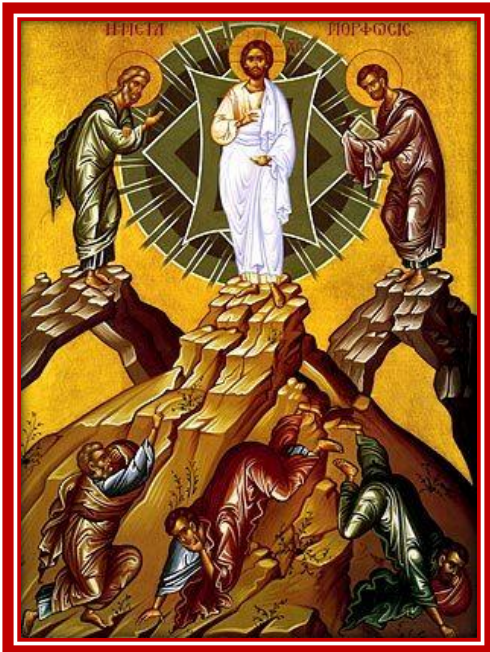


# Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



## Solemnity of the Transfiguration

August 9, 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)

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*"For us, the men and women of the East are a symbol of the Lord Who comes again."* Orientale Lumen, John Paul II

- Qourboneh:** Masses: Sunday 10:00 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>** II Cor 3: 7-17

Now if the ministry of death was yet glorious despite being written engraved on stones (so much so that the sons of Israel could not look upon the face of Moses due to its glory – however transient it was) then surely the

ministry of the Spirit will be even more glorious than that.

If the task of bearing a message of condemnation was a glorious thing, then how much more glorious is the ministry of justice! By comparison to this extraordinary glory, the thing that was before made glorious was not really glorious at all;

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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

and if something that has vanished was glorious, that which endures will be far more glorious.

It is because we have this hope that we act so freely. We are not as Moses was.

He veiled his face so that the sons of Israel could not see the full extent of something that was, in fact, perishing.

Moreover, their minds have been blinded, for even up to this day that veil remains over them whenever the Old Covenant is read; they do not realize that the Messiah has abolished it.

Even these days a veil lies over their hearts whenever Moses is read, and yet whenever one of them turns to the Lord, this veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

All of us, with faces unveiled, see the Lord's glory as in a mirror, and we are being changed into that likeness, from one glory to another, as by the Lord, the Spirit.



*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**

The eastern Mediterranean Sea washes up against a dramatic shoreline that crashes up from its coast into a double range of mountains. The Lebanon is a magnificent geographical location. Majestic in beauty, it is used as a type in the Sacred Scriptures

of divine strength, grandeur, and the power of holiness. The mountains and their cedars have become transcendent in typological sacred meaning.

Lebanon, in recent history, is also a modern state. Like other modern states it has a national government, a parliament, an army, trade and international commerce; but unlike other modern states, Lebanon is more than herself. Established as a multi-confessional state, she is more than a "state"; she is a message to the world. She has modeled what might be done in the Middle East where no single religious tradition is *the* "state religion". Different from the secular states of Syria and Iraq (both now more or less destroyed) she has been able to do this without political tyranny.

Lebanon has been a voice in the wilderness proclaiming the possibility that various groups of religious persons can live together in harmony; and this she has done surrounded by countries who refuse to listen. Their neighborhood is not a friendly or harmonious one. Even as the country goes through its present crises – with little help from its corrupt governing class – the population once again shows its solidarity and collaborative ability.

For these reasons, the Lebanon has always been more than herself, less than herself, and transcendent in her possibilities. Lebanon is more than a country; she is more than a modern state; and it is in our own interests to see that she survives as a model of possible world, and alternative to her reckless neighbors. She shows what can be, that religion does not have to hold hegemony over a historically mixed and diverse people.

Lebanon is not a Middle Eastern version of the US, but neither is Israel. In Lebanon religion is a major factor in individual life. Religion influences the lives of the citizens, but no one religion holds sway over the others in the country. Shia, Sunni, Druze, and Christian all collaborate.

In Israel, Judaism holds predominant power and hegemony over the others present within the state. It defines the legality of marriage, the scope of

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

military draft, and the freedom of its residents. Israel should not be confused with being a version of the US in the Near East as is often done by some Americans.

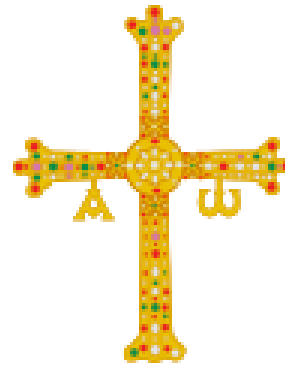
Of course, other regional powers impose one version or another of Islam as a state religion, and in them it is illegal to convert to Christianity. But even with these limitations, it was in the most secular countries – Syria and Iraq – where minorities have had space to breathe and prosper. Upending everything, the invasions and military excursions of the last twenty years have almost wiped out the two-thousand-year-old Christian presence even in those countries.

Throughout its history, the Lebanon and her people have acted as bridges between East and West and between religious bodies. The Lebanon has also been a place of refuge for the persecuted. It would be wrong to exaggerate the *necessity* of Lebanon, but even as a struggling country, her make-up and her history are of vital importance in modern international diplomacy, and it would be difficult to exaggerate her exemplary *importance* – Scriptural, historical, political, or social.

All things being equal, Lebanon may not be *absolutely* necessary to the world, but as things stand now, she is of *vital* and *central* importance. Please, do pray and fast for Lebanon.

May the Good One hear our prayers, and may He lavish His choicest graces upon her citizens so that they may realize their providential mission and become faithful stewards. May they become the best versions of themselves: faithful and persevering in the footsteps of Saints Sergius, Bacchus, Nouhra, Massabkis, Sharbel, and Rafqa.

May the Merciful One hear our supplications!



## **A Daily Morning Offering of our life and our intentions in service to the Most Holy**

**S**plendid Brilliance Whose light never fades, in the morning we hurry to Thee, the Creator of all, and we seek Thy mercy and compassion. Thou hast taken us from the sleep of error and granted us this morning that we might be filled with radiant joy. Restore our consciences that have been deformed by sin, dress our wounds, and pour upon us the oil of Thy kindness. Illumine our souls with the rays of Thy charity.

**R**adiant Son, Whose beams ever shine, in union with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we offer Thee, all our thoughts, words, deeds, joys, disappointments, and sufferings of this day in honor of Thy Most Sacred Heart and in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world; for the salvation of souls; in reparation for our sins, and in humble supplication for our temporal and eternal welfare; for the consolation of the reposed, and for all the needs of Holy Mother Church. Deign to acknowledge us on the Great Morning when, in Thy justice, Thou shalt judge us, for we hope to find refuge in Thee.

**R**esplendent Sea of Light, illumine our minds this day, heal our souls, and raise us up in all our thoughts and actions. May Thy luminous presence and the splendor of Thy revelation guide us to eternal happiness. To Thee – Father, Word, and eternal Spirit – be glory, adoration, honor, and thanksgiving, now and forever. Amen.

# The Life-giving Cross

Please, kindly take notice of our present practices:

- 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 **Saturday Vigil** Masses are cancelled until further notice.
- 7.) The **weekday Masses** have been moved into the main church to easily allow for "physical distancing" among the pews.
- 8.) 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.
- 9.) Please *do not use your hands* to cover sneezes and coughs. Everyone must have a *hand-kerchief*, tissues, or face-mask to safely control and cover all coughs, sneezes, congestion, etc.
- 10.) Hand sanitizers are available at the entrances and at the confessional.
- 11.) Arrivals at church must be "*first-come-first-served*". These also have the first choice of where they wish to sit.
- 12.) Everyone must sit in such a way that there is *no one immediately in front* of them and *no one immediately behind* them. Kindly follow the directions given by those trying to usher.
- 13.) Everyone will need to *charitably assist* one another to sit throughout the entire church,

occupying *all* pews and spaces available with "physical distancing".

14.) To control crowd flow, **doors** will be **locked** at the beginning of each Liturgy, and this for the foreseeable future.

15.) 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**.

16.) 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*. If one wishes to visit, please do so outside the church, being *mindful of the proper physical distancing*.

God bless everyone for making these efforts and being charitably attentive in how we present ourselves together before the Hidden Good One.

## May their memory be eternal.

*The Sanctuary Lamp this month burns in memory of Subdeacon Deeb and Sumayah Ferris.*

*Donated by Steve and Allison Crate*

### SCHEDULE OF READINGS

#### THE SOLEMNITY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

August 9, 2020

II Cor 3: 7-17

St. Mark 9: 1-7

#### THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

August 16, 2020

Rom 12: 9-15

St. Luke 10: 38-42



- Sat 22 †Edward Nortz  
(Abouna James)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 23 †Edgar Moseley  
(the D'Amico Family)
- Mon 24 -----
- Tue 25 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 26 †Dennis Martin  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 27 †Mary Buzzell  
(Michael & Maureen Martin)
- Fri 28 Private Intention  
(Abouna James)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 8 †Carole Holt  
(Michael & Maureen Martin)
- Sun 9 For Lebanon  
(Badiha Spencer)
- Mon 10 -----
- Tue 11 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 12 Anna Bearce  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 13 †Peter Cornelio  
(Michael & Maureen Martin)
- Fri 14 Private Intention  
(Abouna James)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 15 †Fr. Paul Coury  
(the Parish)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 16 For the Members of the Parish
- Mon 17 -----
- Tue 18 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 19 †Roger Allarie  
(Deanna Allarie)  
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 20 Fortieth Day of Emily Fournier  
(Bonnie McGann)
- Fri 21 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:** Joe Rowden, Rosanna Joseph, Doreen Nader, and all those who suffer from the covid virus.

VOCATION ICON

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

- |     |     |    |                           |
|-----|-----|----|---------------------------|
| Sun | Aug | 9  | Chris & Diane Wyder       |
| Sun | Aug | 16 | Michael & Gail Misner     |
| Sun | Aug | 23 | Bruce & Doreen White      |
| Sun | Aug | 30 | Steve and Allison Crate   |
| Sun | Sep | 6  | Sue Paré and Lolo Salazar |
| Sun | Sep | 13 | Larry & Lisa Grard        |
| Sat | Sep | 19 | Jim & Lenore Boles        |

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

**Regular Collection: \$2,093.00**

(Deficit 2020: \$37,425.00)

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

Next special "second collection" will be for the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon on August 16<sup>th</sup>

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.

**While our work and purpose may be supernatural, the incessant expenses and bills are altogether of this world!**

## Solemnity of the Transfiguration

p. 583

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

**Entrance Hymn:** LB *safreh* 178

**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 *l'maryam yoldat*

**ANAPHORA:**

**Saint John Chrysostom:** LB p 876

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

**Communion:** SB *O Bread of Life; Father of Truth*

**Recessional:** SB *Seek ye first*

\*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book

## The Fast of the Dormition

*The Assumption of the Ever-Virgin Mary into Heaven, body and soul (August 15<sup>th</sup>)*

As we were reminded by our Patriarch in his encyclical, it is our tradition to fast in preparation for the great feasts, and all are encouraged to do so faithfully, *par.* 24:

*This fast is known as "The Fast of the Virgin", during which the faithful abstain from eating meat, dairy products, and eggs, from August 7<sup>th</sup> until August 14<sup>th</sup> inclusively.*

We are reminded in *paragraph* 21 of the same letter that "a fast" is to go without all foods *from midnight to noon*, after which we *abstain from all animal flesh and most animal products* – this is most similar to a "vegan" diet as one would call it these days.

When a fast day falls on a Saturday or a Sunday (as will be the case on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> this year) one can eat as they wish, but should still abstain from animal flesh and animal products.

These observances are for all who have attained the age of the use of reason, *par.* 22.



**Saint Lawrence**  
**Martyr**  
**August 10<sup>th</sup>**