

# Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



## Sixth Sunday of the Holy Cross

October 24, 2021

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful heritage  
of Antioch

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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:** Sunday: (Vigil, Sat. 5:00pm) Sunday Morning 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 stipend: \$15  
**Monthly Memorials:** Sanctuary Candles \$35; Altar Bread \$30; Sacramental Wine \$55  
**Catechism:** Steve Crate, *Director* **Choir Director:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG **Parish Council President:** Ex-officio  
**Council Members:** Steve Crate, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*; ,  
*Finance Committee*

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## THIS DAY'S GOSPEL<sup>1</sup>

### St. Matthew 25: 14-30

For, as a man that took a journey, called his servants and delivered to them his property: to one he gave five talents; to another, two; and to another, one:  
to each according to his *power*:  
and immediately he departed.

Then he that received five talents, went and traded with them, and gained five *others*.  
And likewise the one of two (talents), by trading gained two more.  
But he that received one, went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.  
And after a long time, the lord of those servants came, and received account from them.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on *The New Testament, translated from the Syriac Peshitto Version*, Gorgias Press, New Jersey, 2001, translated by James Murdock, STD, 1893

And he who had received the five talents, came and brought the five others; and said, My lord, thou gavest me five talents; behold, I have gained by trading five more to them.

His lord said to him:

*Eu!* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful with a little; I will set thee over much: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

And he of the two talents; behold, I have by trading gained two more to them.

His lord said to him: *Eu!* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful with a little; I will set thee over much:

enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

And he also that received the one talent, came and said: My lord, I knew thee, that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sowed, and gathering where thou hast not scattered; and I was afraid, and I went and hid thy talent in the earth.

Behold, thou hast what is thine.

His lord answered, and said to him:

Wicked and slothful servant! Thou knewest me, that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not scattered! Thou oughtest to have cast my money into the *exchange*; and I might have come and demanded my property with its *interest*.

Take therefore the talent from him, and give it to him that hath ten talents.

For, to him that hath, shall be given, and he shall have more;

but from him that hath not, even what he hath shall be taken away.

And cast ye the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness:

there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



*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**

History is filled with mysterious contours; fascinating to those who have eyes and heart to see. A perfect example of this was the age proceeding the formation of Islam in Arabia. Few have an idea of the diversity of religions that once existed there and which had spread among the families, tribes, and clans.

Indeed, in what was to become the beginning of his exile from Mecca, Muhammed was invited by a Jewish tribe to what is now the city of Medina.

Among the Chaldean Catholics who had to flee Iraq after the American invasion twenty years ago, there were descendants of Christian tribes that had once opposed Muhammed in the seventh century and had fled Arabia going north into Mesopotamia. There they had remained for fourteen centuries until forced to escape the country as refugees after our military intervention.

Today is the feast day of **Saint Harith and his companions**, the martyrs of Najran. This is a history and martyrdom that are not well known. Saint Harith was the leader of the Christian community in Najran, a city in the ancient kingdom of Himyar in what today is the country of Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula. They were martyred c. **AD 532** through a series of persecutions and church

<sup>2</sup> Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

burnings. There is said to have been about 2,000 martyrs and 1,500 dragged off into slavery.

Most people are unaware of the religious diversity that was once present among the Arab tribes before the establishment of Islam. Some of the clans were Christian, some pagan, and some Jewish, and at the beginning of the sixth century the king of Himyar had converted to Judaism. His name was **Yusuf As'ar Yath'ar**, aka Dhu Nuwas,<sup>3</sup> and in at least one historical source it is written that his Jewish mother was from Nisibis, thereby making, perhaps, another connection with the Sassanian (i.e. pagan) political influence and anti-Christian interests among some of the regional powers, especially those who were also anti-Roman.

Yusuf reigned from c. 518 to 525. In 523, he sent 120,000 soldiers out against the Christians and laid siege for six months to **Najran**. He ordered those to be massacred who would not renounce Christianity. Three hundred of the inhabitants actually did surrender having received an oath of no-harm. Instead they were bound and taken away into slavery and the rest of the inhabitants were placed in the church and burnt alive.

The army on its march to Najran laid waste to other Christian communities. One was an Ethiopian church in **Zafar**, which was burnt to the ground and the Abyssinian inhabitants were slaughtered. Other Christians were killed in the city of **Hadramawt** along the way as the army advanced on Najran.

During these persecutions there is told the story of one woman who had been known for her discretion and modesty as she remained almost always at home, but in the midst of these horrors she did come out in public, and unveiled herself so as to better denounce the king for his wickedness. His response, however, was to then order the murder of both her daughter and her granddaughter before her eyes and then to have their blood poured down her throat. Her head was then cut off.

Yusuf unleashed his persecutions and was quite proud of the destruction of the Christian populations: he wrote letters afterwards to the

Persian Emperor, **Kavadh I**, and to the Lakhmid Arabs extolling his slaughters and encouraging them to do the same. In these letters he even praised the “fragrant smell” of the smoke rising from the burning piles of corpses composed of priests and nuns. This horrific letter came to the knowledge of the Roman Emperor, **Justin I**, who was rightly outraged by it. The emperor subsequently contacted the Axumite Emperor of the Ethiopians and asked that he counter attack and suppress the insanity of the Jewish king of Himyar. The Ethiopians generously complied.

The Ethiopian Christian invasion of Yemen set to take control of the Jewish kingdom in Himyar and this military action ended the supremacy of Judaism in that region, as well as in all of Yemen.

Dramatically, in response to this military defeat, Dhu Nuwas killed himself while shouting words of defiance, in full armor, and on horseback, wading out into the sea until he submerged, and under his armored weight he drowned. Thus ended the great persecutor's life, in suicide, in southern Arabia.

The history of the world has been a dramatic one, and we know that the entrance of grace into a fallen world will always be one of conflict, so religious history both in its public and private forms will be ever a confrontation between good and evil. Nature as it is at present is indisposed by original sin, and grace purges and burns in its illumination – not from the healing of grace and salvation, but from the lack of disposition and docility from a fallen world. This is the drama of the martyrs in each generation.

From the prophetic book of Revelation, it is shown that this history will continue as such until the Lord's final appearance. Martyrs are the sign and our consolation that grace is present, and that it continues to radiate in each generation; it shall do so until the end of time.

As the years flow by there are always those called and those chosen within the mysteries of providence (we are only asked to follow His lead) and the Luminous Goal pulls by its beauty towards eternal beatitude, that is, the joy and well-being that is the cause of our hope and our salvation.

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<sup>3</sup> “he of sidelocks” – apparently he had great hair



## SCHEDULE OF READINGS

### THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS

October 24, 2021

Gal 6: 1-10      St. Matthew 25: 14-30

### FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

October 31, 2021

Rom 12: 9-21      St. Matthew 25: 31-46

## VOCATION ICON

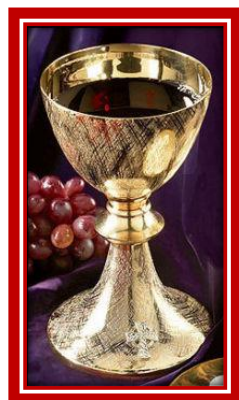
*"Request therefore the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest."* St. Matthew 9: 38

Sun	Oct	<b>24</b>	Sue Paré & Lolo Salazar
Sun	Oct	<b>31</b>	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Nov	<b>7</b>	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Nov	<b>13</b>	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Nov	<b>21</b>	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Nov	<b>28</b>	Michael & Gayle Misner
Sun	Dec	<b>5</b>	Steve & Allison Crate

The **wine** set forth to become the Living Blood of our Savior in the Divine Mysteries has been offered by the choir *for the month of October*

*in memory of Rosanna Joseph*

*May her memory be eternal  
and may she receive  
light and joy  
in the fullness of the Kingdom!*



## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$4,265.00

(Budget Deficit 2021: \$34,076.00)<sup>4</sup>

Today's special collection will be  
on **October 24<sup>th</sup>**: World Mission Sunday

*(91% of this collection goes to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and 9% to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association [CNEWA])*

We recently had to replace the **toilet** in the parish offices. Any good soul wishing to help with this project -- **\$000.00** came in this week - remaining expense: **\$150.00**.

An additional **\$000.00** has come in this week toward the needed collection of **\$39,000.00**.<sup>5</sup>

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

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

## INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 24 9:00am For the Members of the Parish

11:00am †Fr. Paul Coury  
(Saint Joseph)

Mon 25 -----

Tue 26 †Richard Elias  
(Cynthia Elias)

Wed 27 †Darrell Mitchell  
(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

Thu 28 †Maroon Thomas Family  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Fri 29 Robert Riccomini  
(Rebecca Allen)

Sat 30 †Maroon Thomas Family  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

<sup>4</sup> Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59/Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00

<sup>5</sup> This makes the amount toward our matching Challenge Grant (20k), to be presently **\$15,035.00**. This collection is being

made to cover the needed **building maintenance projects**, estimated at \$60,000.00.

**Sunday Vigil 5:00pm Private Intention**

- Sun 31 9:00am For the Members of the Parish**  
**11:00am †Poulin and Casavant Families**  
*(Pam & Dan Casavant)*
- Mon 1 9:00 am For the Members of the Parish**
- Tue 2 †George "Tony" Joseph**  
*(George Peter)*
- Wed 3 †Emily Fournier**  
*(Bonnie McGann)*
- Thu 4 Robert Allen**  
*(Rebecca Allen)*
- Fri 5 -----**
- Sat 6 Rosalie and Gary Gallant**  
*(Rebecca Allen)*
- Sunday Vigil 5:00pm Private Intention**
- Sun 7 9:00am For the Members of the Parish**  
**11:00am †Joan Gottardi**  
*(Donna-Jo Mitchell)*
- Mon 8 -----**
- Tue 9 Nicholas Family**  
*(Mary Nicholas)*
- Wed 10 †Elias & Gabrielle George**  
*(Carol George)*
- Thu 11 †Fr. Dominique Bourmaud**
- Fri 12 Patricia Thomas**  
*(Nicole and Michelle)*

- 5.) Hand sanitizers remain available at the entrances and at the confessional.
- 6.) The ancient and serious obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holydays has now been restored for all the Catholics of Maine.
- 7.) And, lastly, at the end of Mass, those who wish to **remain and pray** in the church are welcome to do so, but out of **respect** for the House of God and **charity** to one's neighbor **all are asked not to linger, socialize, or visit within the church**. If one wishes to visit, please do so outside or in the parish hall.

*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:** Madeleine Dombroski, Larry Grard, Evan Domonkos, Sarah Grace Misner-Elias, Catherine Mandel, Cindy Elias, David Bourque, Barbara Joseph, Sally Derosby, Tala Poulin, Richard Karter, Lolo Salazar, Charlotte Iserbyte, Rita Hikel, and all those who may suffer from illness, disease, want, or depression.

## The Life-giving Cross

Please, take notice of our present protocols:

- 1.) All Catholics, of whichever Ritual Church, are more than welcome at Saint Joseph. We are one Family of God and one Body of Christ.
- 2.) Those who are sick, or carry symptoms of sickness, must remain at home.
- 3.) Wearing a face-mask is optional, but is **recommended** for all those indoors.
- 4.) As discussed in parish council meetings prior to the pandemic, in order to bring greater security and peace of mind, the **doors** will be **locked** at the beginning of each Liturgy.



## *Servers of the Divine Altar*

### October 24<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: A. Michaud/N. Carter  
11:00am: L. Michaud/I. Misner-Elias

### October 31<sup>st</sup>:

9:00am: M. Carter/N. Carter  
11:00am: L. Michaud/ S. Nappi

### November 7<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ M. Carter  
11:00am: I. Misner-Elias/L. Michaud

### November 14<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: M. Carter/ N. Carter  
11:00am: I. Misner-Elias/ S. Nappi

### November 21<sup>st</sup>:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ M. Carter  
11:00am: L. Michaud/S. Nappi

### November 28<sup>th</sup>:

9:00am: M. Carter/ N. Carter  
11:00am: S. Nappi/I. Misner-Elias

### ANAPHORA:

**Twelve Apostles:** p 754

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

**Communion:** SB *Your Body is our Food; Seek ye first*

**Recessional:** SB *Alleluia #1*

! مَلْعَمًا حَتَّجْه :Priest

*Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!*

(literally: Peace [be] to all you!)

! هَحْمَرُ وَهَمْلًا وَحَر! :People

*W'am rouHoh deelokh!*

(literally: and with spirit your!)

## Sixth Sunday of the Holy Cross

p. 606

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

**Entrance Hymn:** LB *fsheeto* 233

**Glory:** SB *al majdu*

**Qolo/Hymn:** LB *toubaik 'eedto* 234

Creed p 748

### PRE-ANAPHORA:

**Transfer of Gifts:** LB *The Lord Reigns*  
(*Holy Cross*)

**Incense Hymn Offertory:** SB *iqbal*



*Saint Anastasia of Rome*

*Martyr*

*October 29<sup>th</sup>*