



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

February 6-7, 2021

Sunday of the Faithful Departed



REFLECTION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Today, we remember those who have passed from this life with faith, hope and trust in the promise of eternal life. Yesterday we remembered all the name saints, but today, reflect upon those who we know, those who have been part of our lives. Life is a gift from God and nothing that God gives or does is ever wasted. Whether our lives did not make it out of the womb or we live to be 100, we are important in God's eyes. It's not quantity and is not even quality; it's about being – being a child of God.

Our lives are a reflection of God and his love. The faithful departed, especially our deceased loved ones whom we remember today somehow

reflected that love. They are never gone; they still live in us. Whether one month, six months, a year, 10 or even 50 years... they live on in our minds and hearts. They have touched us, formed us and changed us. "The life and death of each of us has its influence upon others". Those words of St Paul are so true for me personally.

Some of you are here carrying the memory of a deceased spouse, parent, child, or best friend deep in your hearts. Whatever the situation, you know the pain of loss. You are keenly aware of the grief we experience at the death of a loved one. You know how hard it is to say goodbye, to re-engage with life when there is a gnawing emptiness within, a gaping wound which awaits healing. Sadness, sorrow, grief may fill us today; but we know that the bonds of humanity are not broken by death.

All created things change with time; all that lives sooner or later must die. Death is the ultimate change, the final transition. In John's Gospel, Jesus tells us how this works: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." In this Jesus taught us that we must be prepared for the final "letting go", the realization we can take nothing with us.

We enter this world vulnerable and dependent; we return to our Creator in the same way. So, the Lord urges us to stay the course even in the darkness, keeping the flame of hope alive in our

hearts. Hope that even in the face of the "sting" of death, we may confess in St. Paul's immortal phrase: "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"

What does our Catholic faith teach us? That death is not the final answer. It is not the end, but a time of transition: a movement from time into eternity, from finite existence to infinite love and mercy. As Christians, we trust, we believe that Jesus is faithful to his promises. That his Paschal Mystery traces the pattern of our own lives as well. That no one of us is immortal or

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"You will be consoled according to the greatness of your sorrow and affliction; the greater the suffering, the greater will be the reward."

St. Mary Magdalen de'Pazzi



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.

invulnerable. The threshold over which our loved ones have passed is one we must all go through, sooner or later.

Our faith assures us that love is eternal, that the bonds of love can never be severed. We continue to be united to our loved ones who have died. This is the insight behind what we confess each week as our belief in the "communion of saints". Without denying the reality of physical death, we affirm our eternal connection with our loved ones.

<https://parracatholic.org/homily-for-the-solemn-mass-for-the-commemoration-of-all-the-faithful-departed-all-souls-day-at-st-patricks-cathedral-parramatta/>

PLENARY INDULGENCE DEFINITION

Many people are confused about the idea of a plenary indulgence according to the Catholic Church. This is not an easy concept to figure out but I hope the following explanation will help with a better understanding what plenary indulgences do for us. Here is a Catholic definition of plenary indulgence:

An indulgence that can remove all the temporal punishment due to forgiven sin. No one but God knows for certain when a plenary indulgence is actually gained, because only he knows whether a person's dispositions are adequate. One norm for such dispositions is that "all attachment to sin, even venial sin, be absent." If these dispositions are in any way less than complete, the indulgence will only be partial. The same provision applies to the three external conditions necessary to gain a plenary indulgence: sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Pope. If these conditions are not satisfied, an otherwise plenary indulgence becomes only partial. These conditions may be satisfied several days before or after the performance of the prescribed work, though preferably Communion should be received and the prayers offered for

the Pope on the same day as the indulgenced work. A plenary indulgence can be gained only once a day.

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/dictionary/index.cfm?id=35607>

The Catholic News Service has tried to outline what a plenary indulgence is. I have taken points from this document for further clarification.

You have heard that Pope Francis, as other popes have done, has offered a plenary indulgence during the of Saint Joseph. This has also been offered by our Bishop Gregory Mansour. So, what is this all about? Saint John Paul II said that "An indulgence is not a quick ticket to heaven; rather it is an aid for the real conversion that leads to eternal happiness." When we go to confession, our sins are forgiven; however, there still remains the residue of sin. What this means is that even though our sins are forgiven by God through the graces he gives to His priests, there are still the scars that need to be healed because of the sins we may have committed.

Fr. Russell Smith, a priest and theologian for the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, uses a medical example to explain the effects of sin. He says: "When someone has appendicitis, his "hot" appendix needs to be removed. This sickness is like the guilt of sin, Smith says. And Confession is like the surgery that removes the appendix.

But even after surgery, the patient continues to suffer some pain. Such residual effects are like the "punishment" that lingers after sin. Plenary indulgences get rid of such punishment."

Saint Pope John Paul II said, "By God's grace, participation in a prayer or action that has an indulgence attached to it brings about the necessary restoration and reparation without the suffering that would normally accompany it. It frees a person from the punishment their sinfulness warrants as it is a remission

of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven." The granting of an indulgence by the church is "the expression of the church's full confidence of being heard by the Father when, in view of Christ's merits and, by his gift, those of Our Lady and the saints, she asks him to mitigate or cancel the painful aspect of punishment by fostering its medicinal aspect through other channels of grace," the late pope said. An indulgence, then, is the result of the abundance of God's mercy, which he offers to humanity through Jesus Christ and through the church, he said. The faithful can claim the indulgence for themselves or offer it on behalf of someone who has died.

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.

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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Monday, February 8, @ 7:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Maron)

Tuesday, February 9, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Maron)

Wednesday, February 10, @ 6:00 PM, Remember Me in Your Kingdom, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nan Farhat requested by Jacques and Amal Barbour and family. May her soul rest in peace.

Thursday, February 11, @ 9:00 AM, NO LITURGY

Saturday, January 13, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Catherine de Ricci) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Rev. Kevin Harrington requested by the Coury Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Rose David by their family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, January 14, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint John Bosco) Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Victor Belaire requested by Philip Baroody and family. May his soul rest in peace.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

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.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday, February 16, we will gather for Eucharistic Adoration at 6:00 PM. This is an opportunity to spend some time with Jesus and ask for His help. Mark your calendars and please join us for this beautiful service

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

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.

SAINT JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LENTEN DRIVE

Saint Jude's Hospital for Children is no stranger to our community as well as the Lebanese community around the world. The incredible work that Danny Thomas and his daughter Marlo Thomas has made it possible for hundreds of thousands of children and their families to receive treatment for cancer as well as housing for the parents. For those families who cannot afford treatments for their children, they are given these treatments and lodging free of charge. All this made possible by the millions of people who appreciate and believe in the work they do.

At the beginning of Lent, OLOP asks for donations for the Saint Jude fund so that we can participate in helping this cause. This year, our goal is set at \$1,200.00. I am appealing to you once again this year, to consider making a donation to this worthy cause.

George Saba will be taking on this fundraiser this year with the help of Mae Dickinson who has led these efforts for the past 10 years. We thank Mae for her dedication and we thank George for taking the lead this year. If you have any questions please contact George Saba at 508-993-7229. Donations can also be made online by visiting our website at www.ourladyofprugatory.org

There will be a category for St. Jude Hospital Donations. Thank you in advance for your help and generosity. And may God bless all of the children and their parents seeking help at Saint Jude Hospital for Children.

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR January 30-31, 2021

Sunday Collection	\$ 780.00
2nd Collection USCCB	\$ 65.00
Memorials	\$ 900.00
Candles	\$ 40.00
Total:	\$ 1,785.00

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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