



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

December 19-20, 2020

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD GENEALOGY SUNDAY



GENEALOGY SUNDAY

Today we celebrate Genealogy Sunday. In the gospel reading we hear many names throughout St. Matthew's message which at first may seem a bit daunting and confusing. However, the importance and significance of this reading is paramount.

We had been told by the prophets of the Old Testament about the coming of the Messiah---the One who would save the world from their sins. Genealogy Sunday gives us the proof of Jesus' lineage and more importantly confirms that the Truth has come into this world as the descendent of the house of David. So when we listen to this gospel reading, we should not focus on the repetition of the names listed, rather,

we should focus on the family tree of Jesus Christ which confirms what the prophets had conveyed in the Old Testament for the coming of Jesus Christ.

As we prepare for the birth of Christ, we prepare ourselves for the One who will come and save us from our sins; we prepare ourselves for the One who will reveal God the Father; we prepare ourselves for the One who will give us eternal life to those who believe in Him. We prepare ourselves for the greatest gift given to mankind---the Son of God---coming to this world to save His people.

As my friend Fr. Michael has said before, we prepare ourselves for the greatest love story ever told, the gift of the Son of God. There is no greater love than this. There is

nothing that can compare to the gift of Christ's birth. And it is through this gift that we can love one another by the example of our Lord Jesus' love for us and His Father.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ the King, may each of us embrace this gift of Love that He radiates. It is through this gift of love that we truly know God and begin our journey to enjoy everlasting life with Him. May the greatest gift of all fill you and your families with peace, hope, and most importantly Love.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Jesus is happy to come with us, as truth is happy to be spoken, as life to be lived, as light to be lit, as love is to be loved, as joy to be given, as peace to be spread.”

Saint Francis of Assisi



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.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF LOVE FOR OLOP

It does not seem possible that a little over a year ago, I began my assignment here at Our Lady of Purgatory Church. As I reflect over these past months, I am ever so grateful for the blessings I have been given.

My arrival to New Bedford came after a long lineage of priests who have helped shape and guide this parish in the true spirit of Jesus Christ. You have all been part of this history, at times challenging and most times inspiring. Each of you have your own indelible mark in the history of OLOP and it has been a joy for me to understand your history over the past year.

As we celebrate the Birth of Our Lord Jesus, this is yet another reminder that we begin another year celebrating this great love story we are all part of. It is my hope that this love story of our Savoir will generate a newness in each of us.

I am also grateful for you, this extended community of faithful, a community that has no boundaries in showing their love for the Church and for each other. A love that has trials and tribulations as any relationships do, but a relationship that can endure when we love and draw ourselves closer to Jesus.

We also share a unique and diverse community. No matter what your ethnicity may be, this community is an example of what a church should be. It is not *only* made up of Lebanese descendants or Middle Eastern backgrounds; but it is also made up of a diverse community that supports this Church because of one common denominator--- our belief in the Catholic faith; our love for the richness of our Maronite traditions. From the youth to the elderly, each one of you are a gift to this Church; each of you has something to contribute to this established community of faithful; and each of you has opened your hearts with such

warmth and welcomed me as your pastor, and for this I am grateful.

As we anticipate our Lord's birth, may we always remember the peace, hope, and love that come along with this "greatest love story" given to us. May we walk together as one community for the up building of the Church which we have been entrusted to and may the blessings of Christmas resonate in our hearts everyday of our lives. God bless you now and always. In Christ,
Fr. Vincent

GIVING TREE AT OLOP

As we approach Christmas, even during these challenging times, we all are trying to observe and enjoy our family and parish traditions. One our most rewarding Christmas Traditions here at OLOP is the annual Giving Tree, which is sponsored by the St. Joseph Sodality. This year's Giving Tree program begins this weekend (December 12 & 13) and runs through Sunday, December 20, 2020. This year there are two options for those who would like to help those less fortunate during this Christmas season:

The two options are as follows: Beginning this coming weekend (December 12 & 13) the Giving Tree, adorned with paper ornaments will be on the Altar. Each ornament contains a gift request. All you need to do is take a tag, purchase, wrap the gift, and tape the tag to the front of the gift box. All gifts must be delivered to OLOP no later than the 10:30 AM Liturgy on Sunday, December 20th. After Mass they will be gathered and then delivered to "New Day", a program that provides services in the City of Brockton;

We are also gathering Gift Cards for Target or Walmart to be donated to Catholic Social Services in New Bedford. The gift cards can be in any denomination from \$10.00 to \$50.00. All gift cards should be delivered to OLOP no later than the 10:30 AM Liturgy on Sunday, December 20th. After Mass they will be gathered and

they will be delivered to Catholic Social Services. You may donate one gift card or multiple gift cards, but we ask that they be from either Target or Walmart at the request of Catholic Social Services.

As the Prayer of St. Francis reminds us, "it is in giving that we receive."

For further information about the 2020 OLOP Giving Tree Program, please contact Matt Thomas, Mae Dickinson, Jacque Barbour, or Annemarie Espindola. Thank you for your generosity.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, Officer Vincent Peters, Peter Helmer, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Hiam Cheiab, Leo and Ida 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.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION SNOW GLOBE AUCTION

OLOP Education Foundation is holding a fundraiser for scholarships to be awarded in the spring for our youth. We have 4 beautiful Thomas Kinkadee snow globes for auction. You may visit our website to visually see and bid on these snow globes. In addition, after each weekend Liturgy, you may see them and also place a bid for any or all four of these snow globes. Please visit our website for more details.



LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 19, @ 4:30 PM, Liturgy is being offered for the parishioners of OLOP.

Christmas Novena to follow Divine Liturgy.

Sunday, December 20, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch) Liturgy is being offered for the souls of souls of Marguerite Armani and George Dunia requested by Lena Dunia. May their souls rest in peace.

Christmas Novena to follow Divine Liturgy.

Monday, December 21, @ 7:00 PM, Christmas Novena

Tuesday, December 22, @ 7:00 PM, Christmas Novena

Wednesday, December 23, @ 7:00 PM, Christmas Novena

Thursday, December 24, @ 4:00 PM, Christmas Vigil

Thursday, December 24, @ 5:30 PM, Christmas Vigil

Friday, December 25, @ 10:30 AM, Christmas Liturgy

Saturday, December 26, @ 4:30 PM, (Felicitations of the Virgin Mary) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mary Saba requested by Annemarie Espindola. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, December 27, @ 10:30 PM, liturgy is being offered for the deceased priests and members of OLOP. Mat their souls rest in peace.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY AT OLOP

With the Season of the Birth Our Lord and preparing for the Christmas Novena, bible study will be postponed until January 2021. I thank Deacon Jean and all those who took part of bible study as I hope more people will join us when we begin again in 2021.

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.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

This month of December, the wine and bread offerings are in memory of the deceased members of the Baroody and Cheiab families requested by Gaby and Amal Baroody 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 July 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.

CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGIES SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020

Vigil Liturgy 4:00 pm

Vigil Liturgy 5:30 pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2014

Christmas Day Liturgy 10:30 am

SIGN UP FOR NOVENA'S AND CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGIES

This past weekend, OLOP was visited by the New Bedford Police Department as part of the City of New Bedford's Covid-19 compliance pertaining to the guidelines set forth by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. They were incredibly pleased that we are following all of the guidelines required of us by the Commonwealth. I would like to, once again, thank the Covid Task force and everyone who has helped facilitate these requirements. These guidelines include wearing of masks in the Church, entering and exiting signs, marked pews, and contact tracings sign-up sheets. As we approach the Christmas Novena and Christmas Liturgies, **it is imperative that we use the sign-up sheets that are posted on our website.** Please visit www.ourladyofpurgatory.org to find the links for sign-up sheets for the Novena's and Divine Liturgies. For those who are not able to navigate the website, I ask you to call Joe Barckett at 617-803-4087. Thank you for following the Commonwealth's directives. This is for the safety of everyone here at OLOP.

December Lector Schedule:

Saturday, December 19,
Rose David

Sunday, December 20,
Jean Barbour/Gaby Baroody

Thursday, December 24,

Joan Mello/Hiba Chedid

Friday, December 25,
Mae Dickinson/ Gaby Baroody

Sunday, December 26,

Smitty Cabral

Sunday December 27,
Mae Dickinson/Hiba Chedid

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR
December 12-13, 2020

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,040.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 195.00
Candles	\$ 24.00
Total:	\$ 1,259.00

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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*

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