



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



April 24-25, 2021

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

#### COMING HOME

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It has certainly been a very difficult year, to say the least, especially for all of you who have found comfort and peace at Our Lady of Purgatory. Over the past year we, as a Church and a community, have complied with all directives pertaining to the Pandemic shut down of this country. We have also tried to bring the Church to you as best we could, and in that regard, I believe all have benefited from the dedication of Joe Barckett and Matthew Thomas. I thank them for their research and application of livestreaming via Zoom and Facebook Live.

As we have learned about this virus and have taken precautions, keeping in mind the safety of our parishioners and community, I want to ensure each of you that we are still keeping all safeguards in place, especially regards cleaning and mask wearing. You may have noticed that Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, the pews were filled with families celebrating the Risen Lord. A true blessing for all of us and the joy Our Lord brought to us that day and every day.

With that being said, most of us have also had the vaccination for Covid-19. It is now time to invite each of you back to the Church. Our spiritual life depends on gathering as

community, praying together, hearing the word of God, and receiving the blessed Eucharist every week.

I certainly understand the reluctance of gathering together when this pandemic first began, but I also understand that we have to get our lives back to normal. And this begins with the Church.

I want to ensure each of you that the well-being of this community is a priority of mine and will continue to be as long as I am your pastor.

I would like to share with you a letter that Cardinal Dolan sent out to the faithful of his community letting them know that the time has come to return to Church. And so, I invite each of you to do so, knowing that we will continue to regard your safety as priority, just as we always have.

God bless you and your families and I pray I will see you all in the Church as a community soon.

In Christ,  
Fr. Vincent

#### BY CARDINAL TIMOTHY M. DOLAN

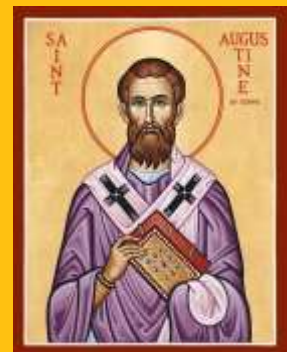
God told us, “Remember to keep holy the Lord’s Day!” For two millennia, we Catholics have believed that we best keep Holy the Lord’s Day by Sunday Mass! Yes, for the last year, we have

prudently been able to decide that the emergency health crisis can allow us to excuse ourselves from that God-given obligation. Our elderly, or people with compromising conditions that weaken them can still excuse themselves, as has always been the case. But for the majority of us—are we going to restaurants? To the kids’ soccer and little league games? To the store? To the beauty parlor? To gatherings with family and friends? Well, then, it’s time to get back to Mass.

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.”*

*Saint Augustine*



Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon | Joseph Abraham, Sub-deacon

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Email: [ourladyofpurgatory@verizon.net](mailto:ourladyofpurgatory@verizon.net) | Facebook Page: Our Lady of Purgatory Catholic Church - Maronite Rite

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



One of our fine pastors gave me this incident. He stopped at the supermarket in his neighborhood for a bit of shopping. There he kept meeting parishioners who greeted him and told him how they missed Sunday Mass and wanted to get back. Finally, exasperated, he replied, “Here you are in a crowded store shopping, taking your time, in contact with items touched by hundreds of people. Church is a lot safer! Come back to get food for your soul!”

A year ago, we, your pastors, advised you not to come to church. We had no choice, since wise health guidelines required us to close our church buildings. We reminded our people that protecting our health, and that of others, in the midst of an international pandemic was a very good moral reason not to attend Mass. Our parishes responded with live-stream Masses, but all know those, however much appreciated, are not the same as “being there.” In the summer, those health precautions eased up a bit, and we could re-open and invite a limited number back. Our parishes rose to the occasion with scrupulous cleaning, sanitation, ventilation, distancing, and restrictions—masks, no holy water or sign of peace, no contact

or communion from the chalice—and you gradually began to return. No more gradual about it! It’s time to get back to Sunday Mass! Last Sunday we celebrated our highest holy day—Easter! Jesus has risen from the dead! That very night, the gospel tells us, He celebrated Mass with the two disciples He had met on the road to Emmaus. He did that evening before at His Last Supper. And, “They recognized Him in the breaking of the bread!” We recognize Jesus at Mass and Holy Communion. We enter again the eternal, infinite mystery of His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead. Every Sunday Mass is a renewal of the Last Supper, Good Friday, and Easter.

It’s time to get back to Sunday Mass!

Wear masks, yes!

Get tested, you bet!

Wash hands, please!

Get vaccinated as soon as you can, sure!

Keep social distancing, of course!

Don’t go if you’re sick, elderly or your health is shaky, obviously!

Don’t shake hands!

Be grateful good folks carefully sanitize the Church after each Mass.

But, for God’s sake, get back to Sunday Mass!

We need medicine!

We need food for the soul!

We need vaccination from sin, Satan and eternal death!

We need herd immunity as sheep under Christ our Good Shepherd.

All this we behold at Mass!

How can we stay away?

Easter blessings!

See you at Mass!

## 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 Boutros and Joseph BouRamia requested by Jacques BouRamia 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 June, 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.

## 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, April 24, @ 4:30 PM, Palm Sunday Vigil, (Feast of Saint Saba)** liturgy is being offered for the soul of Hanne Guibril requested by Billy and Jessica Hakim and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nan Farhat requested by Annemarie Espindola. May her soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, April 25, @ 10:30 AM, Palm Sunday, (Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist)** liturgy is offered for the souls of Fred Thomas, Joao and Fernanda Baptista, Mena Carvalho, and Edigio Baptista requested by Fernanda Thomas. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered as a 40 Day memorial for the soul of Hanna Yezbeck requested by Hyatt Thomas and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Kaffa Peter requested by their family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Monday, April 26, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Pope St. Anacletus I)**

**Tuesday, April 27, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Simon)**

**Wednesday, April 28, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint John, One of the 72 Disciples)**

**Thursday, April 29, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Catherine of Siena)**

**Saturday, May 1, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Jeremiah the Prophet)** liturgy is being offered for the souls of the McAllister and Maslanka Families, and Nancy Calder requested by Subdeacon Joseph Abraham and Carol Ann Maslanka. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Arthur and Annie Thomas and Edouard Matter requested by their family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, May 2, @ 10:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Athanasius the Bishop)** liturgy is being offered for the souls of Edward and Bertha Baroody requested by Gaby and Amal Baroody and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Chris David requested by her family. May her soul rest in peace

## EASTER FLOWER DONATION 2021

Memory of Victor Belaïre and deceased members of the Baroody family by family.

Memory of Joe Nader and deceased members of the Nader family by Joann Longden

Memory of Tanios and Marie Arsanios by Boulos Arsanios

Memory of the deceased members of the Baroody and Cheaib family by Gaby and Amal Baroody.

Lou and Smitty Cabral

Living and Deceased members of the David and Daher Families by Mariam David and family.

## 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 Joseph, Saint Maron, Saint Charbel, Saint Rafka, Saint Rita, and Our Lady of Fatima. These candles come in clear 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](http://www.ourladyofpurgatory.org) or by visiting the table at the back of the Church.

## LECTORS FOR APRIL/MAY 2021

**Saturday, April 24,**

Mae Dickinson

**Sunday, April 25,**

Jean Barbour/Hiba Chedid

**Saturday, May 1,**

Carol Ann Maslanka

**Sunday, May 2,**

Ann Dupre/Hiba Chedid

**Saturday, May 8,**

Rose David

**Sunday, May 9,**

Joan Mello/Gaby Baroody

**Wednesday, May 12,**

*Ascension of Our Lord,*

Mae Dickinson/Jano Baroody

**Saturday, May 15,**

Rachael Higgins/

**Intercessions-** Anna Higgins

**Sunday, May 16,**

Mae Dickinson/Gaby Baroody

**Saturday, May 22,**

Smitty Cabral

**Sunday, May 23,**

Joan Mello/Jano Baroody

**Saturday, May 29,**

Carol Ann Maslanka

**Sunday, May 30,**

Jean Barbour/Hiba Chedid

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

## WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR April 17-18, 2021

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,606.00</b>
<b>Easter Flowers</b>	<b>\$ 25.00</b>
<b>Memorial Donations</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1,731.00</b>



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.]



*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*

Joseph & Marie Kenyon

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