



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

January 9-10, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



FEAST OF SAINT JACOB OF NISIBIS

First bishop of Nisibis, also listed as James. He took part in the Council of Nicaea and is traditionally credited with praying for the death of the heresiarch Anus. He was renowned in the Syriac Church for his learning and holiness and for building a basilica and founding the theological school of Nisibis. Jacob died at Nisibis.

He was lauded as the "Moses of Mesopotamia", and was the spiritual father of the renowned writer and theologian Saint Ephrem the Syrian. Saint Jacob was present at the first ecumenical council at Nicaea, and

is venerated as a saint by the Eastern Orthodox Church, Oriental Orthodox Church, and Roman Catholic Church.

Biography

Saint Jacob was the son of prince Gefal, and was born in the city of Nisibis in Mesopotamia in the 3rd century AD. It is claimed that he was a relative of Saint Gregory the Illuminator. According to Gennadius of Massilia, Saint Jacob became a Confessor of the Faith for his suffering during persecution by Emperor Maximian. Saint Jacob became an anchorite in c. 280 in the mountains near Nisibis where, according to Saint Theodoret of Cyrrhus, he survived on herbs and fruits, and chose to wear no

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Prayer -A soul arms itself by prayer for all kinds of combat. In whatever state the soul may be, it ought to pray. A soul which is pure and beautiful must pray, or else it will lose its beauty; a soul which is striving after this purity must pray, or else it will never attain it; a soul which is newly converted must pray, or else it will fall again; a sinful soul, plunged in sins, must pray so that it might rise again. There is no soul which is not bound to pray, for every single grace comes to the soul through prayer.”

St. Faustina



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.

clothes, build shelter, or light fires for warmth. The saint became famous, and received visits from Sheria, Bishop of Arbela (r. 304-316), according to the *Chronicle of Arbela*.

The saint resolved to climb Mount Qardu, traditionally believed to be the resting place of Noah's Ark, and recover a fragment of the ark upon hearing from the hermit Maroukeh that local people doubted the Great Flood.^[10] Saint Jacob ascended the mountain and rested close to the summit; in his sleep, an angel placed a fragment of the ark close to him, and instructed him to awake.^[10] The saint brought the relic to the hermit Maroukeh and, according to the saint's hagiography, a sacred spring appeared where the saint had rested, reputed to have healing properties.

A number of miracles are credited to Saint Jacob by Saint Theodoret in *Historia Religiosa* (Religious History), in which the saint had a boulder explode beside a Persian judge who had given an unjust judgement. Also, in one incident, Saint Jacob cursed boastful, promiscuous women by a spring so that their hair became white, and the spring disappeared. The women subsequently repented, and the spring returned, however, the women's hair remained white. As well as this, a group of people attempted to deceive the saint whereby they asked for money to fund the burial of a man they had lain down and covered with a sheet with the illusion of death; consequently, the man died, and the people repented and thus the man was resurrected as a result of Saint Jacob's prayers.

Disagreement exists as to the date of the saint's consecration as bishop of Nisibis as it is argued it took place in c. 300, and he is recorded as the city's first bishop by Saint Ephrem the Syrian. However, Saint Jacob is credited as the successor of Babu, the first bishop of Nisibis (r. 300-309), by the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, who Saint Ephrem states was in fact Saint Jacob's successor. In his *Chronography*, Elijah of Nisibis states that Saint Jacob was consecrated bishop in 308. The *Chronicle of Edessa* states that the saint constructed the first church in Nisibis in c. 313-320. Miles, Bishop of Susa, is said to have contributed a large quantity of silk from Adiabene to the church's construction. The foundation of the School of Nisibis is also attributed to Saint Jacob. Saint Jacob attended the First Council of Nicaea in 325, and opposed Arius. Saint Ephrem purportedly accompanied the saint to the council, however, this is considered apocryphal. Saint Jacob attended the funeral of Saint Metrophanes of Byzantium in 326. Saint Jacob was present at the siege of Nisibis by Shapur II, *Shahanshah* of Iran, in 337/338, and according to Saint Theodoret, with encouragement from the city's population and Saint Ephrem, Saint Jacob ascended the walls and prayed for the city, and cursed the besiegers. The *Martyrologium Hieronymianum* relates that he died on 15 July, the thirtieth day of the siege, according to the *Chronicle of 724*. Gennadius and Saint Ephrem record that Saint Jacob was buried within the walls of Nisibis. Saint Theodoret adds that the Iranian

army was afflicted by a swarm of gnats and flies summoned by the saint, and Shapur II subsequently abandoned the siege.

The saint is counted amongst the signatories of the Council of Antioch in 341, however, his presence at the council is unrecorded in other sources. In 350, according to the *Chronicon Paschale*, Saint Jacob helped defend Nisibis against Shapur II again, and as he was wearing the imperial regalia, was confused for Emperor Constantius II. Shapur II challenged the saint to fight outside the city, where it was revealed he was an apparition and the Iranian army withdrew as a result.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

January Lector Schedule:

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

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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, (Feast of Saint Gregory of Nyssa) liturgy is being offered for the souls of Walter and Janet Lalor requested by Jim Thomas and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered asfor the soul of Julia Maroon and family by their family as a Funded Mass. May their souls rest in peace.

Monday, January 11, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Theodosius of Antioch)

Tuesday, January 12, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Tatiana)

Wednesday, January 13, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Jacob of Nisibis) WELCOME MY INTO YOUR KINGDOM liturgy is being offered for the soul of Marilyn Mooney requested by the Farhat family. May her soul rest in peace.

Thursday, January 14, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Hilary of Poitiers) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Ray Gross requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

Saturday, January 16, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of the Memorial of the Chains of Saint Peter) liturgy is being offered for the souls of Edward and Theresa Coury requested by their grandchildren. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, January 17 @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Anthony the Great) Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Georges El-Khoury MouJabber and Alia Koury MouJabber requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Nader requested by Joann Longden. May his soul rest in peace.



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.

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.

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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 August 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.

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR January 2-3, 2021

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,455.00
Candles	\$ 31.00
Total:	\$ 1,486.00

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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