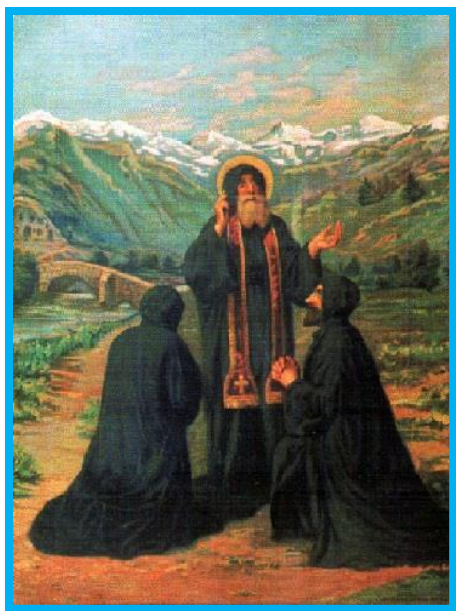


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Tenth Sunday of Pentecost

July 25, 2021

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

"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 9:00 and 11:00 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 the Sunday 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 stipend: \$15
Monthly Memorials: Sanctuary Candles \$35; Altar Bread \$30; Sacramental Wine \$55
Catechism: Lenore Boles, *Director* **Choir Director:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG **Parish Council President:** Ex-officio
Council Members: , Religious Education; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*

This Day's Gospel¹

St. Matthew 12: 22-32

Then they brought to Him a demoniac that was dumb and blind; and He healed him, so that the dumb and blind man both spoke and saw. And all the multitude were amazed, and said: Is this not the son of David?

But when the Pharisees heard (this), they said: This man doth not cast out demons, except by Beelzebub the prince of demons. And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: Every kingdom that is divided against itself will become desolate; and every house or city which is divided against itself, will not stand. And if I by Beelzebub cast out demons, by whom do your children cast them out?

¹ Based on The New Testament, translated from the Syriac Peshitto Version, Gorgias Press, New Jersey, 2001, translated by James Murdock, STD, 1893

Wherefore they will be your judges.
 But if I by the Spirit of God cast out demons,
 the kingdom of God hath come near to you.
 Or how can one enter the house of a strong
 man, and plunder his goods, unless he first
 bind the strong man? And then he may
 plunder his house.
 He that is not with Me, is against Me; and he
 that gathereth not with Me actually scattereth.
 Therefore, I say to you, that all sins and
 contumelies shall be forgiven to men; but the
 contumely which is against the Spirit shall not
 be forgiven to me.
 And whoever shall speak a word against the
 Son of man, it will be forgiven him;
 but whoever shall speak against the Holy
 Spirit, it will not be forgiven him – not in this
 world, and not in the age to come.



*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

Following last week's considerations, we can note that our "theological" prayer must be grounded *truly* in the Messianic Heart of God. Communion with the Word Incarnate is the very essence of salvation, and without it salvation is impossible. This communion, however, must be conscious, thoughtful, and made by willfully chosen steps that correspond with the illumination of the faith given to us and the grace of God.

Contact with the Divine is restorative and the healing remedy for mankind; and because **Christic**

communion is an interpersonal intimacy – a matter of the heart in the patristic sense – it is smothered, even suffocated to death, by sin and selfishness in any form. The baby-steps of spiritual progress are taken on the **ascetic path** of self-mastery by **habitual fidelity** to the Unclouded Bright One.

Our first steps in the spiritual life must be to rid ourselves of all sin – not only mortal or serious sin – to strive with earnest effort to rid ourselves from *all* sins, imperfections, and base attachments. We must leave aside the spirit of the world, and put away its noise and unnecessary busy-ness as much as is possible in our daily lives. The ascetic path untethers us from the emptiness of the world, unplugs the ears of the mind, and liberates us.³ Only then is one free to enter into the Divine Mystery.

The charity of the Hidden Father cannot exist in the person who loves the world, relishes the sensual body, thrills in lustful and impure eyes, or who is proud in his possessions:

*Do not love the world
 or the things in the world.
 If anyone loves the world,
 love for the Father is not in him.
 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh,
 and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,
 is not of the Father, but is of the world.
 And the world passes away, and the lust of it;
 but he who does the will of God abides forever.⁴*

The hurdles to life in Christ are innumerable and we must be skillful and wise in our approach to following our Lord, indeed, "cunning" as He taught us.⁵ The obstacles, among others, that dull our resolution to seek and to touch the indwelling Spirit of light, are the snags of worldly vanity, concern about others' opinions, and even selfish clinging to family and friends.

On God's part, He does try to show us the futility of this world's promises, the passing value of earthly goods, and the shortness of life:

For what shall it profit a man,

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

³ St. Luke 8: 14: *The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear (the word of God), but as they go on their way they are*

choked by life's worries, riches, and pleasures; and they do not mature.

⁴ I John 2: 15-17

⁵ St. Matthew 10: 16

*if he shall gain the whole world,
and lose his own soul?*⁶

These are the negative things that we must avoid in order to enter fully onto the path of the Gospel.

Therefore, in order to begin a true life of prayer in any real sense (not just mouthing words) labor must be applied with *firm determination to turnabout one's life* away from one that is preoccupied by the world's affairs to a life centered within the Most Holy Trinity open to grace.

The positive things that we must work at, as laid out by the spiritual writers for beginners, are the need to avoid bad associates and to *choose good and virtuous friends* so that our short time here below be one of mutual aid toward beauty and goodness.⁷

One must also *embrace the cross* – a spirit of resignation is insufficient for those who seek to love God. The one who wishes to follow our Lord, as He has told us, must take up his cross **daily**.⁸

Besides leaving aside a worldly spirit of vanity and distraction, we must positively strive to *attain an attentive manner*, an ability to ponder with thoughtful reflection, and a habitual ability to enter mindful silence. With these tools and skills, we can learn to pray.

The path in the beginning may seem daunting, with progress being made only with difficulty. It is true, the path is steep. The weight of this world is heavy, and our habits most often bad. But with resolve and perseverance all this lightens along the way, and with progress being made docility to grace becomes habitual. Attaining this, one is totally free.

We must step forward with resolute determination *to seek the will of God every day*. To the degree that one lives the Gospel message in fidelity seeking our Lord, the prayer life can be nurtured, matured, and perfected. Without faithfulness and virtue, one cannot advance fully into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Freeing ourselves from sin, always caused by our selfishness, and liberated from the anxiety of this world's concerns, we must persevere in the pathway of light. It is grace and *the presence of infused contemplation* that purifies the senses and the imagination. This is the first "dark night". In turn, this purification disposes the whole person to grace's deeper immersion within the Trinitarian Mystery. Through fidelity and prayer grace effects transfiguration.

The better we foster a spirit of recollection, *centered on the presence of God within the soul*, the more we are liberated interiorly. The way at times is obscure, and the paradox is clear: our Lord demands constant fidelity to His teaching, but He simultaneously does hold out liberty within that demand: *My yoke is easy and My burden is light*.⁹

The God of all consolation wishes to enkindle a habitual raging fire of charity and blinding light within us – making us conformable to His essence. It is only by developing a mind and heart in fidelity to grace that perseverance can be exercised and strengthened so that we might be ready *to endure the dark fire* that accompanies the brilliant and purifying pathways of the Bright-One-Who-cannot-be-Clouded.

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



Splendid 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.

⁶ St. Mark 8: 36

⁷ Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10

⁸ St. Luke 9: 23: *If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily,*

and follow Me

⁹ St. Matthew 11: 30



Radiant 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.



Resplendent 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.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

TENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

July 25, 2021

I Cor 12: 1-11 St. Matthew 12: 22-32

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

August 1, 2021

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

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	July	25	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	August	1	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	August	7	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	August	15	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	August	22	Michael & Gayle Misner

Sun	August	29	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Sept	5	Sue Paré & Lolo Salazar

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

Regular Collection Last Week: \$2,556.00

(Budget Deficit 2021: \$20,265.00)¹⁰

An additional \$00.00 has come in this week toward the needed collection of \$39,000.00.¹¹

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

Please remember to sustain the apostolic work of this parish through regular contributions.

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 25 9:00am --For the Members of the Parish

11:00am - Fr. Doran

(Misner Family)

Mon 26 -----

Tue 27 †Darrell Mitchell

(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

Wed 28 Nicholas Family

(Mary Nicholas)

Thu 29 †Joan Gottardi

(Donna-Jo Mitchell)

Fri 30 Michael Voris

(Gombojav Family)

Sat 31 10:00am †Brendan Massey

(Mary Jamerson)

5:00pm Sunday Vigil Private Intention

Sun 1 9:00am --For the Members of the Parish

11:00am - †Fr. Constant Brichaux

(Diane Wyder)

Mon 2 -----

Tue 3 Isaac Madore

¹⁰ Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59/Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00

¹¹ This makes the amount toward our matching Challenge Grant (20k), to be presently **\$13,385.00**. This collection is being

made to cover the needed **building maintenance projects**, estimated at \$60,000.00.

- Wed 4 **Special Intention**
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- Thu 5 †John Whitney
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- Fri 6 **William & Amanda Martin Family**
(Michael & Maureen Martin Family)
- Sat 7 10:00am †Josephine Atallah
(Steve & Allison Crate)
- Sun 8 9:00am --For the Members of the Parish
11:00am – John & Katie Martin Family
(Michael & Maureen Martin)
- Mon 9 -----
- Tue 10 †Shirley Lowry
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- Wed 11 **Robert Riccomini**
(Rebecca Allen)
- Thu 12 **Tia Timmons**
(Pam & Dan Casavant)
- Fri 13 **Louis & Jacinta Sigaud**
(Armelle Sigaud)

*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: David Bourque, Barbara Joseph, Sally Derosby, Tala Poulin, Daja Gombojav, Richard Karter, Lolo Salazar, Charlotte Iserbyte, Rita Hikel, and all those who may suffer from disease, want, or depression.



*The Wine, Altar Breads,
and the Sanctuary Lights
devoted
to our Lord God and Savior
upon His Forgiving Altar
for the Alohooyoh Qourbonoh
have been offered for the month
of July
by Lolo Salazar and Suzanne Paré
in memory of Robert and Sharon Doran*

*May they receive the fullness of light and joy
in the Kingdom!*

The Life-giving Cross

Please, take notice of our present protocols:

- 1.) All Catholics, of whichever Ritual Church, are more than welcome at Saint Joseph.
 - 2.) Those who are sick, or carry symptoms of sickness, must remain at home.
 - 3.) Wearing of face-masks is optional.
 - 4.) As discussed in parish council meetings prior to the pandemic, in order to bring greater security and peace of mind, the **doors** will be **locked** at the beginning of each Liturgy.
 - 5.) The final **Parish Social and Barbecue** will be on **August 6th**. All those attending this event are *dispensed from the Friday Fast*.
 - 6.) Hand sanitizers remain available at the entrances and at the confessional.
 - 7.) *The universal suppression of the canons concerning the Mass on holydays has been lifted.*
- The canonical obligation to assist at the Sacrifice of the Mass has been re-established by the bishops as of **June 20th** (for **Latin Catholics**) and **June 27th** (for the **Maronites**). The **ancient and serious obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holydays** has now been restored for all the Catholics of Maine.
- 8.) **Sunday Vigils**, as we re-open, will be re-established, **5:00pm**:

11th Sunday of Pentecost, July 31st;

From the **Vigil of the Assumption** onward, August 14th, all Liturgical Vigils for Holy Days and Sundays will be fully restored, as will be the proper *transfer of Peace* during the Alohooyoh Qourbonoh.

9.) And, lastly, at the end of Mass, those who wish to **remain and pray** in the church are welcome to do so, but out of **respect** for the House of God and **charity** to one's neighbor **all are asked *not to linger, socialize, or visit within the church.*** If one wishes to visit, please do so outside the church.

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 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 7th until August 14th inclusively.

We are also 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 all animal products* – this is most similar, but not exactly the same, to a "vegan" diet.

When a fast day falls on a Saturday or a Sunday (as will be the case on August 7th, 8th and 14th 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

SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR

July 25th:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ M. Carter
11:00am: I. Misner-Elias/S. Nappi

August 1st:

9:00am: M. Carter/ N. Carter
11:00am: L. Michaud/ S. Nappi

August 8th:

9:00am: A. Michaud/N. Carter
11:00am: I. Misner-Elias/S. Nappi

August 15th:

9:00am: M. Carter/ N. Carter
11:00am: L. Michaud/ S. Nappi

August 22nd:

9:00am: A. Michaud/ M. Carter
11:00am: I. Misner-Elias

August 29th:

9:00am: M. Carter/ N. Carter
11:00am: L. Michaud/ S. Nappi

Tenth Sunday of Pentecost "A"

p. 425

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

Entrance Hymn: LB *Msheeho natareh* 178A

Glory: SB *glory*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *Hdaow zadeeqeh* 179

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'maryam yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

The Twelve Apostles:
LB p 754

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *Your Body is our Food: O Sanctissima*

Recessional: SB
Alleluya #1



The 350 Martyrs, Disciples of Saint Maron

July 31st