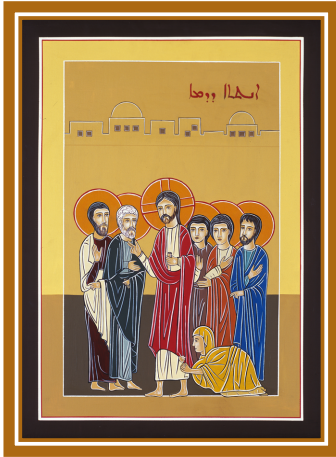


The Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman

Third Sunday of Lent



February 25, 2018

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



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

"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 8; 40-56

Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him.
And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.
As He went, the people pressed round Him.
And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by any one,

came up behind Him, and touched the fringe of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood ceased.

And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched Me?"
When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitudes surround You and press upon You!"
But Jesus said, "Someone touched Me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from Me."
And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before Him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed.

And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you whole; go in peace."
 While He was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Rabbi anymore."
 But Jesus on hearing this answered Him, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she shall be well."
 And when He came to the house, He permitted no one to enter with Him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child.
 And all were weeping and bewailing her; but He said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping."
 And they laughed Him to scorn, knowing that she was dead.
 But taking her by the hand He called, saying, "Child, arise."
 And her spirit returned, and she got up at once.
 And He directed that something should be given her to eat.
 And her parents were amazed. But He charged them to tell no one what had happened.



ABOUNA'S REFLECTIONS

Lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven,
 where neither moth nor rust consumes and
 where thieves do not break in and steal.
 For where your treasure is, there also shall be
 your heart.

Saint Matthew 6; 20-21

From the Gospel it is clear that Our Lord expects a full and entire commitment from His disciples.¹

¹ **St. Luke 9; 62** "Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God.'" Postponing this commitment is tantamount to rejecting it. Our Savior shows Himself more demanding

The path of salvation is not an easy or an indifferent one, but rather, one that requires us to be engaged fully in spirit, mind, heart – our entire life, which includes the material possessions with which God has blessed us. Salvation does not happen on its own as if by magic. It is a personal choice and engagement.

What do we love and cherish? Where is our treasure? Where do we place value in this ephemeral world?

You will note that last week's collection for the Eparchial Lenten Appeal returned \$487.00. Those who donated to this apostolate – which, among other things, supports our youngest and oldest by seeing to the formation of seminarians and the retirement of the priests² – are all to be heartily thanked for their generosity. We all know how difficult things can be financially, so those who contribute to the Work of God are doubly worthy of praise. May the Hidden One reward you with the eternal Kingdom where no rust destroys and no thief can enter.

It is also important to keep in mind that this annual eparchial appeal works more like a supplementary tax so that the diocese can meet its needs. We are **assessed \$4,000.00** and whatever part of this we do not raise in the collections will need to be scrounged up elsewhere in our funds.

The payment of this \$4,000.00 was one of the first large expenses I was confronted with when I arrived here last May; it had not been sent to the chancery after Lent. That amount, sent off immediately, removed about a quarter of our checking account in one full swipe. As things stand now, the eparchial assessments take up one half of our collections each month, and adding the Lenten Appeal, we are responsible to send \$40,000.00 to the eparchy each year. This does not include any extra appeals such as the \$500.00 we were asked to contribute to the seminary in February.

than the prophet Elijah – the great example of zeal for the Lord. (cf I Kings 19; 19-21)

² The canonical retirement age for priests is 75.

As you probably know, we also spend \$13,000.00 annually for fuel oil alone. Together, as you can see, these two expenses by themselves mean that we must raise annually \$53,000.00 just to cover two expenses, and *then* we need to raise all the other funds needed for everything else –another \$50,000 or so to cover the other expenses that confront us throughout the year.

It is sad, but as the parish has dwindled to about one hundred who have remained truly faithful over the last decade, this means, regrettably, that those “who are near”³ must carry a heavier burden to make it all work. The Endowment is an excellent and thoughtful idea, but in truth it needed to be started fifteen years ago. Other parishes who now depend on the revenue of endowment funds in order to survive began those funds decades ago. As it is, we have only achieved half of our intended goal after two years of effort. Due to the generosity of many it continues to grow, *Thanks be to God*, but it remains to be seen if it will be surety to us in time to meet our actual financial burdens.

There are some who do not attend the Divine Mysteries, “who are far”, but who have family roots in the parish, and who contribute occasionally to the apostolate, *God be praised!* But surely, if all the Maronite descendants who still live in the area contributed regularly to this apostolate the work of their grandparents would be assured; but, for now, it is those who faithfully attend Mass weekly who practically must shoulder the largest part of the burden.

Unhappily, there are far too many who expect “services” here whenever they wish, but who do not participate regularly in the Divine Mysteries or contribute in any real way to the parish established by their (great)grandparents. This is a shame as Saint Joseph’s is not a 24-hour service Walmart where one can simply drop in whenever and however he wishes something. The mindset also includes the thought that Saint Joseph’s will always

³ **Anaphora of Saint Mark**, Intercessions: “*Bless those who are near and bring back those who are far, ... bring back those who have strayed that they may live in Your fear, and reward those who have brought offerings to Your Holy Church.*”

be here, as if by magic. It carries an expectation that is as unrealistic as it is unworthy of the immigrants who sacrificed so much to make Saint Joseph’s a reality in the first place.

Every Catholic parish is a community, and a *community is people*, not a building. Shoppers at Walmart are consumers; they do not form a community with the store’s management and employees. Our ancestors were a vibrant and prayerful community even as they worshipped in a bare cement basement for a decade and in even more Spartan settings before that. With a building, we now die out numerically. Is this necessarily the future?

If we all act now, including those who fail to attend the Divine Qoorbono, we can restore life while there is still the possibility. It would be the height of sad irony to have the parish languish even as the city of Waterville begins its revitalization. Sadly, we know that it is all too possible, as we have already witnessed the closing of four local Catholic parishes in recent memory. Ours is even more precious as here in Maine we are uniquely the heirs of the Church of Antioch.

There are of course many reasons all throughout Maine for these difficulties. Schools and businesses close all around as the population shrinks and ages, but it would be tragic if Saint Joseph’s turned into something museum-like as is presently the case of the Ukrainian Catholic parish in Fall River, Massachusetts, as an example. There the building still stands, but the rectory is empty and there are only three people who attend Sunday Liturgy that is offered by a visiting priest. Surely, here, where the “Syrian” immigrants often spent their last pennies and physically built so much of this parish plant themselves is worthy of the best heirs and imitators to that generation’s admirable sacrifices.

Today, it is now a simple question of mathematics. When there were four hundred faithful in the pews, \$5 a week would work; but those days are long gone – at least for the moment. This also means that mathematically, if there are one hundred of us present on a weekly basis, it means that *each one* of those hundred (not per couple)

must contribute \$20 per week for us to cover expenses.

Each time one sees the collection sink below \$2000.00 in a week, you will know we are already running at a deficit.

Note that all this is merely to cover day-to-day expenses, and not to pay for the unforeseen but ever necessary repairs of an aging physical plant. The heating system and elevator have already been in need of several repairs over these last few months. The flooding in the parish hall that took place at the beginning of February cost just over \$1000.00 to repair. Its bill is outstanding. And the roof of the sacristy, leaking for the last five years, has also finally been repaired. This work alone set us back over \$8000.00 to repair the defective work of the roofers eight years ago. Meanwhile, we have another smaller roof in need of immediate attention at the back of the rectory. This will be an additional expense for this Spring. As anyone who owns a house knows, the maintenance is endless.

Can we do all this even as a small community? I believe we can, but it will require us to imitate the devotion and generosity that *djidoo* and *sittoo* once showed us how to do.

Please, look to see if we might all work our hardest to contribute to this worthy cause – in this instance, the Eparchial Lenten Appeal – so that no additional funds need to be paid out to supplement a shortfall. We have another month of Lent to accomplish this. You can contribute in the envelopes provided for you annually, or simply write on any envelope the donation's purpose.

God reward your continuing efforts in making this apostolate possible here in Maine and, by extension through the eparchial appeals, throughout the east coast. Remember, we form a unique Catholic heritage in Maine, as we are the only Eastern Catholic Church in the entire state. The loss of this apostolate would mean a poorer Catholic witness in Maine.

We build on the solid foundations established by our ancestors who, as you well know often died penniless, but who had heroically left the Work of

God well established for us to inherit and benefit from. Due to the sacrifices of those heroic immigrants, many of us have succeeded brilliantly in the things of this world. It is now our turn to pass on the heritage of the Faith: the ultimate reason that Saint Joseph's stands proudly on the Kennebec. Surely, it should not falter and die out on our watch. God forbid that the fumble be in our generation. After all, we are meant to be *worthy* heirs of our parents and ancestors.

What would Sitoo say?

The **Maronite Formation Classes** for adults will begin on Wednesday, **March 7th**, at **6:30 p.m.** in the parish hall. This should be an enjoyable moment as we explore and develop the understanding of our faith and Antiochene heritage.

We ask that no children be brought, as this is "adults free night out".

We will be using as a text Captivated by Your Teachings by Fr. Anthony Salim, pastor of our Maronite parish in Olean, New York. We have a few copies for sale at \$25 each. Although it is out of print, you may also find your own copies on-line.

FISH CHOWDER AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Knights of Columbus will once again be serving up the **Lenten Fish Chowders** from **4:30-6:00** every Friday during Lent before the **Stations of the Cross** at 6:00.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Regular Collection: \$1357.00
Eparchial Lenten Appeal: \$487.00

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

VOCATION ICON

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

Sat	February 24	Audrey Yotides
Sun	March 3	Greg & Marianne Gillespie
Sun	March 10	Larry & Paula Mitchell
Sun	March 17	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sun	March 24	Lowell & Mary Hawes
Sun	April 1	Larry & Lisa Grard
Sun	April 8	Chris & Diane Wyder
Sat	April 14	Jim & Lenore Boles

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

THE HEALING OF THE HEMORRHAGING WOMAN

February 25, 2018

II Cor 7; 4-11

St. Luke 8; 40-56

THE PRODIGAL SON

March 4, 2018

II Cor 13; 5-13

St. Luke 15; 11-32

INTENTIONS FOR THE QURBONEH (MASSES)

Sat	24	†Mary & Paul Maroon
Sun	25	For the members of the Parish
Mon	26	-----
Tue	27	Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Wed	28	†Fred & Marie Zito (Schnepf Family)
Thu	1	†Andree Nasr (Fefa Deeb) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Fri	2	Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sat	3	†Annie Shaheen (Laya Joseph) -- Catholic Extension Society & Donors
Sun	4	For the members of the Parish

O Lord and Master of Life,
take from me the spirit of laziness and sloth,
meddling, ambition and vain talk.

Give me a spirit of faithful silence
before Thy Majesty.

Grant me the spirit of prudence,
humility, patience and charity.

Indeed, O Lord and King,
grant me to see clearly my own sins and faults
so as not to judge my brother.

For Thou art blessed forever and ever. Amen

COFFEE SCHEDULE 2018

Feb 25	Elizabeth Wilson & Mary Bard
Mar 4	Lenore Boles & Jan Bourque
Mar 11	Sharon Crowe & Cindy Elias
Mar 18	Lisa Grard & Mary Hawes
Mar 25	Elaine Hoag & MaryJo Hodgkin

*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, Virginia Poulin, Beverly Rideout, Gordon Webber, Paul Laverdiere, Charlene and Dominic Fabrizio.

Lenten Prayer of Saint Ephrem

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
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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

*LB=Liturgical Book SB=Song Book

Choir Rehearsals:
Thursday Evenings
March 1, 8, 15, and 22nd.

The Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman p 207

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

Entrance Hymn: LB p *fyosto* #102

Glory: SB p *al majdu*

Qolo/Hymn: LB* p *eedto* #103

Creed p 748

PRE-ANAPHORA:

Transfer of Gifts: LB p 750 *Moryo amlekh*

Incense Hymn: SB p 3 #8 *Ikbāl*

ANAPHORA:

St. Peter, Chief of the Apostles: LB p 774

Sign of Peace: SB p

Communion: SB p O Bread of Life

Recessional: SB p

