



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



September 19-20, 2020

### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS



trauma: always the comforting words of Jesus.”

When we experience such events in our lives we are reminded to turn to God for comfort, solace, and hope. We look to our faith and say, even in the midst of such destruction, thank you God for giving me another day. Another day to make a difference in other people’s lives; to make a difference on how we live our lives; for letting me feel that the deeds and actions, no matter how big or small, has made a difference in the people I live with; and to be given another

#### FINDING CHRIST IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS

Hurricanes earthquake, the wildfires out West, persecutions across the world, devastation and explosions in Lebanon, and family crisis---how is it that people can find Christ in the midst of such suffering? I am asked during times as these “why is God punishing us?” And the answer to that question is “He is not punishing us; in fact, he is closer to us during these difficult times. And because of that we are able to see Christ.

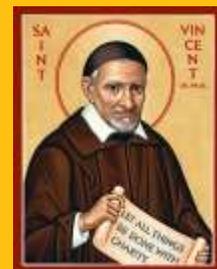
We have seen the devastation of these natural and man-made disasters and we may have experienced the hardships of family problems, but the resonating words of so many of these people are “thank God I am alive---thank God we have our faith.”

Cardinal DiNardo of the archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Texas, has said “Sometimes, you think as though you’re in the boat with Jesus, and waves are all around. And you’re saying to Jesus, “Wake up!” And I think this is what many are feeling---“Where is the Lord Jesus?” But he does rise to calm the waters. Part of how he calms is exactly through His Church and through the members of the Body of Christ, who are there to assist others.” He continued to say “What is absolutely edifying, in the best sense, is to watch Houstonians and others help other Houstonians, whether its volunteers, in terms of rescue, or bringing help, bringing clothing, bringing aid, and, of course, bringing comfort. That’s what we can do as a Church on all levels. And I think that’s how we handle people in this

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**“The most powerful weapon to conquer the devil is humility. For, as he does not know at all how to employ it, neither does he know how to defend himself from it.”**

**Saint Vincent de Paul**



**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.

day to appreciate to gift of life and to live it to the fullest.

Each of us can make a difference even if we are not affected first hand. We, as the Body of Christ, make a difference when we pray for those who are suffering, those who are persecuted, and those who are marginalized. We make a difference by donating our time and resources to help those who have lost so much. And by doing so, everyone feels the presence of God. This community is a living testament to the words "Body of Christ." We have always risen to the aid of others in their time of need and for that I thank you.

Let us continue to pray for the victims in Lebanon and throughout the world, victims of hurricanes, of earthquakes, wildfires, and the persecuted and marginalized, and in the words of St. Gregory Nazianzen, *"Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could."*

*(Quotes taken from National Catholic Register, September 17, 2017)*

## **ADULT BIBLE STUDY AT OLOP**

Beginning Monday, September 21, we will begin adult bible study in the rectory basement. This will begin immediately following Divine Liturgy which begins at 6:00 PM. If we have a large number of people attending, we will move to the Church in order to practice social distancing. There will be a sign-up link to follow this week. We ask you to please sign-up as you would for Divine Liturgy. I will send the link to you this week. I hope many of you will be able to join us.

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

## **DOES GOD EXIST?**

A man went to a barber shop to have his hair and his beard cut as always. He started to have a good conversation with the barber who attended him. They talked about so many things and various subjects. Suddenly, they touched the subject of God. The barber said:

"Look man, I don't believe that God exists as you say so."

"Why do you say that?" asked the client. "Well, it's so easy, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God does not exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God exists, there would be no suffering nor pain. I can't think of a God who permits all of these things."

The client stopped for a moment thinking but he didn't want to respond so as to prevent an argument. The barber finished his job and the client went out of the shop. Just after he left the barber shop he saw a man in the street with a long hair and beard (it seems that it had been a long time since he had his hair cut and he looked so untidy). Then the client again entered the barber shop and he said to the barber: "know what? Barbers do not exist." "How come they don't exist?"-asked the barber. "Well I am here and I am a barber."

"No!" the client exclaimed. "They don't exist because if they did there would be no people with long hair and beards like that man who walks in the street."

"Ah, barbers do exist, what happens is that people do not come to us."

"Exactly!"- affirmed the client. "That's the point. God does exist, what happens is people don't go to Him and do not look for Him that's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

<https://stories4homilies.wordpress.com/2012/06/02/does-god-exist/>

## **FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING**

There will be a finance council meeting on Wednesday, September 23, at 6:45 PM, via zoom. I will send the invitation out to you in this week. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to OLOP.

## **ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL SUNDAY**

October 11, 2020, is designated as "Order of St. Sharbel Sunday". This year we are blessed to have **six** seminarians studying for the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn. This order plays an important role in helping to pay for our seminarian expenses as well as retired priests in our Eparchy. We will discuss the importance of what this order does for the Eparchy of St. Maron in the near future. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at the office. Thank you for your consideration and commitment in this matter. God bless.

## **ARABIC CLASSES**

There has been much interest in offering Arabic classes for children and adults. I have two parishioners who have offered their services for these classes. I would like to know who would be interested in learning Arabic from both the children and the adults. These classes would most likely be held on Saturday's late morning and will be held every week. There will be a nominal charge to cover materials and books for the program. I am asking you to please send me the names and ages of those who are interested so that we may plan accordingly.

I believe this will be a wonderful addition to our programs here at OLOP and I thank those who have offered their time and talents to teach. You may email me at [ourladyofpurgatory@verizon.net](mailto:ourladyofpurgatory@verizon.net)

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, September 19, @ 5:00 PM**, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Sandy Potoak requested by Joanne David. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the deceased members of the Hardin Family Society. May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, September 20, @ 10:30 PM**, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Marlene Ayash requested by Matthew and Cathy Thomas. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the deceased members of the Thomas Family requested by Mrs. George J. Thomas (FM). May their souls rest in peace

**Monday, September 21, @ 6:00 PM**,

**Tuesday, September 22, at 9:00 AM, (Feast of St. Phocus)**

**Wednesday, September 23, at 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Thecla)** liturgy is being offered for the St. Joseph Sodality.

**Thursday, September 24, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of St. Thecla)**

**Saturday, September 26, @ 5:00 PM**, liturgy is being offered for the souls of Annie Farris and son Thomas Farris requested by Helena Tavares and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Abraham and Amelia Sarkes requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, September 27, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of St. Vincent De Paul)** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Helen Yamine requested by her family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is offered for the souls of Peter and Raja Saba Bou Eassey requested by their family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

## CCD CLASSES TO BEGIN IN THE FALL

Dear Parents and CCD Students of OLOP: After meeting with the Deacon Jean and all of the religious education teachers, we are happy to inform you that we will begin formal classes once again in the fall. The format will be in person following all the guidelines for social distancing and protective wear. Because of the special circumstances with the Covid 19, we will begin our meetings once a month on Saturday afternoons from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. This seems to be the best format at the present time until we have put Covid 19 to rest once and for all. Details will be following in the near future and you can expect the meeting times to begin at the end of September. I will be making a schedule available in the near future so that you and your children can plan ahead. I am hoping that this will be a great start to bring our children back, learning about our faith, and rejoining them each other in the hopes that they can feel normalcy slowly coming back into their lives. Registration forms will be emailed in the next week. I ask you to please send those back to the Church office as soon as possible. I want to assure you, along with all of the volunteers, that every precaution will be taken to ensure the safety of your child/children. Welcome home children!

## WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

*This month of September, the wine and bread offerings are in memory of Joanne Sarkes Yozefek requested by her family. May her 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 April, 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.

## LECTORS FOR AUGUST

**Saturday, September 19,**

Rose David

**Sunday, September 20,**  
Ann Dupre/Rena Choubah

**Saturday, September 26,**

Mae Dickinson

**Sunday, September 27,**  
Joan Mello/Jano Baroody

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Officer Vincent Peters, Peter Helmer, 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.

## WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR September 12-13, 2020

Sunday Collection \$	2,095.00
Candles \$	30.00
Host & Wine Don. \$	250.00
Education Fund Don\$	400.00
Total:	\$ 2,775.00

**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.**

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[Sample bulletin block / graphic is optional / In email.]



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*

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