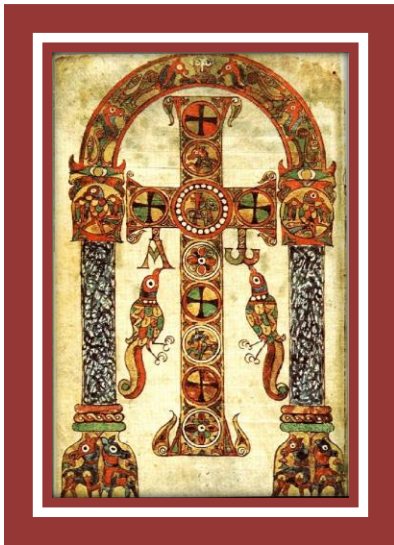


Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



Third Sunday after Holy Cross

September 29, 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.” *Oriente 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 at least **two 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*; Ruth Lunn, *Rosary Sodality*

Today's Gospel¹ St. Matthew 24: 23-31

At that time, if anyone says to you, “Look, The Messiah is here, or there,” do not believe it. For false Messiahs shall arise, along with *prophets of falsehood*, and they will accomplish great signs so as to deceive, if it were possible, even the chosen ones.

Look, I have told you ahead of time.

So, if they tell you, “Look, he is in the desert,” do not go out; or, “Look, he is in an inner room,” do not believe it.

For just as lightning goes out from the East and is visible as far as the West, so shall be the coming of the Son of Man.

Wherever there is the body, there the eagles will gather.

Immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall grow dark and the moon shall not

¹ *The Syriac Peshitta Bible with English Translation*, Gorgias Press, New Jersey, 2012, ed. George A. Kiraz and Andreas Juckel

show its light. The stars shall fall from the sky and the powers of heaven shall be shaken. At that time *the standard* of the Son of Man shall appear in the sky, and then all the *generations* of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the heaven, with power and great glory. He will send out His angels with a great trumpet, and they will gather His chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.



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

Peace is the desire and purpose of everyone: Christian, pagan, secular, Hindu, Muslim, etc. Saint Augustine, as he wrote The City of God, commented on domestic peace as the fundamental peace of the "city", that is, as the grounding of any civil society. The relations between spouses, parents, children, and siblings, were the roots of how relationships in a community are played out. Although peace in its fullest and transcendent sense will always escape any purely natural attempt, society will always try to establish it. The City of God (the communion and company of angels, saints, along with and women still on earth) however, as it descends as the Kingdom from on high into this historical moment, will always be oriented beyond any secular attempt at peace toward that peace that only our Lord can give.³

The city of God and the city of man are differentiated by love. What is loved, now, but primarily and ultimately is what determines purpose and goal. In many instances the city of God and the city of man overlap, but they are **not** coterminous, and often they are in conflict; but even in the best moments, the city

of God works *through* the city of man without attachment and without limiting its own purpose to pursue the peace of God and the Kingdom in its fullness. The citizens of the city of God have no ultimate stake in the city of man. They live in the city of man and contribute to its good, but it is not their full purpose in life. This is why we call the assemblies of Christians "parish" from *paroikia*: "a community of sojourners". We live here, but we are only passing through, with eyes set on the Kingdom of the All Holy One.

As Catholics, then, illuminated by the same Faith as Saint Augustine and co-citizens with the angels and saints in the City of God, we are obliged to see, appreciate, and judge the world around us. We must look at the world as a whole, under the light of faith, and to act accordingly. Anything less than this would mean that our actions, and perhaps our lives, are not Christian in the fullest sense of the word.

There are many social dilemmas today for the Catholic mind to fathom. The cultural and social world that surrounds us has been fundamentally unmoored from Christianity for several generations now, and without those principles there is no longer the transcendent vision that once influenced and elevated the western nations. This is especially true in a place like Maine where the vast majority of the population claims to have no religion at all. For many, the principles by which they live are *expediency* and the *utilitarian* benefit to each.

These are not principles by which Catholics live.

The present legislature of Maine has accelerated and extended disagreeable issues, bringing assisted-suicide into the state by legal recognition and working to extend and increase the number of the abortions, and financing them through public funds. We move farther and farther away from the Gospel of life, and away from the Gospel that is meant to remedially elevate humanity beyond this earthly life into the eternal life of the Hidden One.

Our interaction with all people must be based on the natural, but God-given, dignity of each individual, while exercising the patience necessary in dealing with so many who now see the world in a different light and thus "speak another language" other than

² Homily 1.7.8 "on Ezechiel"

³ St. John 14: 27

Christianity. Patience is always necessary in trying to communicate. A Catholic sees the world in a transcendent light, while others see only this world as their sole, or at least primary, object. A lukewarm or lapsed Catholic will likewise see firstly this world and *then* attempt to tack on here or there, occasionally, the practice of some aspects of the Faith.

The problem of abortion – frequent and prevalent as it is today – is a societal and cultural problem. It is not first and foremost a personal drama, although it is that, too. When we consider the *cultural situation of abortion* there are several things that also must be kept in consideration:

- There are *two* parents involved;
- that *poverty* is often an aggravating circumstance;
- that the *loss of family structure*, strength, and support is absent to many in modern America;
- that, without support, *social strain* can often arise in some quarters with the rearing of children;
- that an individual woman’s health is concerned;
- and, of course,
- that a *child has been conceived*.

Although principles may be most certain, in the overall picture of human lives there is no “black and white” solution, and the blanket coverings of “pro-choice” or “pro-life” are usually insufficient and ineffective in communicating. This is why the public argument has gone on for so many decades. There are a few Catholic groups that do see the whole picture, but not often enough of these types of groups exist.

Next week, for clarity of mind, we will take a deeper look into these factors, that lamps that now flicker be not extinguished.

VOCATION ICON

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

Sun	Sept	29	Steve and Allison Crate
Sun	Oct	6	Sue Paré and Lolo Salazar
Sun	Oct	13	Lowell Hawes
Sun	Oct	20	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sat	Oct	26	Jim & Lenore Boles
Sun	Nov	3	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	Nov	10	Bruce & Doreen White

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION

Regular Collection: \$1416.00

**Upcoming second collection, October 20th:
World Mission Sunday**

As established by the USCCB, 91% of this collection goes to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and 9% to the **Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)**

Thanks be to the Good One Who allows to continue this apostolate unto His glory and our salvation!

Parish Council will meet on Tuesday, October 1st, 6:00 pm in the parish hall

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS

September 29, 2019

Phil 3: 17-4: 1 St. Matthew 24: 23-31

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS

October 6, 2019

I Thess 5: 1-11 St. Matthew 24: 45-51

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

INTENTIONS FOR THE QOURBONEH (MASSES)

- Sat 28 †Charles Owen
(the Parish)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 29 †Caroline Nale
(her children)
- Mon 30 -----
- Tue 1 †John Jabar
(Barbara Joseph)
- Wed 2 †Janet George
(Ghaphery Family)
- Thu 3 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 4 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 5 †Charles Owen
(the Parish)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 6 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 7 -----
- Tue 8 †Sleiman & Latiffy George
(Ghaphery Family)
- Wed 9 †Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery
(Ghaphery Family)
- Thu 10 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Fri 11 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sat 12 †Charles Owen
(the Parish)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Sun 13 For the members of the Parish
- Mon 14 -----
- Tue 15 †Karem & Amelia Azar
(Ghaphery Family)
- Wed 16 Catholic Extension Society & Donors
- Thu 17 †Thomas & Adal George
(Ghaphery Family)
- Fri 18 Private Intention
(Abouna James)
-- Catholic Extension Society & Donors

Autumn Harvest Raffle

\$10,000 GRAND PRIZE!!!!

One in 400 chance
maximum – odds may even be better!!
to win \$10,000.00!!!!!!

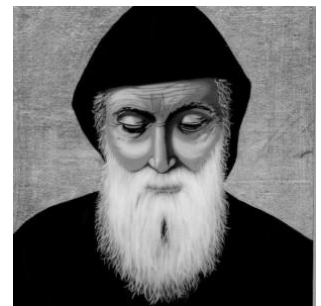
**RAFFLE TICKETS
AND TICKETS TO THE HAFLI
ARE NOW ON SALE
AFTER EACH MASS EVERY WEEKEND!**

Cost of each ticket is \$100.00, with the winning ticket for the prize to be drawn Tuesday, December 3rd.

Let's show true devotion to our Lebanese heritage and game heartily! Buy a raffle ticket.
What would djidoo say?

This year, October 13 is designated as Order of Saint Sharbel Sunday in our Eparchy, and all Maronite parishes will be promoting the Order.

The Order of Saint Sharbel is vitally important in providing financial and spiritual support for our seminarians, who are crucial for the future of our Maronite Church.



Please prayerfully consider joining the Order. You may enroll online at www.orderstsharbel.org, or ask for more information.

Memory Eternal



In memory of Janet George, the Altar Breads for October have been contributed by Dame Fefa.

*May the All Holy One shine
His light and grace upon her, and may He bring her
into the fullness of the Kingdom.*

Third Sunday after Holy Cross

p 606

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

Entrance Hymn: LB fsheeto 233

Glory: SB *al majdu*

Qolo/Hymn: LB *etow* 234

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB *The Lord Reigns*

Incense Hymn Offertory: SB *iqbal*

ANAPHORA:

Saint Mark, the Evangelist: LB p 835

Sign of Peace: SB *tou ba*

Communion: SB *You have united; Your Body is our Food*

Recessional: SB *Sing out earth and sky*

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book



*Saint Gregory the Illuminator,
Apostle of Armenia
September 30th*