

The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple & The Circumcision of Our Lord



December 31, 2017
January 1, 2018

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



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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

"The Eastern Rites are the Treasure of the Catholic Church" Saint John XXIII, Pope

- 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

Choir Director: Fefa Deeb **Parish Secretary:** Paula Mitchell **Catechists:** Lenore Boles, Director & K-1st; Jane Lee, 2nd; Shana Page, 3-5th **Parish Council:** Sheila Bonenfant, Lisa Grard, Lowell Hawes, Rosanna Joseph, David Lee, Ruth Lunn, Kevin Michaud, Paula Mitchell, Elizabeth Wilson **Ex-officio council members:** Subdeacon Steve Crate; Lenore Boles, Catechism; Shana Page, Rosary Sodality; Larry Mitchell, Knights of Columbus

THIS DAY'S GOSPEL St. Luke 2; 41-52

Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.
And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed

behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. After three days they found Him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and

asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

And when they saw Him they were astonished; and His Mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us so? Behold, Your father and I have been looking for You anxiously."

And He said to them, "How is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them.

And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.

And His Mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.



ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

Praise to the Hidden Son, the One Who has come to restore us to Life

At first glance surprising, there is obscurity and silence on the path of grace. It is noteworthy that the angelic glory on the night of Divine Wisdom's birth is for the shepherds in the fields; it is not for Mary and Joseph. The Hidden One leaves these two in the contemplative silence of the animals' cave. Those closest to the Word Incarnate do not receive the added fanfare of the angelic hosts. They are left in contemplative silence.

As the Child Jesus grew and matured in Nazareth, He was faithful in all that pertained to the ancient Law - imitating the fidelity shown by His parents, Mary and Joseph. Nevertheless, as He came of age and recognized as a "son of the Law," in His "bar mitzvah," He led the holy parents of Nazareth into further obscurity by remaining behind in Jerusalem. Three days He left them in anxious search. We can note here that He did this intentionally.

Even as He grew and matured in His sacred humanity, as the Divine Word (the Hidden Son of the Hidden Father) He led those closest to Him, those most intimate to the Divine Mystery of the Incarnation, into a darkness that certainly tried and pained them. This is mysterious, but it is an excellent lesson. It is precisely as we mature in the faith, and progress on the paths of God that we are guided more and more profoundly into silence and mystery.

When we begin in the path of the Gospel, God leads us as it were with "sweets." Much as children can only be gotten to follow directions by promises of "goodies" at the end, so God must lead His immature children by the consolations and "nifs"¹ that so many seek. On the other hand, for those who progress on the path of spiritual maturity, the Hidden Lord conducts His disciples onto the obscure path of silent grace and hidden mystery. This is the profound lesson that today's Gospel set before our eyes. As grown men and women do not need to be constantly promised "goodies" in order to get them to do what is their duty and responsibility, so it is that consolations and "spiritual candy" are removed from the maturing followers of Christ.

"How is it that you sought Me?," asks Our Lord of all His disciples, not just of His parents. This query examines whether we seek the Lord for His glory and honor, or whether we seek Him for something we *get from* Him. It asks if we are disciples or mercenaries? Do we wish to imitate the Crucified One or do we seek primarily our own liking?

This question we can answer when we know what it is that we look for both in life and from the Gospel. If we seek the Lord God, we are content to be guided on a path that is at times dark, silent and obscure, seeking the One Whom we will find "in the Temple." If we seek firstly ourselves, we struggle with difficulties and are displeased by adversity - we do not see a higher cause or purpose than our own pleasure; we chafe under the Hand of God if things are not laid out as we wish. In this we show ourselves to be immature in the ways of God, and children in selfish pursuit of our own benefits.

¹ "nice internal feelings" It is here that the modern notion of religion fixates.

We should pray that the Hidden Wisdom create within each of us a tranquil heart that yearns for the revelation of grace and divine charity in our lives (never troubled by the possibly obscure path of divine mystery) - and a peaceful spirit that patiently accepts to be taught along the paths that God lays out for each in His love and as He sees fit. After all, the humble and pure of heart know that there is much to learn.

“How is it that you sought Me?”

May this new year of grace be filled with God’s choicest blessings - either luminous or obscure - for you and your families all throughout the coming months!

As the appearance of God among men, it is thus also known as the “Theophany.” It is a time of renewal, and there is among the eastern traditions a special blessing for homes at the season of the Epiphany. It is something of an annual spiritual renewal for the home. These blessings can take place from January 6th - the actual feastday - through the second half of January.

For those who may wish, the form following can be used to sign up for a visit to your home that the blessing might be given. Simply fill it out, put it in an envelope, and place it in the collection basket. Contact will be made later to schedule a day and time for the blessing.

AM+DG

Yes, Father, I would like to have the Epiphany Blessing for my home.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

HOLYDAY SCHEDULE

The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple

Saturday, December 30 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday, December 31 10:00 a.m.

Circumcision of the Lord

Sunday, December 31 4:00 p.m.
 Monday, January 1 10:00 a.m.

The Glorious Epiphany

Friday, January 5 6:00 p.m.
 Saturday, January 6 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday after Epiphany

Saturday, January 6 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday, January 7 10:00 a.m.

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS

Epiphany is the great day of baptisms and renewal in the Syriac tradition. It is a celebration of the historical appearance of the Hidden One among us. It thus commemorates God’s *manifestation* (“epiphany”) to the world.

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS

Regular Collection: \$2001.00

Blessed be the Hidden One Who gives us the ability to sustain the apostolate of our Savior

VOCATION ICON

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

Sat	December 30	Audrey Yotides
Sun	January 7	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	January 14	Greg Gillespie
Sun	January 21	Larry & Paula Mitchell
Sun	January 28	Lowell & Mary Hawes
Sun	February 4	Larry & Lisa Gard
Sun	February 11	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sat	February 17	Lenore Boles

Sincere **thanks** to you all for the generosity shown to this parish and its pastor during these sacred days of the **Nativity** of Our Lord.

May God **reward** your generosity to His servants all throughout the coming **new year** of grace.

Liturgical notes: † = Deceased, SI = Special Intention, AV = Anniversary, H = Health

THERE WILL BE NO PARISH COUNCIL IN JANUARY



PRAYER OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS ²

O Lord, firmly establish our faith on the prophets, apostles and holy martyrs; give us chaste souls, pure consciences and clear vision like little ones.

Shower Thy grace on the souls of all children. May we know how to educate them, correct them and instruct them, that they may become brothers and sisters of the Child of Bethlehem, growing always in wisdom and virtue. May they glorify God in their lives, as the boys of Bethlehem glorified Him by their deaths.

We shall give praise and thanksgiving to Thee, forever.
Amen

INTENTIONS FOR THE QURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 30 †Joseph & Mary Smus
(Pat, David & Paula Smus)
- Sun 31 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 1 4:00 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
10:00 For the members of the Parish
- Tue 2 -----
- Wed 3 †Theresa Lee
(Lowell & Mary Hawes)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 4 †Darrell Mitchell
(M/M Lachance)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 5 9:00 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
6:00 For the members of the Parish
- Sat 6 10:00 †Marcia Nimon
(Geraldine Nimon)
4:00 For the members of the Parish
- Sun 7 †Malcolm Spencer
(Badiha Spencer)
- Mon 8 -----
- Tue 9 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Wed 10 †Darrell Mitchell
(Michael Karter)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

READERS' SCHEDULE

THE FINDING IN THE TEMPLE OF OUR LORD

Heb 7; 11-19	St. Luke 2; 41-52
December 30	Ruth Lunn

FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

II Cor 10; 1-11	St. John 1; 29-34
January 6	Lenore Boles

² Third Prayer from Safo of the Feast of the Holy Innocents

*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: Jerry Fortin, Albert Joseph, Doreen Nader, Tala Poulin, Virginia Poulin, Beverly Rideout, Gordon Webber, Melissa Karter, Maxine Morrisette and Paul Mitchell

COFFEE SCHEDULE 2017-2018

Dec 31	Lisa Grard & Mary Hawes
Jan 7	Elaine Hoag & Mary Jo Hodgkin
Jan 14	Laya Joseph & Rosanna Joseph
Jan 21	Alice Lachance & Jane Lee
Jan 28	Lauraine Mansur & Marie McMahon

CENTURY 21 – SURETTE REAL ESTATE
Pam Casavant -- Partner/ Associate Broker
Tel: 207-873-5634 Ext 219
e-mail: pcasavant@surette-realestate.com

LEBANESE CUISINE
34 Temple Street * Waterville, ME 04901
207-873-7813

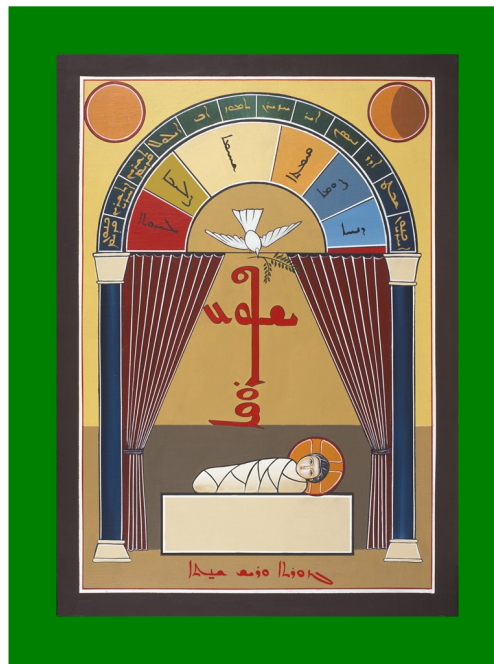
GALLANT FUNERAL HOME INC.
10 Elm Street * Tel 873-3393 * Website: gallantfh.com

GHM Insurance Agency
Auto * Home* Business * Life * Benefits
51 Main Street – Downtown Waterville
Tel: 207-873-5101 www.ghmagency.com

GRONDIN'S CERTIFIED DRY CLEANERS
259 Main Street - Waterville, ME 04901 tel. 207-872-8132

SII Investments, Inc.
29 Mt. Merici Ave. – Tel: 207-872-8689

Waterville Florist
287 Upper Main Street
Tel: 207-872-7422 also 888-616-4880



The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple

p 87

Lighting of the Church: SB* p 21 #135/LB p 5
Jesus, Christ, O Source of Light

Entrance Hymn: LB p 87

Glory: SB p 1 #2 Glory (English)

Qolo/Hymn: LB* p #69 *B'safro*

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB p 750 The Lord Reigns

Incense Hymn: SB p 3 #8 *Ikkal*

ANAPHORA:

St. James, Brother of the Lord: LB p 794

Sign of Peace: SB p *Tooba lisa*

Communion: SB p

Recessional: SB p

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book