

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



The VISITATION OF THE VIRGIN TO ELIZABETH



December 2, 2018

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." *Oriental 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 Ephesians 1: 1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the holy ones who are in Ephesus, faithful in Christ Jesus; grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in the Messiah with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as He chose us in Christ, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before Him.

In charity, He destined us for adoption to Himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of His will, for the praise of the glory of His grace that He has freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In Him we have redemption through His Blood, the forgiveness of our transgressions, according to the riches of His grace that He has lavished upon us.

In all wisdom and insight, He has made known to us *the Mystery* of His will in accord with His good pleasure that He set forth in the Messiah as a plan for the fullness of time, *to recapitulate all things in the Messiah*, both in heaven and on earth.

In Him also we were chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the One Who accomplishes all things according to the intention of His will, so that we might exist for the praise of His glory, we who have first hoped in the Messiah.

In Him also you, who have heard *the word of truth*, the good tidings of your salvation, and have believed in Him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, Which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own portion – to the praise of His glory.



ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

It goes without saying that this immolation conferred on the Lord a right of ownership over those whom he loved and redeemed.¹

By faith, the Christian recognizes and accepts this relationship of belonging,² he decides to "live for the Lord".³

Touched upon in today's Reading in *the Mystery* that is ordered to the ultimate recapitulation of all things in the glorious Christ, this notion of "portion /possession" is summed up in the Epistle to the Romans.⁴ It is, however, a much older concept dating back to the Theophany of Mount Sinai.

In the ancient covenant of Moses on Mount Sinai, God referred to the people of Israel as His *segullah*⁵ should they agree to His terms presented on the Mountain. This word has been translated as "peculiar possession" or "acquisition," and in our Maronite Anaphoras this is the meaning where the words "inheritance" or "Your People" are used in the prayers. This concept later was taken up by Saints Peter and Paul as the proper term for the redeemed human race baptized within the Church – the Israel of God – a Church no longer belonging to God because it has agreed to a bi-lateral covenant (the Old Testament) but one made holy by the fulfillment of the even more ancient Promises made to Abraham.

When the Feast of Christ the King was promulgated by Pope Pius XI in 1925, he defined the doctrine of *Kingship* in Christ as grounded on two basic facts: firstly, the Messiah is King by nature, He is the eternal Son of God, true Light from true Light; secondly, He is King by conquest, that is, by His Death on Calvary He conquered humanity's great enemies of sin, death and the devil.

In the New Testament, then, the People of God belongs to the Messiah, the Lion of Judah, in His Kingship and Dominion, and thus we call Him *Lord*. As faithful Christians we live *for* the Lord. Transformed in Baptism and enlivened by actual faith, our lives are consecrated and not our own. As Saint Paul wrote, whether we live or die we do so "for the Lord". In the logic then of the faithful Catholic, our lives must be oriented and inspired by this truth.

When we live by this reality our lives are logically and radically transformed in action and virtue. We no longer "just are" Christians, but we act as such, living "in the Spirit," or, as Saint Paul wrote, "walking" in the Spirit.

¹ Acts 20: 28; I Cor 6: 20; 7: 23; Eph 1: 7

² Romans 7: 4

³ From **Charity and Liberty** by Rev. Fr. Ceslaus Spicq, OP

⁴ Romans 14: 7-9

⁵ Exodus 19: 3-9; Deut 32; 11; Is 49: 15ff; Malachi 3: 17; Titus 2: 14; Eph 1: 14

This it is that which makes us spiritually alive – living “in grace” and not in mortal sin – awaiting the recapitulation of all things in Christ and our own entrance into the eternal Kingdom of Light.

The Immaculate Conception Saturday, December 8th

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD IS A **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**, THAT IS, A SERIOUS DUTY ONE IS TO OBSERVE JUST AS ONE WOULD A **SUNDAY**.

There will therefore be Masses offered on the day itself and on the vigil: **Friday, December 7th, at 6:00 p.m.** and on **Saturday, December 8th, at 10:00 a.m.**

Please note that the Mass of Saturday morning does *not* count in any way toward the observance of the Lord’s Day, Sunday. The Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. will be as usual the Mass of Sunday, the Nativity of John.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

VISITATION OF THE VIRGIN TO ELIZABETH

December 2, 2018

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

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

December 8, 2018

Heb 7: 11-17 St. Luke 1: 27-32

THE NATIVITY OF JOHN THE FORERUNNER

December 9, 2018

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	Dec 2	Lowell & Mary Hawes
Sun	Dec 9	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Dec 15	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Dec 23	Bruce & Doreen White
Sun	Dec 30	Larry and Paula Mitchell

DECEMBER 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.

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS

Regular Collection: \$1080.00

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

Coffee Schedule

Dec 2	Mary Hawes, Mary Nader
Dec 9	Pam Casavant, Lenore Boles
Dec 16	Betty Michaud, Jane Lee
Dec 23	Sharon Crowe, Jeanne Thomas
Dec 30	Mary Bard, Jody Veilleux
Jan 6	April Mitchell, Mary-Jo Hodgkin

The **Parish Council** meeting this month will be on Tuesday, December 11th at 6:30 p.m.



CATECHISM

Following the Sunday Mass there will be classes for the youngsters *one half hour each week following the Divine Qoorbonoh.*

Adult Religion Classes are on **Wednesdays, 6:30 pm.**

The adult conferences will resume in March.

INTENTIONS FOR THE QURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 1 †Subdeacon Frank and Lucille Joseph
(Sheila Bonenfant)
- Sun 2 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 3 -----
- Tue 4 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
(the Donors)
- Wed 5 †John Mitchell
(Dan & Pam Casavant)
- Thu 6 †Riley Henry Boulay
(Kevin Michaud)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 7 9:00 †Pam Smiley
(Dan & Pam Casavant)
-- Catholic Extension Society
6:00 For the members of the Parish
- Sat 8 10:00 †Charlene LaVerdiere
(Stephen Maroon)
4:00 †Fr. Paul Coury
(the Parish)
- Sun 9 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 10 -----
- Tue 11 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
(the Donors)
- Wed 12 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
(the Donors)
- Thu 13 †John Christensen
(Dan & Pam Casavant)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 14 †Pam Smiley
(Dan & Pam Casavant)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 15 Gladys Avcollie
(Badiha Spencer)
- Sun 16 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 17 -----
- Tue 18 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
(the Donors)
- Wed 19 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
(the Donors)

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

The Visitation of the Virgin 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 *Maryam Yoldat* 6B

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *l'Maryam Yoldat*

ANAPHORA:

Saint John, the Evangelist: LB p 815

Sign of Peace: SB *St. Francis Prayer for Peace*

Communion: SB *Holy Mary; Majdu Mariam*

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

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book

Christmas Choir Rehearsals:
Wednesdays, December 5, 12, 19
at 6:00 p.m. - thanks, *Dame Fefa*