



# Our Lady of Purgatory



## Maronite Catholic Church

March 13-14, 2021

### HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC

#### JOURNEY TO HOLINESS

We continue our journey to holiness with the great virtue of patience. How many of us say to ourselves I need to be more patient? For some strange reason, the older we become the less patience we seem to obtain. Each of us knows what the great virtue patience achieves. So how do we become more patient and with whom? Cardinal Dolan purposes that we approach this virtue in three ways: patience with God, patience with ourselves, and patience with others.

Sometimes we are in a dilemma when we see ourselves become impatient. And the fact of the matter is that all of us do this. The question we should be asking ourselves is how we gain more patience and what effects our actions will have not only on us but on God and those around us.

I have been told time and time again, Abouna, I pray to God constantly. I ask Him to help me against sin, to help me with my family, for peace in the world, and yet nothing has changed. Why doesn't He answer me? We begin to think that our prayer becomes tedious, non-responsive, and a waste of time because we become discouraged that nothing is happening the way we want it to happen. We become impatient with the Church because we think that She is not doing Her work in our salvation, that the priests are not living up to their calling, that the Church is not keeping up with the contemporary issues we face and that She does not understand what we deal with in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. But if we listen to the words of Blessed John Paul II at the World Youth Day, he told

the youth this: "I should like to ask you, dear young people, for a favor: be patient with the Church! The Church is always a community of weak and imperfect individuals. But God has placed his work of salvation in human hands. This is indeed a great risk but there is no other Church than the one founded by Christ. He wants us human beings to be his collaborators in the world and in the Church with all our deficiencies and shortcomings." The Church, Jesus' Church, is the way to salvation and although we human beings are entrusted to it with all of our shortcomings and deficiencies, the truth remains the Church that Jesus instituted is still His Church. It contains the truth which has endured the test of time and which will endure until He comes in His glory. God will answer us when and how He wants to so we must be patient with Him.

We are even harder on ourselves when it comes to patience. How many times have we sinned over and over again only to become discouraged with ourselves? Who among us has never felt unworthy to be in this Church because of our failures and our shortcomings? St. Francis de Sales put it beautifully when he said: "Be patient with everyone, but most of all with yourself. *I mean, do not be disturbed with your imperfections, and always rise up bravely from the fall.*" I ask this question; is God not patient with us? Does He not know what our faults and imperfections are? And is He not with us always, but especially when we do fall, to lift us up and help us to continue on the road to holiness? The wonderful quote "Our greatest glory is not in never

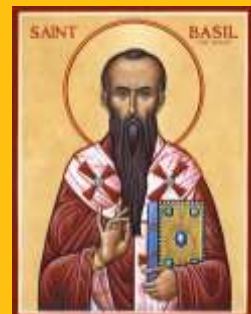
falling, but in rising every time we fall." We gain patience through prayer.

Once we become patient with God and with ourselves, it will become less daunting to be patient with others. OK, this is difficult, I know. Humility helps us with this difficulty. Humility makes us realize that we really don't know it all; that we really don't have all the answers. We can only do our best and leave the rest to God. Pope John XXIII ended his evening prayer with these words: "Well, I did the best I could...It's your Church, Lord! I'm going to bed. Good night." We also need to remember that our flaws and shortcomings make us realize that we are less than perfect. Sometimes this is a very hard lesson to learn because

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."*

*St. Basil*



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

many of us try to be perfect in our minds, our actions, and in our deeds. And when we fail, we must not look at ourselves or others in disgrace or as failures. Rather, as St. Rose of Lima said, "Without the burdens of afflictions it is impossible to reach the height of grace. The gifts of grace increase as the struggles increase." By accepting these struggles not as an infliction but as a grace to better ourselves, we will gain this virtue of patience even more. We must be humble, we must persevere in prayer, and we must be patient with God, ourselves, and others, just as God is patient with us. Only then will we obtain this virtue of patience---only then will we be able to say "I did the best I could...it's your Church, Lord. I'm going to bed. Good night."

## FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture and that has seemed too little for those who made up legends about him.

We know he was a carpenter, a working man, for the skeptical Nazarenes ask about Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter's son?" (Matthew 13:55). He wasn't rich for when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be purified, he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24).

Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. Luke and Matthew disagree some about the details of Joseph's genealogy but they both mark his descent from David, the greatest king of Israel (Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38). Indeed, the angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as "son of David," a royal title used also for Jesus. We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He knew women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he resolved to send her away quietly to not expose her to shame or cruelty. However, when an angel came to Joseph in a dream and

told him, 20 "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins," he did as the angel told him and took Mary as his wife. (Matthew 1:19-25).

When the angel came again to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned, all his family and friends, and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt without question until the angel told him it was safe to go back (Matthew 2:13-23).

We know Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. Not only did he leave his home to protect Jesus, but upon his return settled in the obscure town of Nazareth out of fear for his life. When Jesus stayed in the Temple, we are told Joseph (along with Mary) searched with great anxiety for three days for him (Luke 2:48). We also know that Joseph treated Jesus as his own son for over and over the people of Nazareth say of Jesus, "Is this not the son of Joseph?" (Luke 4:22)

We know Joseph respected God. He followed God's commands in handling the situation with Mary and going to Jerusalem to have Jesus circumcised and Mary purified after Jesus' birth. We are told that he took his family to Jerusalem every year for Passover, something that could not have been easy for a working man.

Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, many historians believe Joseph probably had died before Jesus entered public ministry. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the Apocryphal Date for Joseph's birth is 90 BC in Bethlehem and the Apocryphal Date of his death is July 20, AD 18 in Nazareth. Joseph is the patron saint of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth.

Joseph is also patron saint of the Universal Church, families, fathers, expectant mothers (pregnant women), travelers, immigrants, house sellers and



buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people in general.

We celebrate two feast days for Joseph: March 19 for Joseph the Husband of Mary and May 1 for Joseph the Worker. March 19 has been the most commonly celebrated feast day for Joseph, and it wasn't until 1955 that Pope Pius XII established the Feast of "St. Joseph the Worker" to be celebrated on May 1. This is also May Day (International Workers' Day) and believed to reflect Joseph's status as the patron of workers. Many places and churches all over the world are named after St. Joseph, including the Spanish form, San Jose, which is the most commonly named place in the world. Joseph is considered by many to also be the patron saint of the New World; of the countries China, Canada, Korea, Mexico, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Peru, Vietnam; of the regions Carinthia, Styria, Tyrol, Sicily; and of several main cities and dioceses.

In art, Joseph is typically portrayed as an older man, with grey hair and a beard, often balding, sometimes appearing frail and a marginal figure next to Mary and Jesus, if not entirely in the background. Some statues of Joseph show his staff topped with flowers. St. Joseph is shown with the attributes of a carpenter's square or tools, the infant Jesus, his lily blossomed staff, two turtle doves, or a spikenard.

There is much we still wish we could know about Joseph -- exactly where and when he was born, how he spent his days, exactly when and how he died. But Scripture has left us with the most important knowledge: who he was -- "a righteous man" (Matthew 1:18).



## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**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. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Amy Cabral requested by Lou and Smitty Cabral. May her soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, March 14, @ 10:30 AM, Healing of the Paralytic (Feast of Saint Euphrasia)** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of John and Theresa Saba requested by George Saba. May their souls 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.

**Monday, March 15, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Benedict)**

**Tuesday, March 16, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Papas)**

**Wednesday, March 17, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Patrick)** liturgy is being offered for the soul of Habib Yazbeck by OLOP Parishioners. May his soul rest in peace.

**Thursday, March 18, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Joseph)**

**Friday, March 19, @ 7:00 PM, Benediction of the Cross/Stations of the Cross**

**Saturday, March 20, @ 4:30 PM, Healing of the Leper, (Feast of Saint Photina of Samaria)** liturgy is being offered for the deceased members of the Saba Family requested by Annemarie Espindola. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Laurance McAllister requested by Subdeacon Joseph Abraham and Carol Ann Maslanka. May his soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, March 21, @ 10:30 PM, (Feast of the Saint Joseph)** liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Chedid requested by his family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Georgette Sawaya requested by Zakhia and Hiba Chedid and family. May her soul rest in peace.

## 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.

## 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.

## BISHOPS APPEAL UPDATE

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.

## 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.

## WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR March 6-7, 2021

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,749.00</b>
<b>Bishop's Appeal</b>	<b>\$ 485.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>\$ 36.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 2,270.00</b>

## PASSION WEEK SCHEDULE

Monday, March 29, 2021	7:00PM	Coming to the Harbor
Tuesday, March 30, 2021	7:00PM	Coming to the Harbor
Wednesday, March 31, 2021	7:00PM	Rite of the Lamp, Anointing of the Faithful with blessed oil
Thursday, April 1, 2021	7:00PM	Rite of the Washing of the Feet
Friday, April 2, 2021	10:00AM	Signing of the Chalice
Friday, April 2, 2021	7:00PM	Great Friday of the Crucifixion
Saturday, April 3, 2021	10:00AM	Prayer Service of Forgiveness
Saturday, April 3, 2021	4:30PM	Glorious Resurrection Vigil
Sunday, April 4, 2021	10:30AM	Glorious Resurrection



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*

*Your Loving Children*

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