

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church

Sunday after the Nativity of Our Lord

December 29, 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.” *Orientalis 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*

TODAY'S GOSPEL¹ St. Matthew 2: 13-18

After they left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said to him, "Get up, take the Boy and His Mother and flee to Egypt.

Remain there until I tell you, for Herod is going to look for the Boy in order to destroy Him." Joseph got up and took the Boy and His Mother, and fled to Egypt at night.

He was there until Herod's death, so that what was said by the Lord in the prophet would be fulfilled, who said, "From Egypt I have called my son."²

When Herod saw that he had been insulted by the Magi, he was very angry. He sent and killed all the boys of Bethlehem and its entire vicinity, from the age of two years and younger, according to the time that he had carefully learned from the Magi.

Then what was said through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

*A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning;
Rachel weeping for her children,
and she does not wish to be comforted,
because they are no more.*



*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)³

ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

Everything living moves. Physical motion is only one form of activity, movement from place to place (locomotion) is another, but "motion" is any type of activity that originates from within. Life, thought, nutrition, and reproduction are all "motion". Even the simplest living beings must take in nutrition and reproduce in some way, even if they never physically move their place.

Therefore, life is progression: "going out before". Time, too, is movement. Time, being a creature, is also in the Hand of God and although not living, it is progressive to the set and definitive End. Some form of time can measure living and inanimate matter. Thus Genealogy Sunday's Gospel appears to be a mere listing, but it is more than just a series of names; it portrays a living movement of time from Abraham to the Messiah.

The ceremonies of Baptism – conferring life eternal – end with a *girding* and a *procession*. The baptized is girded because he now begins a movement and progression of living grace toward the Kingdom that shall appear definitively only at the Parousia. *Girded* because the baptized is meant to be on a continual living journey. The Christian life is not something that is done in fits and starts, let alone in regressions and reverses.

The *Procession* of Baptism signifies the Church on march toward our Lord's Appearance at time's end. We are all in motion and now the newly baptized join the crowds of the children of the Kingdom and join in this living movement toward the Judgement in Appearance.

While still on earth in this movement, the baptized joins in the Eucharistic Sacrifice where Life Itself is manifested personally. Baptism is directly ordered to the Eucharistic Sacrifice and its Communion; and the Eucharist manifests and creates the Body of Christ. The *Alohooyo Qourbonoh* is the renewal of heaven and earth.

When the procession from the baptistery historically entered the church building it was the baptized who were being introduced to a newly created humanity

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

² Hosea 11: 1

³ *Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"*

in living motion toward the Divine and Forgiving Altar of the Lord. This re-created humanity is the Church, the *ecclesia*, the “assembly” of those “called” to salvation and who dwell in God. They are in living motion toward that destiny for which human beings were first made: to enter the eternal Holy Place, the Divine Dwelling Place, which is infinite and divine Light.

Without baptism this renewal is impossible.

When we cease to progress in this journey forward, consecrated in Baptism and sealed in Chrismation, it is a sign that death is either present or soon approaching. To die in this state is utter tragedy. The loss of grace is the beginning of damnation.

The *Ecclesia Sancta* surrounds us with the sacred notion of time and progress with **the Liturgical Year**. The human calendar is transformed into *vision* for those who live in Messiah and wish to progress from grace to grace. The liturgical year, cyclic that it may be, reminds us to enter time consciously and to correspond with the illumination of grace given to us first in baptismal consecration, and perfected in Chrismation.

Sanctified time leads us into a state where the Person of the Hidden One, the Thrice-Holy Spirit, can speak to us directly through open ears and in a heart enflamed with charity.

When we love in awareness – informed by the Liturgical Year -- consecrated time perfects us in our progress so that it be unceasing, inspired, and ever in sight of the full Epiphany of the Word Incarnate: Heart of our heart and Life of our life.

May His present grace enliven our progressive path in steps of joy toward the great Manifestation!



SCHEDULE OF READINGS

SUNDAY AFTER THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD

December 29, 2019

Heb 11: 23-31 St. Matthew 2: 13-18

THE FINDING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

January 5, 2020

Heb 7: 11-19 St. Luke 2: 41-52

THE GLORIOUS EPIPHANY

January 6, 2020

Titus 2: 11-3: 7 St. Luke 3: 15-22

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Dec	29	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	Jan	5	Steve and Allison Crate
Sun	Jan	12	Sue Paré and Lolo Salazar
Sun	Jan	19	Lowell Hawes
Sun	Jan	26	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Feb	1	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Feb	9	Chris & Diane Wyder

*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: Doreen Nader, Louise Saliem, and Virginia Poulin

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 28 †Charles Owen
(the Parish)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 29 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 30 -----
- Tue 31 4:00pm For the members of the Parish
- Wed 1 10:00 am Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 2 †Janet George
(Nicholas Ghaphery)
- Fri 3 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 4 †Malcolm Spencer
(Bodhi Spencer)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 5 10:00am For the members of the Parish
4:00pm Catholic Extension Society
- Mon 6 10:00 am Fr. Edward Perrone
(Edwin Laabs)
- Tue 7 -----
- Wed 8 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 9 †Mary Hawes
(Shirley Thomas)
- Fri 10 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 11 †Charles Owen
(the Parish)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 12 The Michaud Family
- Mon 13 -----
- Tue 14 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 15 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 16 †Mary Hawes
(Shirley Thomas)
- Fri 17 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Regular Collection: \$1867.00

For years we have been short on **Altar Linens**. We have recently ordered a new set for the **Main Altar**, and for *those who wish to assist* in the beauty and dignity of the Altar of the Lord, we had to spend **\$1,500.00**

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

Genealogy Sunday

p 76

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

Entrance Hymn: LB Msheeho (Abdullah) 75B

Glory: SB *Angels we have heard on High*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *shareero* 76A

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

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

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

Saint John Chrysostom: LB p 876

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *O Body of my Savior; Angels*

Recessional: SB *Joy to the World*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book

Schedule for the Holy Days of Obligation in the Christmas Season



Saint Basil the Great and
Saint Gregory Nazianzen

January 1st

Besides the usual Sundays, each of the Christian Faithful are under *serious obligation* to assist at the Divine Sacrifice on these days, equally treated as one would a Sunday:

The Circumcision

The Glorious Epiphany

Vigil of the Circumcision

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

4:00 pm

Circumcision

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

10:00 am

Vigil of the Epiphany

Sunday, January 5, 2020

4:00 pm

Glorious Epiphany

Monday, January 6, 2020

10:00 am

Please note that there will be **no** Masses on the *mornings* of **December 31st** and **January 7th**