but only grace allows us to become Christ-like, that is, selflessly transformed in the liberating Spirit of Salvation; from which, we help other wounded individuals we find along the way.

Maronite Formation Classes

The **Maronite Formation Classes** for adults, delayed by the last weeks' impressive snowstorms, now will begin on Wednesday, **April 11th**, at **6:30 p.m.** in the parish hall. This should be an enjoyable moment as we explore and develop the understanding of our faith and Antiochene heritage. We ask that no children (under 18) be brought, as this is "adults free night out".

We will be using as a text *Captivated by Your Teachings* by Fr. Anthony Salim, pastor of our Maronite parish in Olean, New York. Although it is out of print, you may find copies on-line.

⁹ Hence the example of the blind man placed here in Lent for our consideration.

¹⁰ St. John 13: 35

¹¹ Ephesians 5: 1

¹² Charity and Liberty, Ceslaus Spicq, OP

¹³ the Great and Holy Week of the Passion is a different "season" within the Great Fast

Great and Holy Week of the Passion

Hosanna Sunday, March 25th

10:00 a.m. Mass and Procession of Palms
6:00 p.m. Coming into the Harbor

Great Tuesday, March 27th

9:00 a.m. Mass

Great Wednesday, March 28th

9:00 a.m. Mass
6:00 p.m. Rite of the Lamp and Anointing

Great Thursday of the Divine Mysteries, March 29th

6:00 p.m. Mass, Washing of the Feet,
Procession and Adoration

Great Friday of the Crucifixion, March 30th

12:00 noon The Signing of the Chalice
6:00 p.m. Commemoration of the Death
and Burial of Our Lord

Collection taken for the Holy Land

Please remember to bring flowers and set them before the bema before the Liturgy. They will be placed at the Tomb following the Burial and redistributed at the Resurrection.

Great Saturday of the Light, March 31st

12:00 noon Service of Forgiveness and
Awaiting the Divine Light

Sunday of the Glorious Resurrection, April 1st

7:00 p.m. Vigil
10:00 a.m. Mass, Procession and Solemn
Blessing with the Icon

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Regular Collection: \$1593.00
Eparchial Lenten Appeal to date: \$1223.00
*Blessed be the Merciful One Who gives us the
ability
to sustain the apostolate*

VOCATION ICON

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

| | | |
|-----|----------|--------------------------|
| Sun | March 18 | Lowell & Mary Hawes |
| Sun | March 25 | Larry & Lisa Grard |
| Sun | April 1 | Chris & Diane Wyder |
| Sun | April 8 | Jim & Lenore Boles |
| Sat | April 14 | Larry and Paula Mitchell |
| Sun | April 21 | Lowell & Mary Hawes |

March Memorial Offerings

Sanctuary Candles / Altar Breads / Altar Wine
All in memory of Roland Roy, Sr.
by *Ruth Lunn*

FISH CHOWDER AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Knights of Columbus will once again be serving up the **Lenten Fish Chowders** from **4:30-6:00** every Friday during Lent before the **Stations of the Cross** at 6:00.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN

March 18, 2018

II Cor 10: 1-7 St. Mark 10: 46-52

HOSANNA SUNDAY

March 25, 2018

Phil 1: 1-13 St. John 12: 12-22

INTENTIONS FOR THE QURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 17 †Susan Mitchell
(Herbert Joseph, Sr & Family)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 18 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 19 -----
- Tue 20 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 21 †For the Souls in Purgatory
(Deacon Andre)
- Thu 22 Schnepf Family
- Fri 23 Temptation of Jesus in the Desert
†Ann Giguere
(Fefa Deeb)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 24 The Raising of Lazarus
†Paul Mitchell
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 25 Hosanna Sunday
For the members of the Parish

Lenten Prayer for Tears

Almighty and merciful God,
 Who for Thy thirsting people didst bring forth from
 the rock a fountain of living water:
 draw, 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. Amen



*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, Virginia Poulin, Beverly Rideout, Gordon Webber, Paul Laverdiere, Charlene & Dominic Fabrizio and Mary Nader.

COFFEE SCHEDULE 2018

- Mar 18 Lisa Grard & Mary Hawes
- Mar 25 Elaine Hoag & MaryJo Hodgkin
- April 1 *Volunteers needed*
- April 8 Laya Joseph & Rosanna Joseph
- April 15 Alice Lachance & Jane Lee
- April 22 Lauraine Mansur & Marie McMahon
- April 29 Dale Sturtevant & Jody Veilleux
- May 6 Elizabeth Wilson & Mary Bard

MARCH CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FOOD BANK

Stews, ravioli, jiffy mixes and personal care items.
 Please place these items in the box near the church
 entrance.

*God bless you for your generosity
 to His "little ones"*

**Choir Rehearsals:
 Thursday Evening at 6:00 p.m.
 March 22nd**

CENTURY 21 - SURETTE REAL ESTATE
Pam Casavant -- Partner/ Associate Broker
Tel: 207-873-5634 Ext 219
e-mail: pcasavant@surette-realestate.com

LEBANESE CUISINE
34 Temple Street * Waterville, ME 04901
207-873-7813

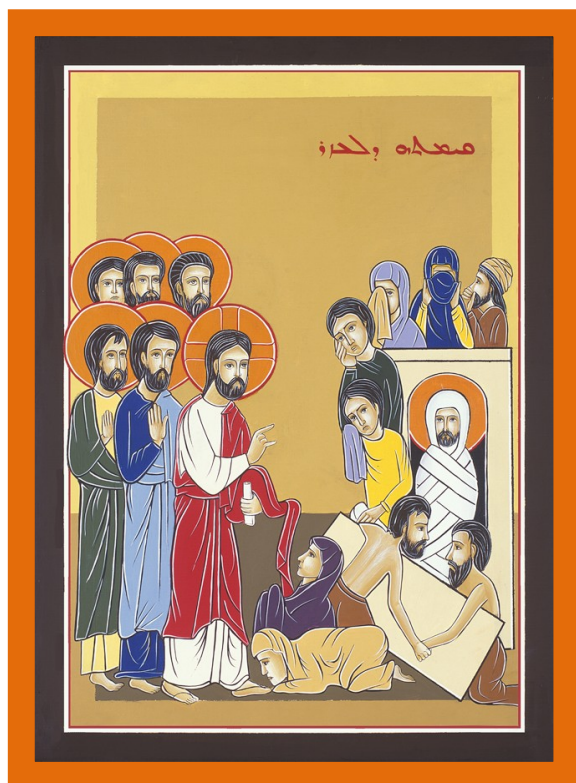
GALLANT FUNERAL HOME INC.
10 Elm Street * Tel 873-3393 * Website: gallantfh.com

GHM Insurance Agency
Auto * Home* Business * Life * Benefits
51 Main Street - Downtown Waterville
Tel: 207-873-5101 www.ghmagency.com

GRONDIN'S CERTIFIED DRY CLEANERS
259 Main Street - Waterville, ME 04901 tel. 207-872-8132

SII Investments, Inc.
29 Mt. Merici Ave. - Tel: 207-872-8689

Waterville Florist
287 Upper Main Street
Tel: 207-872-7422 also 888-616-4880



Healing of Bartimaeus, the Blind Man

p 246

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *shareero* #123

Glory: SB *irhamni*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *bo'outho* #124

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB The Lord Reigns

Incense Hymn: SB p 3 #8 *Ikbal*

ANAPHORA:

St. Peter, Chief of the Apostles: LB p 774

Sign of Peace: SB Open our eyes, Lord

Communion: SB Bread of Life / Jesus is my Lord

Recessional: SB The Lamb

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book