



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



May 16-17, 2020

SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION



IS THERE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

Brothers and Sisters, there is light at the end of the tunnel. In fact, where Jesus is and when we follow Him, there is light! *“For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober. Those who sleep go to sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we are of the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and the helmet that is hope for salvation. For God did not destine us for wrath, but to gain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live together with him. Therefore, encourage one another*

and build one another up, as indeed you do.” 1 Thessalonians 5:5-11

When I arrived at Our Lady of Purgatory in October, I was just getting to know each of you and your families. It seemed that things were falling into place, I was feeling like I was at home, and I no longer needed most of you to repeat your names. Although not much of these things have changed, one thing has---I have truly missed seeing all of you in your home at OLOP!

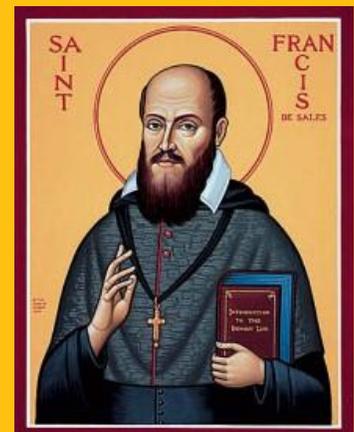
I also want you to know how difficult these times have been for all of you. As I am reminded by some people at the parish, this too has been difficult for me. Mainly because keeping you away from your spiritual home goes against every fiber of my being. However, I am well aware that we needed to do this for your protection and well-being. But there is light around the corner. In the very near future, we will be opening the doors once again. Yes, it will be different, it will be challenging, it will require patience and understanding. But knowing you for the short time that I have, I am also mindful that this community has what it takes to embrace this challenge and to understand that once we implement the new procedures for attending Divine Liturgy, you will once again prevail as you have so many times in the

history of this Church. I wanted to take this time to give you hope and to assure you that I, along with the OLOP Task force, are making this re-opening with your best interests in mind. We must also follow State and local officials’

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset.”

St. Francis de Sales



Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon | Joseph Abraham, Sub-deacon

Address: 11 Franklin Street, New Bedford, MA 02740

Office: 508-996-8934 | Fax: 508-996-8934 | Evening Emergency Number: 561-371-5316 | Website: www.ourladyofpurgatory.org

Email: ourladyofpurgatory@verizon.net | Facebook Page: Our Lady of Purgatory Catholic Church - Maronite Rite

OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

recommendations as well. Once Governor Baker makes his announcement on Monday, we will have a better idea as to the date we may begin to welcome you home.

Sometime next week, I will be notifying you how we will proceed. The Task Force has been a tremendous help to me personally and to this community, and we owe a great deal of thanks to Joseph Barkett, Dr. Pan Coury, Matthew Thomas, Michael Thomas, Dr. James Thomas, and Jacques Barbour.

In preparation for the reopening, I am asking for volunteers to assist me to be ushers and to assist with preparing and cleaning the Church after each liturgy. Depending on the number of people helping with disinfecting and wiping down the pews, this should only take about 20 minutes. More details will be forthcoming after Governor Baker's announcement on Monday.

In closing, I want to assure each of you that we are committed to making sure everyone is protected. If the need arises, I will make available additional Divine Liturgies on Sunday so that everyone may have an opportunity to come home, pray, and partake of the Body of Christ. Guidelines and procedures will be made available in the coming days; however, I know that the most important factor is to be home once again.

So, to answer the question "Is there light at the end of the tunnel?" The answer is YES. There is light--- a light that has never been extinguished in the hearts of each and every one of you. God bless you, God bless Our Lady of Purgatory, and God bless America!

Losing Your Peace of Heart

What is it that has the power to steal away the peace and calm of your heart? What if you were insulted, ridiculed, falsely judged,

imprisoned, beaten or even killed? Would any of these rob the peace of God in your heart? Only if you let it. It is essential that you know and believe with firm faith that nothing can steal the peace of your heart unless you let it. Your goal must be to be free from everything in this world. You must be detached from all riches, honors, respect, fear and everything. If you are fully detached then you are free to be fully attached to Christ and no matter what comes your way, no matter what happens to you, your single attachment to our Lord and His Will, can never be taken away from you unless you let it (See *Diary* #1685).

Reflect upon the things that have taken away your peace in the past. Identifying these will help you realize what it is that you are attached to in an unhealthy way. If, for example, public ridicule has stolen your peace, then you are too attached to your reputation. If poverty has left you depressed, then you are too attached to money. If the rejection of a friend or family member has turned you to anger, then you were too attached to this person. This list could go on and on. Though the spiritual goal of total detachment may be very hard to understand and even harder to accept, do not dismiss it too quickly. Reflect upon attachments you have, even to apparent good things. Realize that if the one attachment you have is to God, all good things will follow.

Lord, I choose You and Your Will as my one possession in life. All else is passing and all else can be lost in an instant. But You, oh Lord, are eternal and You can never be taken away if I choose You. I love You, dear Lord, help me to remain firmly attached to You and Your Will. Jesus, I trust in You.

<https://divinemeracy.life/2019/12/15/reflection-349-losing-your-peace-of-heart/>



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

This past week, Anthony "Tommy" Thomas passed away in the loving arms of Jesus. Tommy had a spirit that invited those who met him to love him. Our condolences go to his children Rose and Rick Twomey, Patty Thomas and Rebecca Schade, Joan and Michael Mello, his grandchildren, great grandchildren, family and friends. He will be remembered by everyone with love. We ask Almighty God to welcome Tommy into His kingdom and may his soul rest in peace. Allah yerhammo.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

On Wednesday, May 20, we will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord, at 6:30 PM, immediately following the rosary. **This is a Holy Day of Obligation.** Please join us for the rosary and 6:00 PM, followed by Divine Liturgy at 6:30 PM.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 16, @ 5:00 PM, liturgy is being offered for the souls of Bashara, Helena, and John John requested by Helena Tavares and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Peter and Raja Saba Bou Eassey requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace. (FM)

Sunday, May 17, @ 10:30 PM, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Barbara Johnson requested by Ida Farhat. May her soul rest in peace.

Monday, May 18,

Tuesday, May 19,

Wednesday, May 20, 6:30 PM,
Holy Day of Obligation, Feast of the Ascension of our Lord

Thursday, May 21,

Saturday, May 23, @ 5:00 PM, liturgy is being offered for the souls of Olivia and Harold Smith requested by Smitty and Lou Cabral. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, May 24, @ 10:30 AM, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Margaret Abraham Thomas requested by her family. May her soul rest in peace.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL LITURGIES WILL BE AVIALABLE THROUGH ZOOM. PLEASE SEE THE SCHEDULE BELOW. I WILL SEND AN INVITATION FOR EACH SERVICE. I WILL ALSO SEND THE TEXT FOR EACH LITURGY SO THAT YOU MAY PARTICIPATE AT HOME.

ALSO PLEASE BE SURE YOU PLACE YOUR PHONE OR COMPUTER ON MUTE ONCE YOU LOG INTO THE SERVICE.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

O Divine Ocean of Mercy and Compassion, be with us in our time of trial and difficulties. Today I make an act of spiritual communion with you, the Life-Giving Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At this time, I am not able to receive the sacred body and blood of my Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, but I choose to live in union with him and in the unity of the Holy Spirit. I offer my day, my daily life, my joys and sorrows to you, for those around me, and for the whole world. Be with us O life-giving Triune God, for we know that nothing in this world has power over us. O Lover of all people, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

ANNUAL BISHOPS CHARITY APPEAL

Each year the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn appeals to each parish for the annual Bishops Charity Appeal. The money is divided as follows: 30% for priests' retirement, 25% go towards the seminarian's education and boarding, 15% goes toward our endowment fund, 15% goes to Patriarchal liturgical commission and texts, and 15% goes to Lebanon. Each parish in the eparchy is asked to send an amount based on the size of the parish and the ability to raise this money for these much-needed programs. OLOP Church must raise \$3,500.00. All of you have been very generous in the past and I am confident we will raise the amount requested. Thus far we have collected \$1,358.00 toward that amount. I thank you for your continued generosity for this worthy cause.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Please know that confession is available before liturgies. You may also call to set up an appointment.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

This month of May, the wine and bread offerings are in memory of Joseph M. Thomas, requested by Thomas Hitchings Family. May his soul rest in peace.

Anyone who would like to give an offering in memory of a loved one or for a special intention for the month of October, please see Fr. Vincent. The cost for the month is \$75.00, which covers the cost of the communion bread and wine. Thank you and God bless.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Fernanda Thomas, Hiam Cheiab, Leo Roderick, Rose John, Theresa John, Laurette BouRamia, Annie Peter, Jeannie Francis, Mariam David, Norma Thomas, Zita Drouin, Lucienne Rodrigues, Ed Da Rocha, Edmond Salameh, and Alice Daher. If anyone is missing from this list please contact the Church office.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY BY SENDING IN YOUR WEELY COLLECTIONS VIA MAIL. THIS HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL FOR THE CHURCH. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

FOR

May 9-10, 2020

Sunday Collection \$ 2,420.00
 Donations \$ 300.00
 Total: \$ 2,720.00



Joseph & Marie Kenyon

How empty life is without you. Your Love and Patience has made us into who we are today. Your Guidance has set our path in life. We Miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing day

Your Loving Children



SALON PERSIA

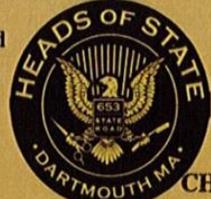
308 THAYER STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI

Wassim Chedid 401-837-0664
 Tuesday & Saturday, 9-12:30pm
 Wednesday & Friday, 9-6 pm

Zakhia Chedid 774-444-3337
 Monday & Friday, 9-12:30pm
 Tuesday & Thursday, 9-6 pm
 Saturday 9-4 pm

401-831-9536 • WWW.SALONPERSIA.COM

FULL SERVICE SALON

<p>Wassim Chedid 401-837-0664 Tuesday & Thurs 1-6pm Saturday 1-5pm</p>	 <p>CHARBEL CHDID 508-315-2688</p>	<p>Zakhia Chedid 774-444-3337 Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1-6pm</p>
--	---	--

WWW.HEADSOFASTATESALON.COM
 North Dartmouth, MA
 653 State Road (Route 6) • 508-999-0177

Leonardo chdid
774 503 2935

OVER 75 YEARS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE CRAFTSMANSHIP





BLOCK • BRICK • GLASS BLOCK
 BLUESTONE • FIELDSTONE • COBBLESTONE

Cutting and Core Drill • Driveways
 Steel Fabrication and Installation
 Handicap Access

508-993-8088

369 Nash Rd. • New Bedford

www.duprecontractors.com

Counseling

ASSOCIATES

152 Dean Street, Taunton, MA
508-837-0790

Greetings from
the Saunders Family

Rick, Bill, Patrick
& Will Saunders

"Our Family Serving
Your Family"

www.saundersdwyer.com

 **Fairhaven Lumber Company**

(508) 993-2611

FAX: (508) 999-3960
120 Alden Road,
Fairhaven, MA

Fairhaven
Funeral Home

117 Main St., Fairhaven MA 02719
508-994-9471

Lawrence E. Sylvia - managing director

COMPLETE FUNERAL PLANNING
TO MEET YOUR NEEDS

A Hathaway Family Funeral Home
1813 Robeson St., Fall River, MA 02720



For Weddings,
Banquets,
Post-Funeral
Gatherings
Private Functions

107 S Main St.
Acushnet

CENTURY HOUSE (508) 995-3221

www.centuryhouse.biz

Rua's West End Pizzeria

We're In Your Neighborhood

Corner of 196 Shawmut Ave. & Durfee St., New Bedford
We Deliver In All West End & Central New Bedford Areas

\$1.00 OFF ANY SIZE PIZZA WITH COUPON

SUBS • PIZZA
DINNER PLATES • SPAGHETTI
SALADS • BEVERAGES

Now Just Around the Corner and a Phone Call Away!

996-6774 • 996-6775

Open Daily 11:00am to 10:00pm

 **CYCLONE CLEANING & RESTORATION SERVICES**

- ◆ Carpets & Upholstery
- ◆ Commercial/Residential Cleaning
- ◆ Smoke/Water Damage
- ◆ Washing/Waxing/Stripping Floors

Call the company you've counted
on for years - CALL CYCLONE!

Anthony David • (508) 995-8816
833 Mount Pleasant St. • New Bedford, MA 02745

www.CycloneCleaning.com

 **DEBROSS HATHAWAY MARVEL**

Heating • Air Conditioning

465 N. Front St.
New Bedford, MA
(508) 999-1226

dhmoil@outlook.com

 A Division of
SEA LAND ENERGY

Advanced Dental Spa

Family, Cosmetic and Implant Dentistry

Dr. Raed Yazbeck
Dr. Vivianne Khalife-Yazbeck

140 Dartmouth St.,
New Bedford, MA 02740

Tel: 508-717-0554

www.advanceddentalspa.net