



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



August 22-23, 2020

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

TABLE TALK

John 13: 31 – 35

The Apostle John says: When Judas the Iscariot had gone out, Jesus said to his disciples,

“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now, I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Love is the greatest commandment ever given to mankind because it is through love that we are bound to God. We hear about the NEW COMMANDMENT that Jesus gives us. Jesus tells us “I give you a New Commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”

What does Jesus mean by this new commandment? To understand this new commandment, we must look at the love Jesus had for His disciples. How did He love them?

Jesus gave all He had for those He loved. There was nothing selfish about His love. All we need to do is to look at His disciples. There were no limits to His love. He loved them as He loves all of us. With all of our shortcomings, sinfulness, downfalls--- with all of our

doubts, questions and weaknesses, Jesus still loves us. He loves us so much so that He died on the cross so that we may live with Him forever.

Most of us probably think that love should bring us nothing but happiness-- isn't that what love is all about---to feel good and to be happy? For those of us who are older and wiser, we know that this is not the case. **We know that with great love comes great pain.** Jesus knew and understood His disciples and with this understanding He still loved them.” It is similar to when a couple first starts dating and everything is perfect and he or she says this is the one of my dreams...Then they marry and live together and all of a sudden they begin to see each other's weaknesses, their moods, their bad habits and irritabilities and they no longer see each other at their best. This is what we call humanity. We are not perfect. We are not immune from bad moments that reveal our human shortcomings. If we were perfect, there would be no need for God and this is what we must remember. It is when we see ourselves for who we are---the good and the bad--we realize that we make mistakes along the road. After all, is not every day a learning experience? And when we see our bad side, don't we say to ourselves “I hope that person will forgive me? I hope that person still loves me?” This is why this New Commandment is so important and this is why Jesus demands this commandment be

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The proud person is like a grain of wheat thrown into water: it swells, it gets big. Expose that grain to the fire: it dries up, it burns. The humble soul is like a grain of wheat thrown into the earth: it descends, it hides itself, it disappears, it dies; but to revive in heaven.”

*Saint Mary of Jesus Crucified
"The Little Arab"*



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.

followed by each of His disciples and followers.

Jesus lived with His disciples- He knew who would betray Him, who would deny Him, and who would leave Him alone on His way to Golgotha. And yet with all of this knowledge, Jesus continued to love them.

Jesus showed us that we must love not for what we want people to be or what we imagine them to be but for whom they are. Jesus loved with forgiveness. How many of us had arguments with those we love or have been victims of insults, gossip, or unjust remarks? How much energy do we waste by ignoring those who hurt us or fighting with those who treated us badly; letting those events fester inside us only to destroy our spirit and our soul? **Jesus taught us that in order for love to endure, it must be built on forgiveness or else love is nothing.**

No one ever said being a follower of Jesus would be an easy road. No one ever said that the teachings and lessons Jesus gave us would not be difficult. But what we have been told is that if we do take these teachings, follow through with them and we make them our own, our reward will be great with God. May we all strive for this love that Jesus speaks about. May we practice this New Commandment of love to others so that we will be afforded the joy that God will one day give to us. May we look at the crucifix and say to ourselves "I love you Jesus; help me to be like you, to forgive and to love.

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 March, 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.



St. Augustine of Hippo

St. Augustine of Hippo is the patron of brewers because of his conversion from a former life of loose living, which included parties, entertainment, and worldly ambitions. His complete turnaround and conversion has been an inspiration to many who struggle with a particular vice or habit they long to break. This famous son of St. Monica was born in Africa and spent many years of his life in wicked living and in false beliefs. Though he was one of the most intelligent men who ever lived and though he had been brought up a Christian, his sins of impurity and his pride darkened his mind so much, that he could not see or understand the Divine Truth anymore. Through the prayers of his holy mother and the marvelous preaching of St. Ambrose, Augustine finally became convinced that Christianity was the one true religion. Yet he did not become a Christian then, because he thought he could never live a pure life. One day, however, he heard about two men who had suddenly been converted on reading the life of St. Antony, and he felt terrible ashamed of himself. "What are we doing?" he cried to his friend Alipius. "Unlearned people are taking Heaven by force, while we, with all our knowledge, are so cowardly that we keep rolling around in the mud of our sins!" Full of bitter sorrow, Augustine flung himself out into the garden and cried out to God, "How long more, O Lord? Why does not this hour put an end to my sins?" Just then he heard a child singing, "Take up and read!" Thinking

that God intended him to hear those words, he picked up the book of the Letters of St. Paul, and read the first passage his gaze fell on. It was just what Augustine needed, for in it, St. Paul says to put away all impurity and to live in imitation of Jesus. That did it! From then on, Augustine began a new life. He was baptized, became a priest, a bishop, a famous Catholic writer, Founder of religious priests, and one of the greatest saints that ever lived. He became very devout and charitable, too. On the wall of his room he had the following sentence written in large letters: "Here we do not speak evil of anyone." St. Augustine overcame strong heresies, practiced great poverty and supported the poor, preached very often and prayed with great fervor right up until his death. "Too late have I loved You!" he once cried to God, but with his holy life he certainly made up for the sins he committed before his conversion. His feast day is August 28th.

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 22, @ 5:00 PM, 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 David Dickinson requested by Matthew and Cathy Thomas and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Alphonso and Mabel Gabello requested by their family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Monday, August 24, @ 6:00 PM, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Toufic George Baroody requested by Tony Baroody. May his soul rest in peace.

Tuesday, August 25, at 9:00 AM, (Feast of St. Titus) Liturgy is being offered for good health of Scott Foley requested by Patty Farhat.

Wednesday, August 26, at 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Bernard) Liturgy is offered for good health of Kim Marie Farhat requested by Patty Farhat.

Thursday, August 27, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of St. Biyameen the Hermit) liturgy is being offered for the soul of David Ghannom requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

Saturday, August 29, @ 5:00 PM, (Beheading of John the Baptist) liturgy is being offered for the soul of David Dickinson requested by Annemarie Espindola. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Adel Badawi requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, August 30, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Blessed Brother Estephan Ne'mee) Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Anthony "Tommy Thomas requested by Matthew and Cathy Thomas and family. May his soul rest in peace.

LECTORS FOR AUGUST

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

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.

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

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>

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

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR

August 16-17, 2020

Sunday Collection \$ 1,299.00
Candles \$ 117.00
Coffee Assumption \$ 19.00
Lebanon Aid \$ 390.00
Total: \$ 1,825.00



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

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