



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

December 26-27, 2020

SUNDAY AFTER THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I wish each and every one of you a very Happy and Blessed New Year filled with good health, happiness and peace. Every New Year gives us an opportunity to reflect on our lives, our faith, and those who surround us throughout the year. January 1st is a Holy Day of Obligation commemorating the Circumcision of our Lord and it is also a universal day of prayer for World Peace. This day of prayer is not only intended for peace in the world but also peace in our lives and peace in our relationships with others.

You have heard me say numerous times that we must live today as if it is our last. What do we want our last moments to be like? Do we want them to be filled with anger, resentment, hurt, or pain? Will we be at peace if we are filled with all of these negative feelings that separate us not only from those around us but also from God? How do we get past them?

Those we have loved and have hurt us in some way or another were people who meant so much to us at one time. It is because of this great love that the depth of our pain is so great. Kahlil Gibran says it well--- **“Love knows not its own depth until the hour of separation.”** How poignant are these words of wisdom? If we have truly loved then

we can find it in ourselves to rediscover these feelings once again. If we truly understand human nature, if we know that we are weak and we are culpable of making wrong decisions, of saying things we regret, of acting in a way that we would have thought twice about, then we would understand that each of us are in need of forgiveness and a new beginning. New Years is the time to make a new beginning.

As we celebrate the universal day of prayer for peace, may we begin with ourselves. Each of us needs to take a moment to reflect on our relationship with others and to bring back the love that once permeated our lives. Do not let another year go by with anger, resentment, hurt, and pain. This inner peace is attainable first by recognizing our own failures and shortcomings and then putting aside our pride and reestablishing our relationships with those who were once dear to us. By doing so we build upon something special that was once a part of our lives and only then will we find the peace that each of us yearn for.

Our Church, the Church that Jesus established and intended, is a Church filled with graces; a Church filled with the love and presence of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to remember this very important fact. To deprive ourselves of these graces because of broken relationships is to deprive

ourselves of allowing God to work through us. WE MUST TRUST THAT IN GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

My prayer for all of us is that we put aside everything that separates us from the love of God and the love of others. My prayer for all of us is to have an inner peace so that if we are called from this life, we may go, knowing that nothing was left unsaid, an act was not left undone, and that our lives were enriched because of our faith in God and the people in our lives. May 2021 be filled with these prayers and may we continue to grow together as a community and family in faith. God bless you.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“He who is humble easily obeys everyone, fears to offend anyone, is at peace with everyone, is kind with all.”

St Thomas of Villanova



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.



FEAST OF SAINT JOHN NEUMANN January 5

This American saint was born in Bohemia in 1811. He was looking forward to being ordained in 1835 when the bishop decided there would be no more ordinations. It is difficult for us to imagine now, but Bohemia was overstocked with priests. John wrote to bishops all over Europe but the story was the same everywhere no one wanted any more priests. John was sure he was called to be a priest but all the doors to follow that vocation seemed to close in his face.

But John didn't give up. He had learned English by working in a factory with English-speaking workers so he wrote to the bishops in America. Finally, the bishop in New York agreed to ordain him. In order to follow God's call to the priesthood John would have to leave his home forever and travel across the ocean to a new and rugged land.

In New York, John was one of 36 priests for 200,000 Catholics. John's parish in western New York stretched from Lake Ontario to Pennsylvania. His church had no steeple or floor but that didn't matter because John spent most of his time traveling from

village to village, climbing mountains to visit the sick, staying in garrets and taverns to teach, and celebrating the Mass at kitchen tables.

Because of the work and the isolation of his parish, John longed for community and so joined the Redemptorists, a congregation of priests and brothers dedicated to helping the poor and most abandoned.

John was appointed bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. As bishop, he was the first to organize a diocesan Catholic school system. A founder of Catholic education in this country, he increased the number of Catholic schools in his diocese from two to 100.

John never lost his love and concern for the people -- something that may have bothered the elite of Philadelphia. On one visit to a rural parish, the parish priest picked him up in a manure wagon. Seated on a plank stretched over the wagon's contents, John joked, "Have you ever seen such an entourage for a bishop!"

The ability to learn languages that had brought him to America led him to learn Spanish, French, Italian, and Dutch so he could hear confessions in at least six languages. When Irish immigration started, he learned Gaelic so well that one Irish woman remarked, "Isn't it grand that we have an Irish bishop!" Once on a visit to Germany, he came back to the house he was staying in soaked by rain. When his host suggested he change his shoes, John remarked, "The only way I could change my shoes is by putting the left one on the right foot and the right one on the left foot. This is the only pair I own."

John died on January 5, 1860 at the age of 48.

http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=70

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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 of OLOP. Mat their souls rest in peace.

Monday, December 28, @ 6:00 PM, NO LITURGY

Tuesday, December 29, @ 9:00 AM, NO LITURGY

Wednesday, December 30, @ 6:00 PM, NO LITURGY

Thursday, December 31, @ 9:00 AM, NO LITURGY

Friday, January 1, 2021, @ 10:30 AM, (Holy Day of Obligation/Circumcision of Jesus- Feasts Day of Sts. Basil and Gregory)

Saturday, January 2, @ 4:30 PM, Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Thomas David requested by his family. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, January 3, @ 10:30 AM, (Finding our Lord in the Temple) Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mansour Barbour requested by his family. May his soul rest in peace.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY AT OLOP

Bible Study will be held on Monday, January 11, at 6:45, in the rectory basement. Please remember to sign up or call the office. We look forward to seeing you all there.

**DECEMBER LECTOR
SCHEDULE**

Sunday, December 26,
Smitty Cabral

Sunday December 27,
Mae Dickinson/Hiba Chedid

**JANUARY LECTOR
SCHEDULE**

Friday, January 1, 2021,
Ann Dupre/Jano Baroodly

Saturday, January 2,
Rose David

Sunday, January 3,
Joan Mello/Hiba Chedid

Saturday, January 9,
Smitty Cabral

Sunday, January 10,
Ann Dupre/Jano Baroodly

Saturday, January 16,
Carol Ann Maslanka

Sunday, January 17,
Jean Barbour/Hiba Chedid

Saturday, January 23,
Mae Dickinson

Sunday, January 24,
Ann Dupre/Gaby Baroodly

Saturday, January 30,
Rose David

Sunday, January 31,
Mae Dickinson/Jano Baroodly

**SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION
(CONFESSION)**

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



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday, January 19, we will gather for Eucharistic Adoration at **6:00 PM.** This is an opportunity to spend some time with Jesus. Mark your calendars and please join us for this beautiful time of prayer.

**WINE AND HOST
OFFERINGS**

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

IN OUR PRAYERS

Leigh Smith, 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.

**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.

**WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR
December 19-20, 2020**

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,101.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 20.00
Candles	\$ 17.00
Total:	\$ 1,138.00

**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.**

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

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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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