

# Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



## Visitation of the Ever-Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

November 28, 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  
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*"For us, the men and women of the East are a symbol of the Lord Who comes again."* *Oriental Lumen*, John Paul II

**Qourboneh:** Sunday: (Vigil, Sat. 5:00pm) Sunday Morning 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:** Steve Crate, *Director* **Choir Director:** Dame Marie Fefa Deeb, DSG **Pastoral Council Chair:** Suzanne Paré

**Pastoral Council Members:** Suzanne Paré, *Chair*; Gayle Misner-Elias, *Secretary*; Steve Crate, *Religious Education*; Larry Mitchell, *Knights of Columbus*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*; Matthew Stone, *Finance Committee*

### THIS DAY'S GOSPEL<sup>1</sup> St. Luke 1: 39-45

And Maryam arose in those days, and went hastily to the mountain, to a city of Judaea; and

entered the house of Zachariah, and saluted Elisabeth.

And it was so, that when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Maryam, the child leaped in her womb, and she was filled with the Holy Spirit.

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

And she cried out with a loud voice, and said to Maryam:  
 Blessed art thou among women; and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb.  
 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?  
 For behold, as the voice of thy salutation fell upon my ears, with great joy the child leaped in my womb.  
 And happy is she that believed; for there will be a fulfillment of those things that were told her by the Lord.  
 And Maryam said:  
 My soul doth magnify the Lord: ....

(56) And Maryam remained with Elisabeth about three months, and returned to her home.



*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)<sup>2</sup>

## **ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS**

Everything is gift. Natural being and supernatural life in God are gifts. They are offered without merit on our part by a personal God of all goodness; the act of **creation** (natural good) and of **salvation** (transcendent and supernatural good) must each be received by "saying 'yes'" to each consciously and thankfully. Salvation requires personal engagement with a personal God.

One may be created without one's participation, but one cannot live virtuously according to his nature without respecting that natural good, nor can he enter holiness and salvation without freely willed participation in supernatural good.

This is what we mean by "grace". Everything is radically "gift".

As it is among men, God cannot give something well to someone if the recipient refuses to receive it. No one can give a gift that is unwanted, smacked away, or ignored. The giving of a gift to someone becomes strained by the refusal, if not made simply impossible. When it is not received, a gift would be rather an imposition. This "gifting" is what is meant in the Sacred Scriptures by "visitation".

Grace's presence can be *dramatic* as the act of receiving affects the mode and the capacity to truly give. God is of course omnipotent to give, and He does so according to His infinite goodness, but our manner of receiving can restrict or even smother the gift – either of nature or of the supernatural life in the Good One.

"To visit" has ancient meaning and its origin indicates *presence, comfort, and even divinity*. It is related to the Latin word, "videre" / "to see". In this sense, "to visit" is to go and see something, to check out something, or to examine.

The Virgin's journey into the Judean hill country is done exactly in this sense. The Holy Mother of God went with speed to see her cousin, to see the wonder announced by the angel Gabriel, and to bring comfort to Elizabeth by her presence and aid. Grace brings light, the divine presence transforms, wills are strengthened, and the works of charity flow forth from the "gracified heart":

### *Corporal Works of Mercy*

- a.) Feeding the hungry
- b.) Giving drink to the thirsty
- c.) Clothing the naked
- d.) Sheltering the homeless
- e.) Visiting the imprisoned
- f.) Visiting the sick
- g.) Burying the dead

<sup>2</sup> Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

### *Spiritual Works of Mercy*

- a.) Instructing the ignorant
- b.) Counseling the doubtful
- c.) Admonishing the sinner
- d.) Bearing wrongs patiently
- e.) Forgiving offenses willingly
- f.) Comforting the afflicted
- g.) Praying for the living and the dead

A “visit”, however, is not always an enjoyable thing. It can denote the presence of grace or divine justice, which must be acknowledged and received, or that very presence will bring about hardship in its rejection.

Grace coming into our lives – “inspirations” – are meant to be received with gratitude and attention. Grace is present *to make us the individuals God wishes us to become* (which does not coincide with what we might “feel” we would like to be) and it draws us into the reality of what each of us is potentially. Grace thus draws us out of ourselves and our “littleness”, from out of our thoughts and choices that are often too insular and self-centered. The “smallness” of manner restricts our full potential under God, limiting our ability to be healed, inspired, elevated, and divinized.

This is not easy in practice. It is precisely belief that is the engine that makes awareness possible for one to judge and act with rectitude, and the *conflict between belief and unbelief* that often takes place within in the individual – holding him back and crippling his steps forward -- is precisely what makes the “work” worth doing at all.<sup>3</sup>

As stated earlier, the rejection of God’s visitation can be dramatic. It can lead to immediate effects and to judgement against our ingratitude and selfishness. *Visitation* can affect even an entire people.

The arrival of the Messiah as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies and Abrahamic promises is one powerful instance. His arrival should have brought great hope, but the rejection of Him effectively destroyed Israel as a power, and withdrew from them their privileged place before the Lord. The holy city and the sacred temple of

God were themselves wasted and ruined as a result of the things set into motion by that rejection of the people.

Our Lord clearly foretold the destruction of Jerusalem, and the reason for it:

*And (they shall) beat thee flat to the ground,  
and thy children who are in thee:  
and they shall not leave in thee  
a stone upon a stone:  
because thou hast not known  
the time of thy visitation.*<sup>4</sup>

But now we look forward to a gentler and richer “visitation” come this spring. There are plans being made for a men’s retreat: The Five-Day Exercises of Saint Ignatius. In mid-May, a silent retreat will be preached for those who wish to enter into a greater self-knowledge and contact with grace according the brilliant **Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola**. These exercises were the historical source of the wonders of conversion and apostolic endeavors that exemplified the original Jesuits and Companions of Saint Ignatius.

The Exercises are done in a five-day format, in perfect silence and prayer, interspersed with guidance and conferences on the methods of prayer and contemplation as given by the Holy Mother of God to Saint Ignatius in his own repentance and conversion at Manresa. Although not a retreat in the sense of “retreat” as often thought today – leisure and pretty scenery – the Exercises are truly a “visitation” of God’s goodness and mercy.

At present, a flyer with further details is being prepared for those interested, including the forms for enrollment.

In a grateful spirit then, may we each and all render thanks for the beauty and goodness that God has introduced into our lives and which He continues to introduce into them. His manner is always charitable and loving, but the path, blessed by the Cross of Calvary as it must be, is not always an easy one. Embracing God’s grace, even in

<sup>3</sup> This is the thesis throughout the Catholic writing of Flannery O’Connor. *The Life You save may be Your Own*, Paul Elie, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, NY, 2003, p. 155

<sup>4</sup> St. Luke 19: 44, Douay-Rheims

hardship and doubt, brings peace and transformation to the human heart and spirit, signaling triumph in Christ.

*Thus we shall weave crowns of victory,  
and our joy will be one with the saints,  
in the life of spirit.<sup>5</sup>*

May the Holy Mother of God, Our Lady of the Light, intercede for us that our hearts be enlarged, our spirits enlightened, and our wills softened to receive all as "grace". Both sweetness and pain can manifest the loving hand of God as providence directs all. When we are grateful, the God of all consolation will work the wonders in our lives that He has desired to accomplish from all eternity.

Truly, He is *the Good One*.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

(Budgeted: \$3,100.00)

**Regular Collection Last Week: \$1,453.00**

(Budget Deficit 2021: \$39,414.00)<sup>6</sup>

**An additional \$000.00 has come in this week toward the needed construction collection of \$39,000.00.<sup>7</sup>**

**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.*

## SCHEDULE OF READINGS

### THE VISITATION OF THE VIRGIN TO ELIZABETH

November 28, 2021

**Eph 1: 1-14      St. Luke 1: 39-45**

### THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE FORERUNNER

December 5, 2021

**Gal 4: 21-5: 1      St. Luke 1: 57-66**

## VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Nov	<b>28</b>	Michael & Gayle Misner
Sun	Dec	<b>5</b>	Steve & Allison Crate
Sun	Dec	<b>12</b>	Sue Paré & Lolo Salazar
Sun	Dec	<b>19</b>	Daja Gombojav & Family
Sun	Dec	<b>26</b>	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Jan	<b>1</b>	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Jan	<b>9</b>	Chris & Diane Wyder

<sup>5</sup> **Second Prayer**, Friday *Ramsho*

<sup>6</sup> Deficit 2019: \$72,270.59/Deficit 2020: \$34,473.00

<sup>7</sup> This makes the amount toward our matching Challenge Grant (20k), to be presently **\$15,035.00**. This collection is being

# Schedules

*Holy Day of Obligation  
for the Immaculate Conception*

**Vigil of the Immaculate Conception**

Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm

**The Feastday itself**

Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am

**From December 11<sup>th</sup> the Saturday  
schedule will be modified as follows:**

Saturday Mass: 10:00am

Sunday *Ramsho*: 3:30pm

Sunday Vigil: 4:30pm

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



# 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. We are one Family of God and one Body of Christ.
- 2.) Those who are sick, or carry symptoms of sickness, must remain at home.
- 3.) Wearing a face-mask is optional, but is **recommended** for all those indoors.
- 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.) Hand sanitizers remain available at the entrances and at the confessional.
- 6.) The ancient, canonical, and serious obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holydays has now been restored for all the Catholics of Maine.
- 7.) 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 or in the parish hall.

## INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

Sun 28 9:00am For the Members of the Parish  
11:00am Cliff & Jacqueline Clemotte  
(Daja Gombojav)

Mon 29 -----

Tue 30 †Poulin & Casavant Families  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Wed 1 †Adolf Veilleux Family  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Thu 2 Fr. Paul Dumais  
(Gombojav Family)

Fri 3 †Poulin & Casavant Families  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Sat 4 †Beth Pipenburg  
(Daja Gombojav)

Sunday Vigil 5:00pm Private Intention

Sun 5 9:00am For the Members of the Parish  
11:00am Michael Eagan, Jr.  
(Michael Eagan)

Mon 6 -----

Tue 7 †Adolf Veilleux Family  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)  
**Vigil Immaculate Conception 6:00pm**  
**For the Members of the Parish**

Wed 8 †Beulah Sandoval Reiken  
(Daja Gombojav)

Thu 9 †Poulin & Casavant Families  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Fri 10 Students of Magdalene College  
(Daja Gombojav)

Sat 11 Fr. Doran  
(Catherine & Ira Mandel)

Sunday Vigil 4:30pm Private Intention

Sun 12 9:00am For the Members of the Parish  
11:00am Suzanne McBride  
(Michael Eagan)

Mon 13 -----

Tue 14 †John Marietta & Paul Thomas  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Wed 15 The Nicholas Family  
(Mary Nicholas)

Thu 16 †Adolf Veilleux Family  
(Pam & Dan Casavant)

Fri 17 The Nicholas Family  
(Mary Nicholas)



The Martyrdom of Saint Saturninus

November 29<sup>th</sup>

*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:** Gayle Misner-Elias, Margaret Mae Lambert, Jodie LaChance, Mary Theresa Huebner, Maureen Martin, Mary Morin, Larry Grard, Sarah Grace Misner-Elias, Catherine Mandel, Cindy Elias, David Bourque, Barbara Joseph, Madeleine Dombroski, Sally Derosby, Tala Poulin, Richard Karter, Lolo Salazar, Charlotte Iserbyte, Rita Hikel, and all those who may suffer from illness, disease, want, or depression.

## The Visitation of the Ever-Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

p. 38

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

**Entrance Hymn:** LB *fsheeto* 59A

**Glory:** SB *glory*

**Qolo/Hymn:** LB *l'maryam yoldat* 60A

**Creed** p 748

**PRE-ANAPHORA:**

**Transfer of Gifts:** LB *The Lord Reigns*

**Incense Hymn Offertory:** SB *l'maryam yoldat*

**ANAPHORA:**

**The Twelve Apostles:** p 754

**Sign of Peace:** SB *tou ba*

**Communion:** SB *I am the Vine; Salatokee*

**Recessional:** SB *O Come, o come Immanuel*

### *SERVERS OF THE DIVINE ALTAR*

**November 28<sup>th</sup>:**

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

**December 5<sup>th</sup>:**

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

**December 12<sup>th</sup>:**

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

**December 19<sup>th</sup>:**

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

**December 26<sup>th</sup>:**

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

**January 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

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

! : Priest  
مُكَلِّمًا خَلْقَهُ

*Shlomoh l'koulkhoun!*

(literally: Peace [be] to all you!)

! : People  
وَهُمْ لَكُمْ

*W'am rouHoh deelokh!*

(literally: and with spirit your!)