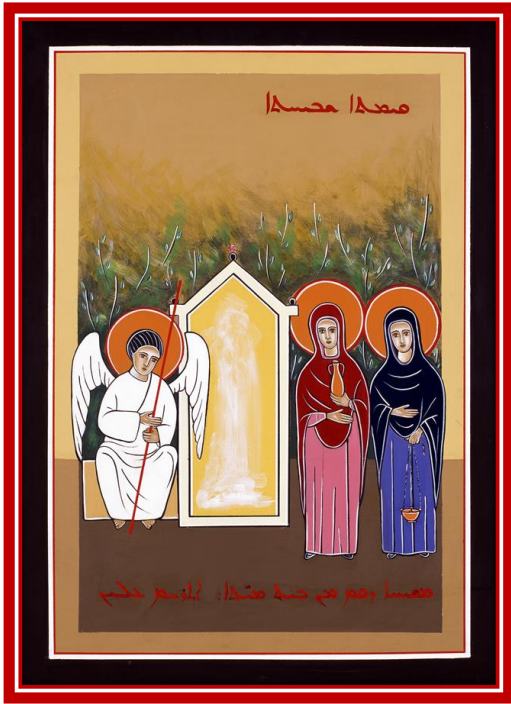


# Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



## Sixth Sunday of the Resurrection

May 17, 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](mailto: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

**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*   **Choir Director:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG   **Parish Council President:** Lisa Grard  
**Ex-officio Council Members:** Lenore Boles, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*

---

**THIS DAY'S GOSPEL<sup>1</sup> St. Luke 24: 36-48**

As they were discussing these things, Jesus stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you. It is I; do not be afraid”.

---

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

They were alarmed and frightened, for they though they saw a phantom.

“Why are you troubled,” Jesus asked them, “and why do thoughts rise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I! Touch Me and realize that a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see that I do.”

As He said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

And since they still did not believe it due to their joy and their being amazed, He asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?”

They gave Him a piece of roasted fish and some honeycomb.

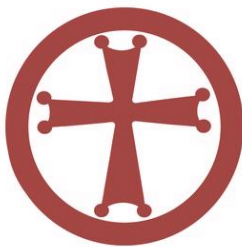
And He took it and ate it in front of them.

He told them, “These are the words I have spoken to you when I was with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, and in the Prophets, and in the Psalms must be fulfilled”.

Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

And He said to them, “So it is written, and so it is right for the Messiah to suffer and rise from the dead on the third day; and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins be preached in His Name in all nations, and that the beginning be in Jerusalem.

“You are witnesses of these things, and I am sending upon you the Promise of My Father. But stay in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high”.



*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**

This is a time of great stress for everyone, and we hope that we can rely on one another in such a way that charity and kindness come to the fore. Certainly, we are all being instructed to slow down, and to live more thoughtfully. It is endemic to modern life that we think too precipitously and speak without forethought, but now, in pandemic mode, we are being encouraged to pray more and to spend time before the Hidden Majesty, to be thoughtful, considerate, and to reflect before we act hastily.

We must help bear up one another's burdens and difficulties.<sup>3</sup> This is the Law of Christ. A major reason for keeping open our little church is to do just this: to give a point of reference and a stability of hope within a confusing, confused, and stressful world. We owe the bishop a great deal of gratitude for encouraging us all to do this.

It is funny how Providence works. The pace of the modern world, at least in the west, has verged on the hysterical for many years now. The frenetic and hyper activity of the last few decades has not been healthy, not to us individually, not to us as a community and society, and not to the handiwork of God's creation that surrounds us and in which we are members. We run, we pollute, we waste, we run some more, we become frantic, neurotic, we have breakdowns, and we gasp for breath, all so that we might speed off and do it all again. Is this not insane?<sup>4</sup>

Will we, and the rest of the world along with us, learn better in this historical moment of grace? For that is what this is: a present moment of charity, light, and grace. Are we good ground to receive this divine *kairos*? “Let him who has ears to hear, let him hear!”<sup>5</sup>

Only when we appreciate the transcendent aspects of our existence, and what it truly means to be human, are we then able to freely respond to the gifts of God and the healing that that entails. Slowing down, we learn to “breathe”, and by living in the present we are opened to the beautiful healing of the Kingdom. Understanding this, we come to recognize that chaos,

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

<sup>3</sup> Galatians 6: 2

<sup>4</sup> In its Latin origin, *insanus*, means “unhealthy, unsound”.

<sup>5</sup> St. Luke 8: 8

speed for speed's sake, noise as distraction, commotion to avoid silence and self-knowledge, and feverish energy to "nowhere" are merely the echoes of hell.

"Shock and awe" seems to be the only way the Most Holy can make mankind sit up and be attentive; the only way we can be made, seemingly, to clean up His creation and not constantly use it as a garbage dump for our cast-off mountains of consumer products with which we surround ourselves, the refuse of our selfish purposes.

Hopefully, many now begin to realize that other human beings are important – that is, true contact with others, not digitalized screens, which can never be a replacement – and that other people are essential to our mental well-being and physical health.

Clearly, God is calling all humanity to consider the treasure we have in the Divine Mysteries and the Work of Redemption, to attentively and better steward His creation, and to acknowledge that we are, in fact, our brothers' keepers. The common good should be our proper consideration socially, as we, individually, should enter more deeply into the Hidden One's plan of salvation in our personal lives.

Redemption is for all, and grace is necessary for each.

Obliged now to make this months-long retreat and recollection we should be advancing in wisdom. Our spirits, minds, bodies, and actions should be changed for the better through all this, and resolutions must be made for improving our future behavior. Do we pray more now, with this time on our hands, or do we piddle away the gift of these days and months? Our time is limited, and in need of redemption.<sup>6</sup>

And yet, as said above, Providence works in peculiar ways.

During the winter parish council meetings – unknowingly our last ones – in the months before we were all told to hide in our basements, as it were, it was discussed whether we should lock the church doors once the Divine Offices and Liturgies had begun.

Over the last few years there have been shootings and outright attacks made on Houses of Worship. In response, the local police were giving seminars in order to instruct churches on how to protect themselves, and so this rightly had become a concern for parish council members.

How could we assure, as best we could, the security of the community during Mass?

We certainly were not going to arm anyone as a security force, as has been done elsewhere. From the beginning, the Church has always been "**sanctuary**" and her buildings inviolable. The House of God is a sacrosanct place of the Divine and *weapons* and arms are *considered to disrespect its sanctity*. Indeed, violent action, resulting in death, requires a church to be re-consecrated.

By March, our last meeting, there had been no firm decision – and then "the world ended" and we were asked to lock ourselves up. Everything has been dramatically changed, and we must struggle with the reality now handed to us by the God of all.

The face of our Masses, of course, has changed. Most need to stay home, some are afraid, and we have guests among us. These latter now discover the beauties of *Beit Maroun*. Our Antiochene and Syriac heritage is being introduced to new Catholic faithful. In various ways, the pandemic is a learning experience for everyone. The numbers, however, will likely grow the longer the churches remain locked. While all are most welcome, we do need to count, control, space, and regulate any flow of people.

As *numbers do need to be controlled*, and the flow of people restricted, the **doors** will be *locked at the beginning of each Divine Liturgy*. This we have been doing, every day, for the last three weeks now. We apologize for the inconvenience to those who arrive late, but it is important to remember that even if there were no global crisis the virtues of **piety** and **charity** should get us to the House of God on time and *properly in our place well before the Alohoieh Rozeh begin*.

The **virtue of piety** instills in us the proper respect due to God, the Divine Mysteries, and the sacredness

---

<sup>6</sup> Ephesians 5: 16

of His House. Piety stops us from arriving late and disturbing the Holy Mysteries by tardiness.

The **virtue of charity** instills in us due respect to others, and fraternal charity toward our brothers and sisters. Saint Paul encouraged us to think of others before ourselves.<sup>7</sup> Charity prevents us from rudely arriving late and interrupting others as they pray and participate in the Divine Mysteries.

As has been the plan, *if there is an "overflow" at any given Mass, we can offer them to come in for a later feroverino and Communion Service*, if they wish to wait until the Qourbonoh is finished.

Thus, please, kindly take notice of the following:

- 1.) During this pandemic, please remember that there is no obligation to assist at the Divine Sacrifice.
- 2.) Those who are sick, or carry symptoms of sickness, must remain at home;
- 3.) All vulnerable, elderly, and at-risk individuals are encouraged to remain at home and to follow the Liturgies as posted on the parish's website.
- 4.) The **Saturday Vigil** Masses have been cancelled until further notice.
- 5.) The **weekday Masses** have been moved from Saint Jude's chapel and into the main church to allow more easily for "physical distancing" among the pews.
- 6.) Everyone must have a *handkerchief*, kleenex tissues, or face-mask to safely control and cover all coughs, sneezes, congestion, etc. Hand sanitizers are available around the church.
- 7.) Arrivals at church must be "*first-come-first-served*". These "first" also have the choice of where they wish to sit. This will not be possible once more people arrive.
- 8.) For the moment, we need to count and limit attendance to **10 "units"** or "**families**" of the faithful.
- 9.) Everyone must sit in such a way that there is *no one immediately in front* of them and *no one immediately behind* them. Please kindly follow directions that may be given by those trying to usher.
- 10.) As a result, no one will be allowed to claim "his" or "her" pew, and everyone will need to

*charitably collaborate* with assisting one another to sit throughout the entire church, occupying *all* pews and spaces available with "distancing".<sup>8</sup>

- 11.) The **space in the choir** loft must also be used *for seating* by the faithful until such time as the choir is re-constituted for the Liturgies.
- 12.) Any "family" that occupies an entire pew must be seated in either the *very last* or the *very first pew* on either side of the church.
- 13.) **Doors** will be **locked** at 10:00am on Sundays, and at 9:00am during the week.
- 14.) The doors will be checked by those ushering that they are truly latched and locked by *pushing firmly from the inside on each door*.
- 15.) We have *signs posted* externally so, please note, they will not be opened once they have been locked – no matter how strenuous be the pounding.<sup>9</sup> Everyone is gently asked to read the signs, and, filled with the virtues of piety and charity, not cause further disturbance. The doors have been locked for a reason.
- 16.) The **doors will continue to be locked** at the beginning of Liturgies for the foreseeable future.
- 17.) 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.
- 18.) And, lastly, everyone is asked **not to linger and visit within the church** once Mass is done. If one needs to visit, please do so outside the church, while being mindful of the proper physical distancing.

God bless everyone for making this effort and being attentive in how we present ourselves before the Lord. It is stressful and a pain, I know, but it is essential that we be seriously making an effort to charitably help one another, follow CDC directives, while at the same time continuing in adoration and service to the Most High, participating in His Life-giving Mysteries.

The good side to all this rigmarole is that Providence is encouraging us to be attentive, to arrive early (or at least on time), and to discover that there is an entire church building for our seating.

*Et voila!* Covid-19 has answered the two-month long discussion in parish council of whether we should be

<sup>7</sup> Philippians 2: 3

<sup>8</sup> The days of everyone clumping up in five pews in the back corner are no longer possible.

<sup>9</sup> Brute force has only succeeded in breaking the door jambs, which now need to be repaired.

locking the doors for security purposes. Security and health are now both being served. It is perhaps a different type of security than the one which had been envisioned, but, all the same, the question has now been resolved.

Sadly, this will be the “new normal” as they say, and these observances will need to continue for the foreseeable future and until further notice.

May the God of all consolation grant each of us charity, light, strength, patience, and perseverance to assist one another in these trying days.

**The Life-giving Cross**

All social gatherings,  
and all Saturday evening Masses  
will be cancelled until further notice.

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	May	17	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	May	24	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	May	31	Steve and Allison Crate
Sun	June	7	Sue Paré and Lolo Salazar
Sun	June	10	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	June	16	Jim & Lenore Boles

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION**  
May 17, 2020

**Rom 10: 1-13      St. Luke 24: 36-48**

**SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION**  
May 24, 2020

**Acts 1: 1-14      St. Mark 16: 15-20**

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 16 †Charles Owen  
(the Parish)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 17 For the Members of the Parish
- Mon 18 -----
- Tue 19 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 20 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 21 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 22 Private Intention  
(Abouna James)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 23 †Charles Owen  
(the Parish)
- Sun 24 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Mon 25 -----
- Tue 26 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 27 †Peter Joseph  
(Barbara Joseph)
- Thu 28 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 29 Private Intention  
(Abouna James)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 30 †Charles Owen  
(the Parish)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 31 For the Members of the Parish
- Mon 1 -----
- Tue 2 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 3 †Peggy Jamerson  
(Marc & Antoinette Jamerson)
- Thu 4 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 5 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 and  
Doreen Nader

*Thank you for all your continuing  
generosity, even from isolation and afar,  
that sustains this apostolic work,  
and for your kindness and gifts  
to the pastor at Easter.*

*You are manifesting exceptional charity  
and fidelity through these trying months.*

**May the Unclouded Bright One  
raise you all up and strengthen  
your steps in His service!**



Own your own.  
The parish has nine  
copies of the **Maronite  
Missal** available for  
**\$35 each.**

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

**Regular Collection: \$2005.00**

(Deficit 2020: \$25,575.00)

*Blessed be the Merciful One Who gives us  
the ability to sustain this apostolate.*

## **Sixth Sunday of the Resurrection**

**p 315**

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

**Entrance Hymn:** LB fsheeto 145

**Glory:** SB *al majdu*

**Qolo/Hymn:** LB *msheeho* 146B

**Creed** p 748

#### PRE-ANAPHORA:

**Transfer of Gifts:** LB *The Lord Reigns (Resurrection)*

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

#### ANAPHORA:

**Saint John Maron:** LB p 897

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

**Communion:** SB *O Lord, I am not worthy; The  
Strife is O'er*

**Recessional:** SB *Alleluya*

\*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song  
Book

## *Mabrouk!*

*To Master Evan Karter  
on the occasion of his  
First Holy Communion.*

*May 17<sup>th</sup>*

