



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

January 30-31, 2021

Sunday of the Righteous and Just



FEAST OF SAINT AGATHA February 5

St. Agatha, also known as Agatha of Sicily, is one of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of the Catholic Church. It is believed that she was born around 231 in either Catania or Palermo, Sicily to a rich and noble family.

From her very early years, the notably beautiful Agatha dedicated her life to God. She became a consecrated virgin, a state in life where young women choose to remain celibate and give themselves wholly to Jesus and the Church in a life of prayer and service. That did

not stop men from desiring her and making unwanted advances toward her.

However, one of the men who desired Agatha, whose name was Quintianus, because he was of a high diplomatic ranking, thought he could force her to turn away from her vow and force her to marry. His persistent proposals were consistently spurned by Agatha, so Quintianus, knowing she was a Christian during the persecution of Decius, had her arrested and brought before the judge. He was the Judge.

He expected her to give in to his demands when she was faced with torture and possible death, but she simply reaffirmed her belief in God

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Today, there is an inescapable duty to make ourselves the neighbor of every individual, without exception, and to take positive steps to help a neighbor whom we encounter, whether that neighbor be an elderly person, abandoned by everyone, a foreign worker who suffers the injustice of being despised, a refugee, an illegitimate child wrongly suffering for a sin of which the child is innocent, or a starving human being who awakens our conscience by calling to mind the words of Christ: 'As long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me' (Matthew 25:40)"

St. Elizabeth of Hungry



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.

by praying: "Jesus Christ, Lord of all, you see my heart, you know my desires. Possess all that I am. I am your sheep: make me worthy to overcome the devil." With tears falling from her eyes, she prayed for courage.

To force her to change her mind, Quintianus had her imprisoned - in a brothel. Agatha never lost her confidence in God, even though she suffered a month of assaults and efforts to get her to abandon her vow to God and go against her virtue. Quintianus heard of her calm strength and ordered that she be brought before him once again. During her interrogation, she told him that to be a servant of Jesus Christ was her true freedom. Enraged, Quintianus sent her off to prison instead of back to the brothel -- a move intended to make her even more afraid, but it was probably a great relief to her.

Agatha continued to proclaim Jesus as her Savior, Lord, Life and Hope. Quintianus ordered her to be tortured. He had her stretched on a rack to be torn with iron hooks, burned with torches, and whipped. Noticing Agatha was enduring all the torture with a sense of cheer, he commanded she be subjected to a worse form of torture? this evil man ordered that her breasts be cut off.

He then sent her back to prison with an order of no food or medical attention. But the Lord gave her all the care she needed. He was her Sacred Physician and protector. Agatha had a vision of the apostle, St. Peter, who comforted her and healed her wounds through his prayers.

After four days, Quintianus ignored the miraculous cure of her wounds. He had her stripped naked and rolled over naked over hot coals which were mixed with sharp shards. When she was returned to prison, Agatha prayed, "Lord, my Creator, you have ever protected me from the cradle;

you have taken me from the love of the world, and given me patience to suffer: receive now my soul."

Agatha is believed to have passed into Heaven around the year 251. She is commonly featured in religious art with shears, tongs, or breasts on a plate. St. Agatha is the patron saint of Sicily, bellfounders, breast cancer patients, Palermo, rape victims, and wet nurses. She is also considered to be a powerful intercessor when people suffer from fires. Her feast day is celebrated on February 5.

Prayer:

Saint Agatha, you suffered sexual assault and indignity because of your faith and purity. Help heal all those who are survivors of sexual assault and protect those women who are in danger.

Amen

A HEART OF COMPASSION

When Jesus saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

Mark 6:34

What is compassion? It's an attribute by which someone sees the suffering of another and experiences true empathy for them. This empathy, in turn, leads the person to reach out and share in the person's suffering, helping them to endure whatever they are going through. This is what Jesus experienced within His own Sacred Heart as He looked out upon this vast crowd.

The Scripture above introduces the familiar miracle of the feeding of the five thousand with only five loaves of bread and two fish. And though the miracle itself offers much to ponder, this introductory line also gives us much to ponder regarding

our Lord's motivation for performing this miracle.

When Jesus looked out at the large crowd, He saw a group of people who seemed lost, were searching and were spiritually hungry. They desired some direction in their lives, and, for that reason, they were coming to Jesus. But what's very helpful to reflect upon is Jesus' Heart. He was not annoyed by their insistence; He was not burdened by them; rather He was deeply moved by their spiritual poverty and hunger. This moved His Heart to "pity," which is a form of sincere compassion. For that reason, He taught them "many things."

Interestingly, the miracle was simply an extra blessing but was not the primary action Jesus took on account of His compassionate Heart. First and foremost, His compassion led Him to teach them.

Jesus looks at each one of us with the same compassion. Whenever you find yourself confused, lacking direction in life and spiritually hungry, Jesus gazes at you with the same gaze He offered this vast crowd. And His remedy for your needs is to teach you, also. He wants you to learn from Him by studying the Scripture, by daily prayer and meditation, by reading the lives of the saints and learning the many glorious teachings of our Church. This is the food that every wandering heart needs for spiritual satisfaction. Reflect, today, upon the most compassionate Heart of our Divine Lord. Allow yourself to see Him gazing at you with the utmost love. Know that His gaze is one that drives Him to speak to you, to teach you and to lead you to Himself. Trust this most compassionate Heart of our Lord and allow Him to reach out to you in love.

<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/2021/01/04/a-heart-of-compassion/>

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 30, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Maximus the Confessor) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mary Abraham Covello requested by Ida Farhat. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is in memory of Robert and Margaret Lizotte requested by their family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, January 31, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint John Bosco) Liturgy is being offered as a 40 Day Memorial for the soul of Estephane Diab requested by Jacques and Amal Barbour and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the deceased members of the Chomak (Stephen and Anna Chomak and Stephen and Gerry) family requested by Walter and Mary Ann Chomak. May their souls rest in peace.

Monday, February 1, @ 6:00 PM, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Kay Eyde Palinski requested by Ida Farhat. May her soul rest in peace.

Tuesday, February 2, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Pionius and His Companions) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Marilyn Mooney requested by Ida Farhat. May her soul rest in peace.

Wednesday, February 3, @ 6:00 PM,

Thursday, February 4, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Isidore of Pelusium)

Saturday, February 6, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Proclus) liturgy is being offered for the soul of David David requested by his family (FM). May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, February 7, @ 10:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Maron) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Louise Dupre requested by her family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered as a 40 Day memorial for the soul of Nan Farhat requested by her family. May her 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 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.

TAX CONTRIBUTION LETTERS

For anyone who may need a letter from OLOP for your tax returns with your contributions, please contact the office and I will send you those records. Please email the office or call the office at 508-996-8934.

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.

February Lector Schedule:

Saturday, February 6,
Carol Ann Maslanka
Sunday, February 7,
Joan Mello/Jano Baroody

Saturday, February 13,
Rose David
Sunday, February 14,
Jean Barbour/ Gaby Baroody

Ash Monday, February 15,
Carol Ann Maslanka/Jano Baroody

Saturday, February 20,
Mae Dickinson
Sunday, February 21,
Ann Dupre/Hiba Chedid

Saturday, February 27,
Smitty Cabral
Sunday, February 28,
Mae Dickinson/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

Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, 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 23-24, 2021

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Sunday Collection | \$ 668.00 |
| Candles | \$ 2.00 |
| Total: | \$ 670.00 |

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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