

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Sixth Sunday of Pentecost

July 14, 2019

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful heritage of Antioch

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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

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 at least **two months in advance**. Recommended stipends: weekday intentions \$10; weekend intentions \$15

Monthly Memorials: Sanctuary Candles \$20; Altar Bread \$25; Wine \$45

Catechists: Lenore Boles, *Director & K-1st*; Shana Page, 3-5th **Choir Director:** Dame Fefa Marie Deeb, DSG **Parish Council President:** Lisa Grard **Ex-officio Council Members:** Subdeacon Steve Crate; Lenore Boles, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*

Today's Gospel¹ St. Matthew 10: 16-25

Behold, I am sending you out as lambs among wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

Be wary of men, for they will hand you over to the courts and flog you in their synagogues. They will bring you before governors and kings on My account, as a testimony for them and for the Greeks.

When they hand you over, do not worry what you shall say or how, because it shall be given to you in that hour what you shall speak. For it is not you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking in you.

A brother shall hand his brother over to death, and a father his child, and children shall rise up against their parents and kill them.

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

You shall be despised by everyone on account of My Name, but whoever endures until the end shall be saved.

When they persecute you in this town, flee to another. For amen I say to you, you shall not finish all the towns of *the House of Israel* until the Son of Man comes.

No disciple is greater than his *rabbi*, nor a servant than his lord. It is enough for a disciple to be like his *rabbi*, and the servant like his lord. If they have called the Lord of the house Beelzebul, how much more the members?



ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

It can be hard to be faithful. Why is this so?

Is it because it costs so much in listening and in action? Or is it in the fear we have of the effects that it introduces in our lives?

Today's Gospel presents to us the utter reality of what it means to follow Christ. It is the "fire" that our Lord came to cast upon the earth,² and it is not at all the falsified sentimentalistic version of "Christianity" so loved and expounded in the modern world. How much do you love Me? And how much do I mean to your existence?

Where are our priorities? How are we to be "wise as serpents"?

These are the questions that were presented to the disciples regularly by our Lord, and now to us during our lifetimes. They are the questions by which we shall be judged at the moment of our death. In the end, the Sacred Heart requires us to know that His appearance has changed all of history

and that each human being must make a choice "for" or "against" the Plan of Salvation that this appearance has made manifest.³

The "world" will always reject the transcendent vision of Christ; it cramps their style as it were. The "world" will resent what it considers the impertinence of God to interrupt the pleasures that it sees as due to itself. The "world" is composed of people whose thoughts are only about this world, their own selves, and what they can get out of life; Saint Paul wrote that their god is their belly.⁴

Saint Paul also wrote that those who betray the cross (speaking about the baptized) are those who primarily "mind the things of earth". The "religious worldlings" are those who have been baptized, but for whom Jesus is a peripheral consideration in their lives. They might be attached to Him from time to time when it is convenient *to them* and, perhaps, when *they* have nothing else to do. The worldling loves Christmas not because it celebrates the historical birth of the Divine Messiah, but because everyone loves a party. Who doesn't like presents and food? These people fill the churches at Midnight Mass. You know them. They come around when there is something in it *for them*.

The "religious worldlings" are also the brethren who "shall hand brother over to death". They will do this because they do not think in the same manner as those who are faithful.

The faithful are those who identify with our Lord and thus are not surprised when the world hates them. "No disciple is greater than his *rabbi*."

The faithful are satisfied with this identification with the Lord: "It is enough for a disciple to be like his *rabbi*, and the servant like his Lord". The wisdom of the Gospel also teaches the faithful that they shall be hated just as the Lord has been hated before.⁵ We are called to walk the same path as the Lord, and although it does end in the glory of the Resurrection, the intermediary footsteps which we must trace to that beauty are *all blood-stained*. The Blood is Precious, and the hope is sure for those who lift their eyes beyond this world and whose considerations are rooted in the Divine Economy. Look up, and the path is made easier.

² St. Luke 12: 49

³ St. Luke 16: 13

⁴ Philippians 3: 19

⁵ St. John 15: 18

So it is that the world, and the unfaithful disciples of the Lord, will oppose the Gospel because they think by different principles than the faithful disciples. Rejecting the objective message of the Gospel and the teachings of the Church, their universal reaction is, “well, that’s *your* opinion”. They act as if religion were a purely personal and subjective whim.

The worldling thinks primarily about the things of time and this life. The faithful disciple thinks primary about the Kingdom of God and the power of the Resurrection, and *then* he considers the realities of this life and the world within that transcendent light.

Saint Paul wrote that all that has been written in the Scriptures have been written for our instruction.⁶ These are not just stories recounted, but have been recorded under divine inspiration in order to teach – to those who have the faith and disposition to learn.

In the ninth chapter of the *Book of Joshua* it is told how the people of Israel were duped and beaten in battle because they had not followed the instruction of the Lord God, nor did they pray for that instruction, and how they had allowed themselves to be deceived by the smooth words of the pagans up against whom they had come. **Prayer**, consideration before God, **reflection**, and **thoughtful intent** must precede all our actions, especially those which are serious in themselves or carry grave consequences.

So it is that we return, as Catholics, to the consideration of the major questions that surround us today. And, as mentioned last week, here in Maine these are the social questions concerning assisted suicide and the extending of abortion.

While we must always have respect and patience with all, it is as Catholics that we must think (proud heirs of two millennia of the teaching of the Fathers and of the Church’s Magisterium). Christians must pray, consider, and reflect before the Lord. From this they judge and decide concrete applications. It is a profoundly rich heritage that we have, and all the major principals concerning human life are found therein. It is desperately sad to see so many of our brethren collapse into the arms of the non-enlightened world and who form their minds

accordingly. They make themselves blind, being led by the blind.⁷

Bishop Deeley of the Latin Diocese issued a public statement of regret and disappointment when it was announced that Maine’s State Legislature had legalized the use of medically assisted suicide. So what is involved in these decisions?

When we speak of “morals” the word simply means, from the Latin, the course or habits of how people or a culture act; this is why a person can have either “good morals” or “bad morals”. **Morality**, understood simply, is *the manner in which a person acts in a regular and habitual manner*. This can be either for good or for bad. For a Christian, these actions and moral choices must be illuminated by the virtue of faith, inspired by the Gospel, and instructed by the teaching of our Lord. Anything less than that makes us fail as disciples of the Lord:

*Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and does them shall be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does **not** do them shall be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand;²⁷ and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it.⁸*

So it is that our first obligation as Christians and disciples of the Messiah is to make the effort that our minds be *enlightened* by His teaching, that we *know* that teaching, and that we *assimilate* those teachings, and *transform our lives* by His words. Most of us do this by knowing what is properly in our catechism. Sadly, in the modern world, many Catholics are confused or ignorant of this foundation, and they wander from the truth and inform their lives with the false maxims of the world. They drop the Catechism and tune in to CNN or social media for mental nourishment. With or without knowing it, they become “worldly” and construct their lives accordingly “on sand”.

We remedy this by correctly informing ourselves by the Catechism and the perennial teachings of the Church; firstly, working to conform our lives to the

⁶ Romans 15: 4

⁷ St. Matthew 15: 14

⁸ St. Matthew 7: 24-27

freedom of the Gospel; and, secondly, by teaching these truths to the children whom God had entrusted to us. To this latter point it must be remembered that we must first live these truths in order that our children learn them as true.⁹

As our minds are meant to be formed according to the Catechism and the Fathers, so we personally assimilate all this light by developing our prayer life, so that a reflective spirit is transformed before the Hidden One of all consolation.

To *know* our Lord, and to motivate our lives by His *teaching*, means that the life of *prayer* must be solidly placed before the Divine Majesty. This is the work of a lifetime. Prayer, knowledge, and fidelity must continue, yes, even when the summer arrives. Perhaps it is better said that it is most needed when the summer arrives.

Estival cerebral meltdown is never an excuse for infidelity. And we are never too young, nor too old, to begin. As they say, "better late than never".

After all, summer or not, the Good One ever exists – and each of us might die before September, correct?

Next week, with Catholic minds blazing, we will begin to consider some of the details of our present social trauma. For the moment, we continue to pray.

We must not put off what we can begin today.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Regular Collection: \$1328.00

Many thanks to *Mr. Arnold Barry* who recently donated **the new flags** that now proudly fly outside the church.

And continuing thanks and gratitude to the *Boles Brothers* for the attentive and excellent care they give weekly to grounds of the parish church.

May the Good One shine His choicest blessings on them and on all the members of their families!

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	July 14	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	July 20	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	July 28	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Aug 4	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	Aug 11	Steve and Allison Crate
Sun	Aug 18	Sue Paré and Lolo Salazar
Sun	Aug 25	Lowell & Mary Hawes

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

SIXTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

July 14, 2019

I Cor 12: 12-13/27-30 St. Matthew 10: 16-25

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

July 21, 2019

II Cor 3: 1-6 St. Luke 10: 1-7

⁹ It is known that the Faith is transferred from generation to generation primarily in those households where *being Catholic* is

a central identity. Peripheral lip-service and convenience will never preserve the Faith or be a conduit of it to others.

Summer Break

There will be no coffee and muffins for the months of July and August.



It would seem that everyone is at camp, and, most importantly, the workers have well merited their rest.

See you all at *Café Larrie* in September!

*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: Mary Hawes, Doreen Nader, Tala Poulin, Louise Saliem, Virginia Poulin, and Beverly Rideout.

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 13 †Joseph Smus
(Paula, David & Patricia Smus)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 14 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 15 -----
- Tue 16 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 17 †Marietta & John Thomas
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 18 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 19 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 20 †Charles Owen
(the Parish)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 21 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 22 -----
- Tue 23 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 24 †Marietta & John Thomas
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 25 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 26 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 27 †Charles Owen
(the Parish)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 28 † Anniversary of Paul LaVerdiere
- Mon 29 -----
- Tue 30 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 31 †Marietta & John Thomas
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 1 Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Phillips
- Fri 2 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Sixth Sunday of Pentecost

p 425 "A"

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *msheeho* 178A

Glory: SB *glory*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *shreero* 179

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *I'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

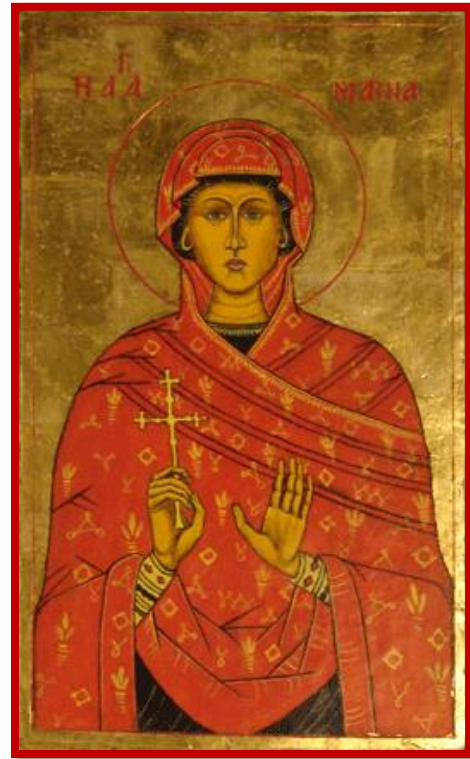
The Twelve Apostles: LB p 754

Sign of Peace: SB *Peace like a river*

Communion: SB *I am the Vine; For the Beauty*

Recessional: SB *Sing out Earth and Sky*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book



*Saint Marina, Nun of Qannoubine
July 17th*