



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

March 27-28, 2021

HOSANNA SUNDAY

PALM SUNDAY REFLECTION

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” These words echo in today’s responsorial psalm and then pierce our hearts when we hear them again on the lips of the crucified Jesus in Mark’s gospel. On the surface, these words are a scandal. Does God the Father abandon Jesus on the cross?

This passage always brings me back to a non-denominational bible study I was a part of in college. About half a dozen of us met in a dorm room down the hall from my own. One day, the leader passed around a painting of Jesus’ crucifixion. Above Jesus was the Holy Spirit and then God the Father.

The leader challenged this depiction. After all, Jesus seems to say he was abandoned by God. Was the painting ignoring Jesus’ words and romanticizing this gruesome scene? At the time, I didn’t have an answer. Could the Son be separate from the Father and the Holy Spirit, even for a brief moment? And if God didn’t abandon Jesus, why would Jesus say those words?

The answers require us to look beyond the surface. Jesus quotes Psalm 22 when he cries out on the cross about his apparent abandonment. Many Jewish people hearing Jesus’ words would have

made this connection. In quoting the first line of this psalm, Jesus brings to mind the *whole* psalm, not just that line.

Psalm 22 goes on to describe a man with pierced hands and feet and persecutors who cast lots for his garments—heard now as a prophecy of Jesus’ crucifixion. The psalmist continues to explain that the Lord “did not turn away from me, but heard when I cried out.” Finally, the psalm ends with “all the ends of the earth” bowing to the Lord and proclaiming God as king.

Talk about a different story! Going a little deeper into Jesus’ words shows us that rather than lamenting a terrible defeat, Jesus is invoking his own victory. The Father did not abandon the Son, just as God does not abandon us.

When we stay at the surface level, whether in the scriptures or in our own lives, we run the risk of missing the full story.

Has a difficult person been placed into your life recently? Does the church propose a teaching that is hard for you to understand or accept? Have you had a hard time understanding your suffering over the last year? Pray that God will take you beyond the surface level and show you the ways God is still writing the story.

If you need a reminder of why it matters, take a look first at the cross, and then at the empty tomb.

<https://uscatholic.org/articles/2021/03/a-reflection-for-palm-sunday-of-the-lords-passion/>

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Seeking forgiveness is sometimes difficult work. It is made easier by meeting people who, without trivializing our sins, assure us that God rejoices over our repentance. Being forgiven lifts a weight and prompts us to acts of charity.

St. Margaret of Cortona



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.

ABOUNA WHAT ARE THESE SERVICES DURING THE WEEK OF GREAT LENT?

I'm happy you asked? During Lent, we celebrate the traditions of the Universal Catholic Church, remembering the passion of Jesus Christ. However, the last week of Lent, known as "Great Lent" in the Maronite tradition, gives us the chance for a final approach for conversion. This week belongs to the Maronite "Book of Passion" of Holy Week and reflects our estrangement from God and our need for conversion. Each and every one of us are in need of this conversion, thus we walk together in prayer, fasting, and forgiveness.

The Rite of the Lamp "is to plead the Lord to receive the contrition of the faithful repentant and to grant health to the sick according to the letters of the Apostle, St. James (5:13-15). The anointing on this day of the Rite of the Lamp is not given to those who are sick. Rather it is meant for every one of the faithful as a sign of healing and repentance during the final week of Holy Lent. This anointing differs from the Anointing of the Sick and Dying in many ways.

- 1) The Anointing is a mystery, the fifth of the seven mysteries of the Church. The Rite of the Lamp, on the other hand is a plea to the Lord on behalf of those who repent.
- 2) The Rite of the Lamp is administered by the Eastern Churches and is not obligatory or necessary.
- 3) The oil used for the Rite of the Lamp is not a consecration of oil as is the case for the Anointing Mysteries that the Bishop performs. It is a blessing by the priest specific to the week of Holy Lent.

- 4) The Anointing with sacred oil is used only to those who are very ill or in danger of death and is not given to anyone else. The oil blessed during the Rite of the Lamp is administered to those who are sick as well as to those who are well. It is designed to be a healing of body and soul on our final journey to the way of the cross of Jesus Christ. The whole community is anointed as it feels the need of our own healing of body and soul.

I pray that all of us may walk this week in the same tradition that we celebrate---for the finishing touches for our own personal inner conversion and healing of body and soul.

(" taken from The Passion Week: According to the Antiochene Syriac Maronite Church, +Stephen Hector Doueihy, STD, Bishop Emeritus of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn)

SAINT CANDLES FOR SALE

We are offering Saint candles which will be sold after Divine Liturgies and on the website. The candles we are offering are the picture of Our Lady of Purgatory stained glass that is in the sanctuary, Saint Maron, Saint Charbel, Saint Rafka, Saint Rita, and Our Lady of Fatima. These candles come in red or amber. The inserts are removable after they are finished and may be replaced with another insert. As the candle burns down, the pictures are illuminated. These beautiful candles may be viewed in the Church or on the website. The cost of the candles is \$8.00 each. This includes the glass and the candle insert. You may also purchase the insert candles for \$3.00 each or 4 for \$10.00. Please take a look at the different candles we offer by visiting our website at www.ourladyofpurgatory.org or by visiting the table at the back of the Church.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

On behalf of the entire community of Our Lady of Purgatory, we extend our deepest sympathy on the passing of George Madsen who passed away March 15. George is the father of Catherine Madsen (Joe Barckett), Will Madsen. And Sarah Madsen as well as his sisters Barbara DeHart and Marie Dupre. We ask Almighty God to welcome George into His kingdom and may his soul rest in peace. Allah yerhammo.

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.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

GOOD FRIDAY

A special collection will be taken on Good Friday for the Holy Land. This collection is the directive of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn and will be forward to the Holy Land for those who are in need. Part of this collection is sent through the USCCB to the Holy Land and another part is sent directly to the Maronite Eparchy of Haifa.

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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 27, @ 4:30 PM, Palm Sunday Vigil, liturgy is being offered for the deceased members of the Coury-Zilah Family by their family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, March 28, @ 10:30 AM, Palm Sunday, liturgy is offered for the souls of Joseph, Mitilda, and George Attallah by their family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Monday, March 29, @ 6:00 PM, Coming to the Harbor

Tuesday, March 30, @ 9:00 AM, Coming to the Harbor, liturgy is being offered for the soul of George Abraham by their family (FM). May his soul rest in peace.

Wednesday, March 31, @ 6:00 PM, Rite of the Lamp, Anointing of the Faithful with blessed oil.)

Thursday, April 1, @ 6:00 PM, Rite of the Washing of the Feet

Friday, April 2, 10:00 AM, Signing of the Chalice

Friday, April 2, @ 7:00 PM, Great Friday of the Crucifixion

Saturday, April 3, 10:00 AM, Prayer Service for Forgiveness

Saturday, April 3, @ 4:30 PM, Glorious Resurrection Vigil

Sunday, April 4, @ 10:30 PM, Glorious Resurrection

MANY THANKS TO THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Many thanks to the Board Members of the Education Foundation and to all who made our bake sale a success. All of the proceeds will go directly to the foundation so that we may present more scholarships to the youth of our parish. I also thank those who have contributed to this cause. God bless each 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 April, 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.

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Immediately following Holy Thursday services, we will have Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:00 to 10:00 pm. I encourage everyone to spend some time in solitude and prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. As I have said in the past, this is the time to reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus gave to us and to place all of our troubles and cares on the altar asking Jesus to take and guide us on our daily journey in this world. Confessions will be available at this time.

HOLY WEEK LECTOR SCHEDULE

Monday, March 29, 7:00 PM,
Smitty Cabral

Tuesday, March 30, 7:00 PM,
Rachel Higgins

Wednesday, March 31, 7:00 PM,
Carol Ann Maslanka

Thursday, April 1, 7:00 PM,
Mae Dickinson and Jano Baroody

Friday, April 2, 10:00 AM,
Rose David

Friday, April 2, 7:00 PM,
Jean Barbour and Gaby Baroody

Saturday, April 3, 10:00 AM,
Mae Dickinson

Saturday, April 3, 4:30 PM,
Carol Ann Maslanka

Sunday, April 4, 10:30 AM,
Ann Dupre and Hiba Chedid

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR March 20-21, 2021

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,356.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 239.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 20.00
Saint Candles	\$ 112.00
Candles	\$ 91.00
Total:	\$ 1,818.00

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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