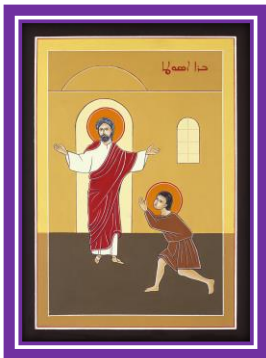
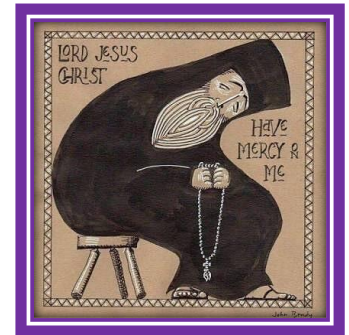


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Sunday of the Prodigal Son

March 24, 2019



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
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." Orientale 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 **three 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*; Shana Page, *Rosary Sodality*

TODAY'S EPISTLE II Corinthians 13: 5-13

Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in faith.

Test yourselves.

Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is within you? – unless, of course, you fail this test.

I hope you will discover that we have not failed. But we pray to God that you may not do evil, not that we may appear to have passed the test, but that you may do what is right, even though we may seem to have failed.

For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for that you may become perfect.

So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me to build up and not to tear down.

Finally, brethren, rejoice. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, encourage one another, live in peace. And may the God of charity and peace be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

All the holy ones greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

The good news, "the Gospel", is the gift of God.

It is a grace, that is, it is not a moral assistance contributed by God to our human liberty in order to render our acts meritorious of eternal life.

Grace is the physical communication of Divine Life: God begets us and we are truly made His children^{1,2}

Christianity is not primarily about individuals, nor is it focus on "getting souls to heaven". The Gospel is not a self-help manual on "how to be good". Grace is, as quoted above, the physical communication of Divine Life, so Christianity, as divine life introduced into the world, is the advent of a new order of things.

Grace is not something that merely "polishes up" the world and makes it more respectable. Grace and the Gospel enter a wounded world so that it can be made whole. The Gospel reveals the entrance of a new creation and the transformation of life. Again, as quoted above, the Gospel is the announcement of the Good One's intent to make anew and generate each individual as His "child" – a reflection and extension of His life and His love. When we live this new reality, salvation is ours.

This is why, at the end of his letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul can write that the Christians "test" themselves. "Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in faith." To have heard the catechism, know, more or less, the "Jesus Story", and think vaguely and confusedly about what it is to be "Maronite" is *insufficient*. We must embrace the Gospel, open our minds to the Light that is Christ, and collaborate with the transforming action of the Spirit of Holiness as He works within our spirit. Anything less than this is insufficient. As they say, "almost" works only in horseshoes and atomic

bombs, it won't get us into the fullness of the Kingdom.

The "test" is simple: we each ask ourselves, "does my life manifest the Lord Jesus living within me?" This is not a question of whether I am a "good person" – no one thinks himself bad. So, in other words, do those around me see clearly the new creation at work within me? Do my words, my actions, and my life *as a whole* manifest the Face of Christ? If not, why not? Are we afraid to go counter-current, stand out in the crowd? Should this be the case, we are guaranteed of being overwhelmed by the inundation of tangled corruption that presently confuses and drowns the world around us – it may even now be drowning us unawares. Lent is a call to awaken.

We must see the wounded world around us for what it is, and judge correctly its perpetual emptiness and insufficiency to give life. Truth is the correspondence between mind and reality, and ultimate Reality is Hidden Eternal Love. Truth compels us to examine and see – and judge – or we risk being satisfied with the misalignment of spiritual psychosis.

The importance of "the test" is that it shows whether we see the Plan of God and the beauty of the New Creation at work in our lives, or not. Grace communicates divine life and in this communion the Hidden One desires to renew in each of us His perfect image and likeness. The purpose of the Christian life is to enter more and more deeply into the unchanging eternal Light that is God. Freely we have received, freely we must give in turn.

This Gospel is not a generic theory about "the human race" or "humanity". It is addressed to each individual in his freedom. Each of us is either saved in grace-filled radiant *shlomoh*, or, left to our own nature alone, lost in the dark confusion of our insufficiency.

Do you pass the test?

Catechesis

The *Adult Religion Course* will run through to the end of May. **Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.**

¹ St. John 3: 5 "No one who is not born of water and the Spirit can enter into the Kingdom of God."

² From Charity and Liberty by Rev. Fr. Ceslaus Spicq, OP

VOCATION ICON

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

Sat	Mar 30	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Apr 7	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	Apr 14	Lowell & Mary Hawes
Sun	Apr 24	Larry & Lisa Grand

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

March 24, 2019

II Cor 13: 5-13 St. Luke 15: 11-32

THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC

March 31, 2019

I Tim 5: 24-6: 5 St. Mark 2: 1-12

THE DAILY INTERCESSION FOR THE FIDELITY OF THOSE IN APOSTOLIC OFFICE:

Remember, O Lord of goodness, Your holy Church, and have mercy on all her faithful. In Your compassion, heal the wounded and injured among Your Flock. Punish injustice, console hearts and strengthen all our brothers and sisters. Bestow the grace of conversion on all.

With Your indestructible power, strengthen the bishops of the true Faith that they may be upright and courageous in their apostolic office. May they show fidelity as they stand ever before Your eternal justice. Unto Your honor and glory, may they prove themselves upright, dauntless and persevering in the task confided to them: to lead all the faithful into the fullness of Your redeeming light and glory. We pray to You, O Lord.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Regular Collection: \$1478.00

Please remember that our *Lenten Assessment* is **\$4000.00**. (\$1220 has been contributed thus far.)

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

UNPLANNED

the Movie

Bishop Gregory has asked all the parishes to put notice in our bulletins of a new film coming out this weekend. It covers the experience of one of the principal directors in Planned Parenthood who came to understand that the "fetus" is as much a baby as the one you have carried in your arms.

Although the drama that surrounds an unexpected pregnancy can be horrendous, and the circumstances warrant individual considerations and serious application to correct socially and financially - and for all these corrections to be inspired by supernatural faith and charity - we also know from the writings of Saint Paul that God's revelation clarifies the great philosophical question about goals: the "end does not justify the means".³ Situations are not more important than an innocent human life.

This movie, **UNPLANNED**, is the inspiring true story of one woman's journey of transformation. All Abby Johnson ever wanted to do was help women. As one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the nation, she was involved thousands of abortions. Her passion surrounding a woman's "right to choose" even led her to become a spokesperson for Planned Parenthood, fighting to enact legislation for the cause she so deeply believed in until the day she saw something that changed everything, leading her to join her former enemies at 40 Days-For-Life, and become one of the most ardent pro-life speakers in America.

The movie can change hearts and minds. Please view the movie. For more information, tickets, theater reservation, you can check <https://www.unplannedfilm.com/>

In consideration of the grave difficulties surrounding "unwanted" pregnancy", such as the collapse of family and loss of communal structures that once supported the healthy entrance of babies into the world, we must ever repeat: the baby in question is not the central "problem" and its destruction is not an acceptable "solution". The "termination" of a baby *in utero* is intrinsically evil, completely

³ Romans 3: 8, 6: 1 and Catechism of the Catholic Church 1761

unacceptable, and a perverse means toward what would necessarily become a questionable end.

As some seem confused about this, **it is essential to repeat that abortion, the deliberate killing of an unborn children, is gravely sinful** and remains even today a sin that is cause for *excommunication from the Church*.

Excommunication means that the guilty person is *severed from the life* of the Catholic Church and *can no longer receive the Sacraments or its intercessions* until such time as the sin is **confessed**, properly **absolved**, and **penance** is received.

Grave turmoil weighing on the parents -- whether of familial collapse, poverty, health, or the inability to rear this specific child -- are all *settings* surrounding the life of the child in question. They are *circumstances*, and as such they do not outweigh the intrinsic value of a human life. The considerations may be serious, and they should be dealt with in charitable and fitting ways, but the death of an innocent can *never* be chosen as means to an end.

All of us should be clear on the gravity of this sin, and the severe penalty imposed on it by the Church. One *cannot in good conscience* be both a good Christian and *support the killing* of the unborn. A Catholic cannot be what is called "pro-choice".

MARCH CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FOOD BANK

Family sized items: stews, ravioli, jiffy mixes, condiments, toilet paper and personal care items. Please place these items in the box near the church's Appleton Street entrance.

INTENTIONS FOR THE QURBONEH (MASSES)

Sat 23 †Ron Stevens
(Herbert Joseph)
 -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Sun 24 †Rev. Fr. Paul Coury
(the Parish)

Mon 25 -----

Tue 26 Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Wed 27 †John Nadeau
(Dan & Pam Casavant)
 -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Thu 28 Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Fri 29 †Colette O'Malley
(Dan & Pam Casavant)

Sat 30 †Charles Owen
 -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Sun 31 †Paul and Charlene LaVerdiere
(Audrey Yotides)

Mon 1 -----

Tue 2 Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Wed 3 Private intention
(Badiha Spencer)
 -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Thu 4 Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Fri 5 John Scarpa
 -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Sat 6 †Charles Owen
(the Parish)

Sun 7 For the members of the Parish

Mon 8 -----

Tue 9 Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Wed 10 Private intention
(Badiha Spencer)
 -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Thu 11 Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Fri 12 †Gerald Fortin
 -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Specifics for the Great fast
as directed by the Patriarch

- A.) Ash Monday and Great and Holy Friday of the Crucifixion are obligatory days of *Days of Fast and Abstinence for all 18-60*.
- B.) All from the age of reason onward are obliged to follow the abstinence from all meat products on these fast days even if they are strictly not obliged to fast. On all other weekdays, Monday-Friday, one is encouraged to observe the ancient traditions and fasts.
- C.) All Fridays are required days of abstinence from all meat and animal products.

QUANTITY: In our tradition, the fast means no food whatsoever between midnight and noon, only water and medication are permitted. Following noon, only one meal proper is eaten within the next twelve hours, although a second "collation", a "snack", during the remaining time is permitted to sustain strength (this is the equivalent of about two/three ounces of food).

QUALITY: Also, in our eastern tradition, the days of fast are in practice vegan, that is, no animal products, no meat, no seafood, no meat products, no dairy, no eggs, nor dairy products are to be eaten.

Sharin' of the Green Winners!

Rita Hikel, \$25; Lila Hallowell, \$50; Lori Furrow, \$75; Rita Karter, \$25; Dame Fefa, \$50; Rosanna Joseph, \$25; Dale Sturtevant, \$75; Richard Karter, \$100; Mark Nale, \$25; and Hebert Karter, \$50.

Congratulations to all the winners, and thanks to all who contributed to this springtime fundraiser.

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, Tala Poulin, Louise Saliem, Virginia Poulin, and Beverly Rideout.

Choir Rehearsals for this Sacred Season:

Thursdays 6:00 pm.
March 28th, April 4th, and April 11th

March Devotions

The Sanctuary Lamp (representing all the parish before Our Hidden Lord) will burn for the month of March *in memory of George Deeb*. Donated in his name by Dame Marie Fefa, DSG

May he be brought into the fullness of the light and joy of the Kingdom.

Benediction of the Cross

preceded by Stations,
will take place on Fridays of Lent at 6:30 pm.

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *eeto* 114

Glory: SB *al rahmna*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *bo'outho* 115

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

Saint Peter, Chief of the Apostles: LB p 774

Sign of Peace: SB *Peace like a River*

Communion: SB *I am the Vine; I will return*

Recessional: SB *Joyful, joyful*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book

FOOD and MUSIC!

Sunday, April 28th, 2019

ANNUAL LEBANESE PUBLIC SUPPER

ST. JOSEPH'S ANTIOCHENE SYRIAC CATHOLIC CHURCH
3 APPLETON STREET, WATERVILLE, MAINE 04901

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Join us for an evening of fellowship & authentic
Lebanese Cuisine - eat in or take out! Everyone is Welcome.



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th, 2019

FALL MEDITERRANEAN FESTIVAL - Hafli

Winslow VFW
175 VETERAN'S DRIVE - WINSLOW, MAINE

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Join us for an afternoon of celebration
with authentic Lebanese Cuisine, Cash Bar, & Dancing!

Live Middle Eastern Music Featuring
George Maalouf, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM.



EVENTS SPONSORED by:

ST. JOSEPH ANTIOCHENE SYRIAC CATHOLIC CHURCH - WATERVILLE, MAINE.