



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



March 6-7, 2021

THE PRODIGAL SON

LET THE LENTEN JOURNEY BEGIN

We continue our journey to holiness with the great virtue of love. A virtue that is repeated all throughout Sacred Scripture and one that makes us ask the question “How can I accomplish this teaching that Jesus requires of me? Follow me on this journey and let the Holy Spirit guides us to a better understanding of how we can endure.

“This is my new commandment---to love one another as I have loved you.” This story is told of the Beloved Disciple, very advanced in years, near the end of his life in exile on the Isle of Patmos. There he lived in solitude in a cave surrounded by a few chosen disciples. Because he was the last of the Twelve, every Sunday hundreds of Christians would come to Patmos for the Eucharist and to see St. John. Sunday after Sunday the disciples would carry the frail apostle down to the crowd. When the time came for him to preach, the crowd would come closer, since his voice was barely about a whisper. Sunday after Sunday he would say the same thing: “Children, love one another! Children, love one another.” Finally, after one such Sunday, one

of his disciples, carrying him back to his cave, said, “Teacher, why do you keep repeating the same thing, over and over, ‘Children, love one another?’” “Because,” replied the Beloved. “the Master kept repeating it over and over.” (Cardinal Dolan; Called To Be Holy)

When we think about love in terms of Jesus’ New Commandment, we must think about love the way God loves us. Without this knowledge of God’s unconditional love, we will never be able to love one another the way Jesus requires us to love. So how do we get to that virtuous state in our lives?

Every human being is loved, absolutely and unconditionally, by God, and we in turn are invited to love Him back. Our faith tells us of God’s love for us when He sent His Only Begotten Son to us and revealed His love to us. We as followers of Jesus are asked to love in the same way and to share this love with everyone.

Cardinal Dolan proposes that when we think about this kind of love, we must think about the love we have for special people in our lives such as a spouse, parent, sibling, relative, or friend. When we love these people, do we not want to spend as much time as possible with them? What makes that

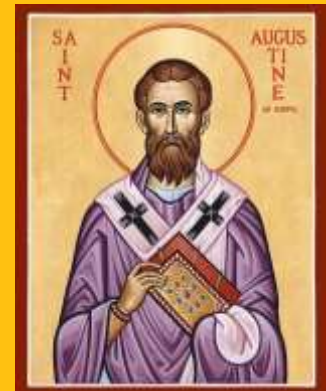
relationship of loving those close to us any different from making our relationship with Jesus the same way? Don’t we have to spend time with Jesus, be with Him, talk to Him, and share with Him at the banquet table? If we build our relationship with Jesus in order to really know and love Him, won’t our relationships make more sense as we spread this love to others?

The Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (12:9-21) is one of my favorite readings in the New

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Forgiveness is the remission of sins. For it is by this that what has been lost, and was found, is saved from being lost again.”

Saint Augustine



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.

Testament because it makes me realize that living the Catholic faith is a challenge; it is a way of life that goes far beyond the immediate family pertaining to love and responsibility. It is a way of life that makes me question how I can follow the teachings of Jesus Christ with all the complexities and adversities in today's world. It makes me not examine other people's faults, shortcomings, and mistakes, but it makes me look at my own.

This is our challenge as Catholics; to fulfill the teachings of Jesus Christ in our lives. This is our goal; to work towards unconditional love that is given freely to us from God and to extend this love to His people. This is the reason Jesus repeatedly gave us these instructions and the reason St. John repeated these instructions to His people. Certainly, we must know the wisdom of God and realize the reasons for reminding us day after day why we must love one another. When we have difficulties in our lives, do we not need the support of others to remind us that things will get better; that through faith we will endure? We need these reminders constantly and that is why Jesus gave these to us in Sacred Scripture.

"If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Almighty God, may you guide us and give us the strength to recognize our faults and shortcomings; may you help us to work for peace and love among Your sheep; and may we overcome evil with good. Amen.

How easy it is for me to live with you, O Lord

And how easy it is to believe in you!

When my mind gives way and flounders under the assaults of perplexity

When the most intelligent do not see further than this evening

And do not know what must be done tomorrow

You instill in me the serene certainty that you exist

And you make sure that all roads to love are not closed

On the crest of earthy glory

I ponder and marvel at the road through despair

The road from which I could send to mankind a glint of your light

All the light I must still reflect You will grant me

And what I will not be able to reflect

I know you will assign to others.

By Alexander Solzhenitsyn 1970 Nobel Peace Prize Winner

BISHOPS APPEAL BEGINS

As of this publication, we have collected \$1,285.00. Throughout Lent, we will be taking a second collection to help meet our stated amount of \$3,500.00. I thank you all in advance for your continued support of our Church and our Eparchial responsibilities as well. God bless all of you.

SPRING FORWARD

Please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 14. That way you can be on time for Divine Liturgy ☺.



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday, March 9, 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

2021 OLOP CENSUS

We are in the process of updating our Parish Census Records and are asking all Parishioners to complete a 2021 OLOP Parish Census Update Form. It only takes a few minutes to complete and submit the form. The link will be available on the Parish Website beginning Monday, February 8, 2021. You will also be receiving an e-mail with the link to the Census Update Form. If you don't have access to a computer, please contact Fr. Vince and we will make arrangements for you to complete the form.

We are raffling three gift certificates at the end of the census deadline. Those who participated will have their names entered in the drawing for your choice of \$50.00 Gift Certificate to The Black Whale, Joe's Original, or The Pasta House.

Once again, these census forms are very important and I ask you to take the time to fill them out and send them back to me. Thank you for helping us keep our Parish records current.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 6, @ 4:30 PM, Healing of the Leper, (Feast of Saint Conan) liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Marie Kenyon and Peter Kenyon requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, March 7, @ 10:30 PM, (Feast of the 7 Young Men of Ephesus) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joanne Sarkes Yozefek requested by her family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for a special intention.

Monday, March 8, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Frances of Rome)

Tuesday, March 9, @ 9:00 AM,

Wednesday, March 10, @ 6:00 PM, Welcome Me Into Your Kingdom Liturgy, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Habib Yazbeck by OLOP Parishioners. May his soul rest in peace.

Thursday, March 11, @ 9:00 AM,

Friday, March 12, @ 7:00 PM, Benediction of the Cross/Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 13, @ 4:30 PM, Healing of the Paralytic liturgy is being offered for the souls of Malvina and Joseph J. David requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, March 14, @ 10:30 AM, Healing of the Paralytic (Feast of Saint Euphrasia) Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Georgette Sawaya requested by Zahkia and Hiba Chedid and family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Michel Rohanna requested by Hyatt Thomas and family. May his soul rest in peace.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR. DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

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.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine are in loving memory of Joseph and Marie Kenyon and deceased members of the Kenyon and Daher families requested by their 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 January 2022, 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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

March Lector Schedule:

Saturday, March 6,

Carol Ann Maslanka

Sunday, March 7,

Joan Mello/Gaby Baroody

Saturday, March 13,

Rose David

Sunday, March 14,

Ann Dupre/Jano Baroody

Saturday, March 20,

Smitty Cabral

Sunday, March 21,

Jean Barbour/Hiba Chedid

Saturday, March 27,

Rachel Higgins –

Intercession: Anna Higgins

Sunday, March 28,

Joan Mello/Gaby Baroody

IN OUR PRAYERS

Michael Ellis, Kenza Sellami, Tommy Hatem, 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 February 27-28, 2021

Sunday Collection	\$ 770.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 545.00
Online Memorials	\$ 500.00
Online Collections	\$ 1,790.00
Candles	\$ 32.00
Total:	\$ 3,637.00

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.

Counseling ASSOCIATES

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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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