



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



August 15-16, 2020

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

AN OPEN INVITATION FROM ME TO YOU

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Purgatory:

I pray all of you are doing well. The past few months have given me, and I'm sure all of you, time to reflect and to think about many things that are important to us. The separation from this Church and each other has really been a surreal event that perhaps have made us think about the important things in our lives. I have been with this community for almost a year now and God has blessed me in so many ways and I am sure more blessings are on their way.

Although most of you are not physically present in the Church, I carry each of you in my prayers. There have been some changes happening at OLOP and perhaps now is a good time as ever to think about the future of this community. My father always told me the only thing you need to accept is change because this is the most difficult thing to accept in our lives. He was right! Most of us don't like change, mainly because of the unknown and uncertainty that goes with it. But change is good and should be the beginning of a new start, new endeavors, new challenges, and exciting visions.

Although our lives have been interrupted by Covid-19, we must not stop with new beginnings, new visions, and new endeavors. I am very aware of the long history of this parish; perhaps not as vivid as you, who have been a part of this community for your entire lives or even relocated to OLOP over

the years, nonetheless, the history is here. You are all part of this history regardless of the number of years you have been here. History can play out in different ways. We can remember the difficult obstacles that confronted this community and let it stop us from moving forward, or we can learn from these obstacles, focusing our energy on building a community more vibrant and solid for our children and young adults. I am on the side of learning and moving forward. I am asking this community to do the same.

I am also aware of the great faith, strength, dedication, and resilience all of you have deep in your hearts. These are the qualities it will take to move on and to secure the future of this parish for generations to come. We have a jewel here---a jewel that Jesus gave to us and we must put aside our human shortcomings and faults and come together to build a better tomorrow for the present families and the future families to come.

I invite everyone to our family at OLOP. I encourage you to come and pray with me at the Church, to be a part of exciting additions to the community life, and to bring forth your talents and ideas, so that together we can all be a part of these new endeavors that are to come in the near future.

I am excited about some new ideas and new visions for this parish. I will be calling on you to be a part of and I want all of you to feel the same excitement as well. Although Covid-19 has tried to stop our praying together, gathering together, and unsuccessfully tried to stop us from continuing to flourish as a

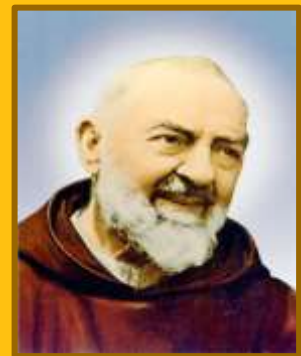
community together, we must continue to move forward just as the apostles and disciples of Jesus did during their most difficult and trying times. We must never lose hope or be discouraged because of the past, present, or future, because change is good and God is on our side. And if we remember this important truth, we can overcome all the obstacles we are faced with.

I invite all of you home to a new beginning filled with faith, hope, and love.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Always stay close to this Heavenly Mother, because she is the sea to be crossed to reach the shores of Eternal Splendor."

Saint Padre Pio, 1887-1968 AD



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

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



ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

On Aug. 15 Catholics and many other Christians celebrate the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This significant feast day recalls the spiritual and physical departure of the mother of Jesus Christ from the earth, when both her soul and her body were taken into the presence of God. Venerable Pope Pius XII confirmed this belief about the Virgin Mary as the perennial teaching of the Church when he defined it formally as a dogma of Catholic faith in 1950, invoking papal infallibility to proclaim, “that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.” His apostolic constitution “*Munificentissimus Deus*” (“Most Bountiful God”), which affirmed the dogma, contained the pontiff’s accounts of many longstanding traditions by which the Church has celebrated the Assumption throughout its history. The constitution also cited testimonies from the early Church fathers on the subject, and described the history of theological reflection on many Biblical passages which are seen as indicating that Mary was assumed into heaven following her death. Although the bodily assumption of Mary is not explicitly recorded in Scripture, Catholic tradition identifies her with the “woman clothed with the sun” who is described in the 12th chapter of the Book of Revelation. The passage calls that woman’s appearance “a great sign” which “appeared in

heaven,” indicating that she is the mother of the Jewish Messiah and has “the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.” Accordingly, Catholic iconography of the Western tradition often depicts the Virgin Mary’s assumption into heaven in this manner. Eastern Christians have also traditionally held Mary’s assumption into heaven as an essential component of their faith. Pius XII cited several early Byzantine liturgical texts, as well as St. John of Damascus, the eighth-century Christian theologian, monk and Doctor of the Church, in his own authoritative definition of her Assumption. “It was fitting,” St. John of Damascus wrote in a sermon on the Assumption, “that she, who had kept her virginity intact in childbirth, should keep her own body free from all corruption even after death,” and “that she, who had carried the creator as a child at her breast, should dwell in the divine tabernacles.” In Eastern Christian tradition, the same feast is celebrated on the same calendar date, although typically known as the Dormition (“falling asleep”) of Mary. Eastern Catholic celebration of the Dormition is preceded by a two-week period of fasting similar to Lent. Pius XII, in “*Munificentissimus Deus*,” mentioned this same fasting period as belonging to the traditional patrimony of Western Christians as well.

SECOND COLLECTION AUGUST 15-16

As per the directive of the Eparchy of Saint Maron, there will be a second collection to help support and upkeep Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine in North Jackson, Ohio, on this feast day of Our Lady. Thank you for your generosity and may Our Mother protect and hold you in her loving arms.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Tuesday, August 18, we will gather for Eucharistic Adoration at 6:00 PM. This is an opportunity to spend some time with Jesus and ask for His help. Mark your calendars and please join us for this beautiful service.

HELPING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN LEBANON

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, So many have asked, and I know many of you are already extended beyond your usual means to helping others, but for those who can practice an even greater charity these days in almsgiving, we ask for donations to Caritas Lebanon, and Lebanon’s Saint Vincent de Paul Society both can be made by way of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn with a check payable to the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, 109 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201 or by our website www.stmaron.org.

For those who have interest in other Catholic charities in Lebanon, there is a list of them on this media. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+ Gregory John Mansour

www.stmaron.org/how-you-can-help

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 15, @ 5:00 PM, liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Mary Thomas Takla requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, August 16, @ 10:30 AM, Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Youssef, Josette, and Milham Cheaib requested by Gaby and Amal Baroody and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is offered for a special intention requested by Penny Fletcher.

Monday, August 17, @ 6:00 PM, liturgy is being offered for the souls of Alphonso and Mabel Gabello and Nassar and Mariam Joseph by their family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Tuesday, August 18, at 12:00 Noon, (Feast of St. Luke of Baalbek) Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Libby Otis requested by Ida Farhat. May her soul rest in peace.

Wednesday, August 19, at 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Bernard) Welcome Me Into Your Kingdom Liturgy. Liturgy is offered for good health of Rocky Farhat requested by Patty Farhat.

Thursday, August 20, @ 12:00 AM, liturgy is being offered for good health to Penny Farhat requested by Patty Farhat.

Saturday, August 22, @ 5:00 PM, (Feast of St. Pope Sixtus II and St. Dominic) Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Thomas David requested by Mariam David and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the living and deceased members of the Rahall family requested by Patty Farhat.

Sunday, August 23, @ 10:30 PM, (Feast of St. Isaac the Syriac) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Anthony "Tommy" Thomas requested by George Saba. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Mary Thomas Tekla, Joseph Thomas, and Joseph Peters by their family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

LEBANESE AMERICAN WOMAN ASSOCIATION

The Lebanese American WO-MAN Association was founded in 2018 in the United States, and the mission of this Non-Government Organization is to help people who are of Lebanese decent or who are residing in Lebanon and have been afflicted by abuse or neglect, including those who might suffer from any traumatic experience. The Lebanese American WO-MAN Association raises funds through various ways (Direct donations, special events and Gala Benefits) and their membership is made up of many Lebanese Americans, first generation, second generation and friends and families of Lebanese Americans. When there is a need identified to help someone, this done by assisting in providing food or food vouchers, payment assistance for shelter or medical expenses. The beneficiaries are not given a cash payment, but rather a service or benefit is funded directly by the NGO. All money that is raised by the Lebanese American WO-MAN association is used to help fund these benefits. All their members including the board, volunteer their time and all donations are directly put towards the need with no portion held back for any other expenses. We ask you to please donate to the Lebanese American WO-MAN Association go fund me account, these funds will be used to help those who were impacted by the Explosion in Lebanon. "Beirut is bleeding" make a difference. This is a time the people of Lebanon need our help. Any donation will make a difference and we thank you for help and generosity. **Beirut is Bleeding** Read more here https://www.gofundme.com/f/23lianfm9c?utm_source=whatsapp-visit&utm_medium=chat&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

IN OUR PRAYERS

Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Hiam Cheiab, Leo Roderick, 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.

LECTORS FOR AUGUST

Saturday, August 15

Smitty Cabral

Sunday, August 16

Joan Mello/ Jano Baroody

Saturday, August 22

Carol Ann Mas

Sunday, August 23

Mae Dickinson/Gaby Baroody

Saturday, August 29

Rose David

Sunday, August 30

Ann Dupre/Jano Baroody

WELCOME TO THE FLOCK OF ADINA ANTOINETTE BARBOUR

Welcome to the flock of Christ Adina Antoinette Gianna Barbour, who was baptized and confirmed on Sunday, August 9. She is the daughter of Johnathon and Allison Barbour, the granddaughter of John and Clair Barbour, and great-granddaughter of Tony and Elaine Barbour. May Almighty God protect and guide Adina all the days of her life. Mabrook!

RESERVATIONS FOR DIVINE LITURGIES

As foreign as this may be to all of us, it is imperative, in order to keep within the guidelines of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to go to the following links to reserve your seat for Divine Liturgy. We are allowed to have 75 people for each liturgy. You have all received the guidelines and procedures that need to be taken during the Phase One opening

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/SaturdayMass>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/SundayMass>

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR August 8-9, 2020

Sunday Collection	\$ 2,686.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,060.00
Lebanon Aid	\$ 1,140.00
Demolition Donation	\$ 100.00
Total:	\$ 4,986.00

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

This month of August, the wine and bread offerings are in memory of Peter and Frozia Thomas requested by Hyatt Thomas and family. May their souls 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 February, 2021, 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.



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

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