

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Solemnity of the Transfiguration

August 11, 2019

Welcome all visitors to the beautiful heritage of Antioch

3 Appleton St.
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.” *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 Gard **Ex-officio Council Members:** Subdeacon Steve Crate; Lenore Boles, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*

Today's Gospel¹ St. Mark 9: 1-7

He told them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come in power.” After six days, Jesus led Kepha, James, and John and brought them up a high mountain by themselves, and He was transformed before their eyes. His clothing gleamed and became very white, like snow, such that men on earth are not able to whiten.

Elijah and Moses appeared to them, speaking with Jesus. Kepha said to Him, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us build three shelters – one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what he was saying, since they were very afraid. Then a cloud appeared and overshadowed them, and there was a voice from the cloud that said, “This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him.”

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



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)²

ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

What does a juncture of time and eternity look like? We admire the extent and beauty of the universe and wonder at the expanse of time, and justly so. However, we almost never admire the moment where the Eternal Now³ interacts with the free beings He has created in His image. Unaware and inattentive we plow through life focused mostly on the immediate concerns with shortsighted view of things. Heads down, we look at “stuff” and not with the beauty of the possible.

Men are free at every moment, except for immaturity of age in children, or in by illness in adults, and every instant in which they exercise that free-will they act with purpose, and purpose is because of goals – and goals give moral goodness or deficiency of goodness to every human action, however large or small they may be. Free-will, confronted with the reality of the cosmos, is the source of moral goodness in the world; when it fails the human person is corrupted. This is why the free choice of an individual can have repercussions for all eternity – immutable contentment or permanent frustration – heaven or hell results by the free choice of each person; and while no one would consciously choose unending misery, his moral choices in life can line him up for just that effect. In this world, no one would choose to be homeless and destitute, reduced to begging, but prior choices concerning the “bliss” or escape of drugs, or the thrill of gambling, may line him up for such a result. We are free to choose our course, but

² Homily 1.7.8 “on Ezechiel”

³ God transcends all time and the universe. He is **not** the biggest being in the world as some people seem to try to picture Him; He is totally, completely, and infinitely outside of all limited existence. As a result, God exists outside of all time as we know

we are not free to choose the effects that result from those choices.

For all the above reasons, it is important to understand the larger context in which abortions take place. It is clear that Catholics must not only have clear vision about restoring the integrity and healthiness of families – the place where children are nurtured and educated – but also concerning the poverty that afflicts ten percent of this nation. This is unacceptable for the richest country in all history, and the community, state, and nation must work that the laws of a community benefit families and resolve poverty to the greatest extent possible; and not just patch the effects of poverty. *A community's legislation must foster family life.* This means that while children need to be aided, **unwed** mothers *should not be fostered by the regulations* of a state or city.

Family life with *wedded* parents should be fostered by making the tax structure sound and saner than it is at this point. People should be encouraged to marry and establish sound and healthy homes. Two people who are married should pay – together – less tax than as two separate individuals. Certainly, *a wedded couple should never have to pay more tax than if they had remained single.*

Human beings do not breed, they rear children and educate the next generation. On a practical level, Catholics should take an interest in their local and state government where rules and standards are set for the communities, and where the laws should encourage both marriage and strong families. Catholics, with a sense of social responsibility, should be engaged in their local city councils, school boards, and even state legislature with a view of creating a healthier environment than the one we have today. Because our social structures are often so unhealthy, after decades of social manipulation and misplaced enthusiasm, we have brought about the individual despair that is the modern American opioid crisis. Within a collapsed social order, it is easy to see babies as “unwanted” and as “a problem”. The modern abortion issue for the

it, without change, alteration, or movement. Hence, God exists in one perfect simultaneous instant that the philosophers and theologians refer to as the *Nunc Stans*, or the Eternal Present. All things past, present, and future – real or possible – are simultaneously present before Him in that eternal moment. We live in time, so this idea to us is unimaginable.

community as a whole (individuals as ever may be tempted to kill children) will remain present so long as the social issues surrounding child rearing are out of whack. The upending and destruction of reason and proper choice of free-will results when one wishes to remedy a social, familial, economic, or other circumstance by terminating the child's life. Considering the points at the beginning of these reflections, one can understand why abortion is not an individual concern, not a "health issue", but is a situation that has, ultimately, cosmic and eternal consequences.

Today, we are completely backward in so many fields. The huge outcry today is for more and more "day care" and universal pre-K, which is a shame. These are proposed solutions while missing completely the central problems. For well now fifty years we have been trying to find fixes to effects and not to resolve the deleterious central and fundamental issues of our unhealthy situation.

We should be aiming to reestablish strong family units and not simply patching a broken society where more and more children are left to strangers to rear and not their parents. When I worked in Geneva it was clear that for the Swiss, on a national level, that their intent was to have laws concerning family, wages, and even vacation time, that would require only one parent to be working so that the children would have a secure home with at least one parent present. They legislated in such a way as to have a family be able to live on a single income, for example. In America, we have so long obsessively focused on the individual that we have collapsed the family structure and subordinated it to the individual.

All rights are based on obligations. One has a "right" that must be recognized by others because the one bearing that right has "obligations" to accomplish. "Rights" these days are spoken of as if they meant one could do what one wishes with them. This is all backward. Individuals should be nurtured within healthy families and social structures, and the rights of individual parents are based on the responsibilities that they have toward their children.

Without healing our social networks we have little hope of resolving the abortion issue any time soon.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Regular Collection: \$1344.00

Thanks be to the Good One Who allows us to continue this apostolate unto His glory!

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Aug 11	Steve and Allison Crate
Sun	Aug 18	Sue Paré and Lolo Salazar
Sun	Aug 25	Lowell & Mary Hawes
Sun	Sept 1	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Sept 7	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Sept 15	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Sept 22	Bruce & Doreen White

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

SOLEMNITY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

August 11, 2019

II Cor 3: 7-17 St. Mark 9: 1-7

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE EVER-VIRGIN MARY

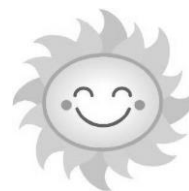
August 15, 2019

Ro 12: 9-15 St. Luke 1: 46-55

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

August 18, 2019

Eph 2: 17-22 St. Luke 19: 1-10



Summer Break

There will be no coffee and muffins for 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.

The Fast of the Dormition

The Assumption of the Ever-Virgin Mary into Heaven, body and soul (August 15th)

As we were reminded by our Patriarch in his recent Lenten Letter, 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 7th until August 14th 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 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 10th and 11th this year) one can eat as they wish, but should still abstain from all animal flesh and animal products.

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

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sat	10	†Charles Owen (the Parish) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sun	11	For the members of the Parish
Mon	12	-----
Tue	13	Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Wed	14	9:00 am †David Bourgoin (Dan & Pam Casavant) 6:00 pm For the members of the Parish
Thu	15	Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Fri	16	Private Intention (Abouna James) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sat	17	†Charles Owen (the Parish) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sun	18	For the members of the Parish
Mon	19	-----
Tue	20	†Janet George (Jean Deeb)
Wed	21	†Rosalba Russi Saviano (Marc & Antoinette Jamerson)
Thu	22	Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Fri	23	Private Intention (Abouna James) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sat	24	†Fr. Paul Coury (the Parish) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sun	25	For the members of the Parish
Mon	26	-----
Tue	27	Evan Beck
Wed	28	†Monica Walter Lippold (Marc & Antoinette Jamerson)
Thu	29	Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Fri	30	Private Intention (Abouna James) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Autumn Harvest Raffle

\$10,000 GRAND PRIZE!!!!

Ticket sales will begin on Monday, July 29th.

One in 400 chance to win \$10,000.00!!!

Cost of each ticket is \$100.00, with the winning ticket for the prize to be drawn Tuesday, December 3rd.



*The Glorious Assumption of the Mother of God
August 15th*

The Assumption of the Most Holy Mother of God August 15th

The feast of the Assumption is the most important Maronite Marian Feastday. It is a holyday of obligation, a day that we have the *serious obligation to observe as we do a Sunday.*

This means that all the baptized must assist at Mass and set aside unnecessary servile labor – making the Day holy to the Lord.

The Holy Qourboneh will be at **6:00 pm** on **Wednesday, August 14th**, and at **9:00 am** on **Thursday, August 15th**.

Solemnity of the Transfiguration p 583

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *safreh* 200

Glory: SB *glory*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *shareero* 201A

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 *Gift of Peace*

Communion: SB *I am the Vine; O Sanctissima*

Recessional: SB *Majdo Maryam*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book