



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

January 2-3, 2021

THE FINDING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE



order of importance: the Baptism of the Lord; Christ's first miracle, the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana; the Nativity of Christ; and the visitation of the Wise Men or Magi. Each of these is a revelation of God to man: At Christ's Baptism, the Holy Spirit descends and

in the West, and now the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Sunday after January 6, and the wedding at Cana is commemorated on the Sunday after the Baptism of the Lord.

Epiphany Customs

In many parts of Europe, the celebration of Epiphany is at least as important as the celebration of Christmas. In Italy and other Mediterranean countries, Christians exchange gifts on Epiphany—the day on which the Wise Men brought their gifts to the Christ Child—while in Northern Europe, it's not unusual to give gifts on both Christmas and Epiphany (often with smaller gifts on each of the twelve days of Christmas in between).

The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ---God Reveals Himself to Us

The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the oldest Christian feasts, though, throughout the centuries, it has celebrated a variety of things. *Epiphany* comes from a Greek verb meaning "to reveal," and all of the various events celebrated by the Feast of the Epiphany are revelations of Christ to man.

History

Like many of the most ancient Christian feasts, Epiphany was first celebrated in the East, where it has been held from the beginning almost universally on January 6. Today, among both Eastern Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, the feast is known as Theophany—the revelation of God to man.

A Fourfold Feast

Epiphany originally celebrated four different events, in the following

the voice of God the Father is heard, declaring that Jesus is His Son; at the wedding in Cana, the miracle reveals Christ's divinity; at the Nativity, the angels bear witness to Christ, and the shepherds, representing the people of Israel, bow down before Him; and at the visitation of the Magi, Christ's divinity is revealed to the Gentiles—the other nations of the earth.

The End of Christmastide

Eventually, the celebration of the Nativity was separated out, in the West, into Christmas; and shortly thereafter, Western Christians adopted the Eastern feast of the Epiphany, still celebrating the Baptism, the first miracle, and the visit from the Wise Men. Thus, Epiphany came to mark the end of Christmastide—the Twelve Days of Christmas, which began with the revelation of Christ to Israel in His Birth and ended with the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles at Epiphany. Over the centuries, the various celebrations were further separated

<http://catholicism.about.com/od/holydaysandholidays/p/Epiphany.htm>

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Teach us to give and not count the cost.”

St. Ignatius de Loyola



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

Address: 11 Franklin Street, New Bedford, MA 02740

Office: 508-996-8934 | Fax: 774-202-0758 | Evening Emergency Number: 561-371-5316 | Website: www.ourladyofpurgatory.org

Email: ourladyofpurgatory@verizon.net | Facebook Page: Our Lady of Purgatory Catholic Church - Maronite Rite

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



POPE DECLARES 2021 THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

ROME –Pope Francis on Tuesday issued a decree launching a special year dedicated to St. Joseph coinciding the anniversary of his declaration as Patron of the Catholic Church, hailing him as a model of fatherhood and a key intercessor in modern times.

Published Dec. 8, on the 150th anniversary of *Quemadmodum Deus* by Pope Pius IX which declared St. Joseph patron of the Catholic Church, the decree formally instituted a year for St. Joseph, which will run until Dec. 8, 2021.

The document, signed by the head of the Vatican’s Apostolic Penitentiary, Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, said the year would be an opportunity for faithful to follow St. Joseph’s example and “daily strengthen their life of faith in full fulfillment of God’s will.”

“All faithful will thus have the opportunity to commit themselves, with the help of St. Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious

human and social tribulations which today afflict the contemporary world,” it said.

The decree outlined several instances in which faithful will be able to obtain a plenary indulgence in relation to the Year of St. Joseph, provided they meet the usual conditions of going to confession, receiving the Eucharist, and praying for the intentions of the pope.

According to the document, a plenary indulgence will be available under these conditions:

- To those who meditate of the Our Father prayer for at least 30 minutes or take part in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph
- To those who perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy
- To families or engaged couples who recite the rosary together
- To those who entrust their daily work to St. Joseph and those who ask St. Joseph to intercede for the unemployed
- To those who recite a prayer to St. Joseph (the litanies of St. Joseph in Latin rite, or

Akathistos to St. Joseph in the Byzantine rite, or any other prayer to St. Joseph) for the relief of Christians persecuted both inside and outside of the Church

- To faithful who recite “any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph,” with an encouragement to do so on the March 19 and May 1 feasts of St. Joseph, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Byzantine celebration of St. Joseph’s Sunday, and on the 19th of every month and on every Wednesday, which has been dedicated to St. Joseph in the Latin rite
- To the elderly, sick, dying and those legitimately unable to leave the house, who recite an act of piety to St. Joseph under his title of Comfort of the Sick and Patron of a happy death, provided they offer their discomfort to God and fulfill the conditions for the indulgence “as soon as possible”

WITH THANKS AND GRATITUDE

From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank all of you for your phone calls, messages, and words of condolences with the passing of my beloved sister Nan. It has been a difficult few weeks, but your prayers and kindness have eased the pain and appreciated by me, Nan, and my brothers and sisters. God bless all of you and may Almighty God welcome my beloved sister Nan into His kingdom. Allah yerhamma.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Monday, January 4, @ 6:00 PM,
NO LITURGY

Tuesday, January 5, @ 7:00 PM,
Feast of the Glorious Epiphany
(Holy Day of Obligation)

Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Samir Sawaya requested by Zakhia and Hiba Chedid and family. May his soul rest in peace.

Wednesday, January 6, @ 6:00 PM,

Thursday, January 7, @ 9:00 AM,

Saturday, January 9, @ 4:30 PM,
liturgy is being offered for the soul of Raymond Nouhan requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, January 10, @ 10:30 PM,
liturgy is being offered for the soul of Leo Farhat requested by his children. May his soul rest in peace.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

This month of January, the wine and bread offerings are in memory of Georgette and Samir Sawaya requested by Zakhia and Hiba Chedid 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.



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.

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.

January Lector Schedule:

Saturday, January 2,

Rose David

Sunday, January 3,

Joan Mello/Hiba Chedid

Saturday, January 9,

Smitty Cabral

Sunday, January 10,

Ann Dupre/Jano Baroody

Saturday, January 16,

Carol Ann Maslanka

Sunday, January 17,

Jean Barbour/Hiba Chedid

Saturday, January 23,

Mae Dickinson

Sunday, January 24,

Ann Dupre/Gaby Baroody

Saturday, January 30,

Rose David

Sunday, January 31,

Mae Dickinson/Jano Baroody

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.

CONFESSION

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

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.

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR December 26-27, 2020

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,581.00
Christmas Day	\$ 1,838.00
Donation for Needy	\$ 1,000.00
Roof Donation	\$ 1,450.00
Candles	\$ 45.00
Total:	\$ 5,914.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY BY SENDING IN YOUR WEELY 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*

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