



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

May 1-2, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Jesus instituted this sacrament on Holy Thursday at the Last Supper with His disciples. This gift that He gave us is not symbolic in any way; rather, Jesus meant this literally as

of transforming the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus is just a symbol. However, in John's gospel, Jesus emphatically repeats Himself six times in six verses in order to articulate the literal meaning of this grace. In fact, many disciples quit following Jesus because of this teaching and they left Him without asking Jesus to explain what He meant. This tells us that they understood perfectly what Jesus was saying and that He meant precisely

BLESSED AND HAPPY FIRST COMMUNION

As we celebrate with joy the sacrament of the Eucharist with our children, it is a perfect time to reflect on this grace that Jesus gave to us on Holy Thursday. It is a time to understand why this sacrament is important to us as Catholics and why we must appreciate our tradition and beliefs in the true and real presence of Jesus Christ.

As we join together in this blessed ritual of seeing our catechism children receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, let each of us renew this sacrament with a clearer understanding and the importance of receiving Jesus Christ.

He tells us in Luke 22, "This is my body, which is given for you." And in Matthew 26, "This is my blood, of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Jesus recognizes that the body and blood He shares with His disciples at the Last Supper is the very same body and blood that He will sacrifice on the cross.

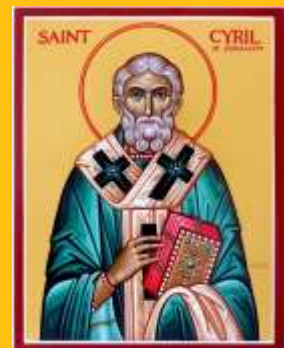
Jesus gave us His last will and testament on Holy Thursday and He used His words literally. This was the final time spent with His disciples and He wanted to make it clear that what He was saying to them was accurate, was taken seriously, and that it would be carried out to His people as such.

Many Christians who do not believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist believe that this grace

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Since Christ Himself has said, 'This is My Body' who shall dare to doubt that It is His Body?"

St. Cyril of Jerusalem



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.

what He said. If you read the gospel of St. John, you will see that many unbelieving disciples said "This is a hard saying, who can listen to it?" and many unbelieving Jews said "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus does not mix words here nor does He call back any of the disciples after they leave Him. Even His chosen twelve were taken back by His words so much so that Jesus asks them "Will you also go away?" But Peter responds by saying "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Jesus speaks about the real presence of the Eucharist and discusses the faith needed to accept difficult teachings about the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist in St. John's gospel. If we have true faith and believe that God can do all things, then we can understand that Jesus meant what He said at the Last Supper. Jesus changed water in wine at the Wedding Feast of Cana; He fed 5000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish with 12 baskets filled with leftovers; He calmed the storm at sea and questioned Peter's faith.

Jesus wants to make us realize that the Body and Blood that we receive is the nourishment and promise of eternal life. Jesus gives us Himself once again so that we may receive Him in His humanity and His divinity. He gives us Himself so that we may become, for a short time, living tabernacles of the living God. As we approach the altar today along with these blessed children, let us understand who we are receiving with faith and with love. Let us realize that this grace of the Eucharist unites us to Jesus Christ. "Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to heaven." Says Pope St. Pius X. Jesus becomes our spiritual food, the cure for our souls and the fulfillment of everlasting life.



RUN TO OUR LADY OF LEBANON

In 1908, the Patriarch of the Maronite Catholic Church pronounced Virgin Mary as the Queen of Lebanon, and what symbol is more fitting for this pronouncement than the 13-ton statue of the Virgin Mary named Our Lady of Lebanon in Harissa.

Also known as Notre Dame du Liban, Our Lady of Lebanon is the primary Marian shrine and pilgrimage site in the country. It is made of bronze but painted white and was constructed by the French in 1907. It stands majestically on Harissa in Jounieh, 16 km to the north of Beirut, Lebanon's capital. The mountain was named Harissa after the small village that is found on its peak.

Our Lady stands with arms outstretched and head bowed low looking over the bay, the hill villages and the city below. Seafarers are welcomed by her as they enter the picturesque Bay of Jounieh.

Beside the much revered statue is the concrete and glass cathedral of the Maronite Catholic Church. The Maronite Christians are Eastern Catholics who follow the canonical, spiritual and liturgical teachings of Saint Maron. They are not very different from Roman Catholics since Maronites revere the Sacraments, Rome and the Pope just the same. The statue's base is a small chapel where

pilgrims and devotees converge to pray.

On May 10, 1997, Pope John Paul II made an official papal visit to Lebanon to visit Notre Dame du Liban. It was a significant visit since it marked the first official visit of a Roman Catholic pontiff to the Middle East. A year later, Rome chose Our Lady of Lebanon as the official shrine for the celebration of the World Day of the Sick that was to take place on February 11, 1999. The Pope encouraged the Lebanese to pray to their patron to watch over the plight of suffering people all over the world as she has watched over the suffering Lebanese people. More recently on January 28, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI prayed to Our Lady of Lebanon for peace in Lebanon and Gaza.

WELCOME TO THE FLOCK OF CHRIST

We welcome to the flock of Christ and to OLOP Church Evelyn Marinette Joan Shidell who was baptized into the flock of Christ April 18. Congratulations to her parents Cody and Jackie Moujabber Shidell, godparents David Poulin and Krystle Moujabber, grandparents Naja and Ida Moujabber, and to all the Shidell and Moujabber family. May Almighty God protect Evelyn every day and keep her close in His loving arms. Mabrook!

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 1, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Jeremiah the Prophet) liturgy is being offered for the souls of the Roufael and Shoushlia Gabriel and the deceased members of their family requested by Joann, Anthony, and Lorraine David. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is offered for the soul of Leo Macedo requested by his family (FM). May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mary David requested by Andy and Sophie Correa (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, May 2, @ 10:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Athanasius the Bishop) liturgy is being offered for the First Communion Children and their families.

Monday, May 3, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Timothy and his Wife Maura)

Tuesday, May 4, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Monica) NO DIVINE LITURGY

Wednesday, May 5, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Irene) Welcome Me Into Your Kingdom liturgy is offered for the soul of Hermenigilbe Ribeiro requested by Fatima Disilva. May his soul rest in peace.

Thursday, May 6, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Dominic Savio) NO DIVINE LITURGY

Saturday, May 8, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint John the Evangelist) liturgy is being offered for the souls of George J. and Mary C. Saba and George Michael requested by Annemarie Espindola. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the deceased members of the Kenyon and Daher Families requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, May 9, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Isaiah the Prophet) liturgy is offered for all Mother's both living and deceased.

MESSIAH QAM TO OUR ORTHODOX FRIENDS

On behalf of the community of OLOP, we would like to wish our Orthodox friends a blessed day of the Resurrection of Our Lord. Although there are a few differences in our practices, we are all united as one in Christ. Messiah Qam! Hakkan Qam!

EASTER FLOWER DONATION 2021

Memory of Victor Belaire 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.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of May are in loving memory of Anthony H. and Margaret Thomas 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 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.

SECOND COLLECTION

As per the directive of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, we will have a second collection for the Feast of Our Lady of Lebanon which will be directed to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in Youngstown, OH, for maintenance and repairs. Thank you for your generosity.

LECTORS FOR MAY 2021

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

CONFESSION

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

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 April 24-25, 2021

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,184.00
Second Collection	\$ 75.00
Candles	\$ 59.00
Total:	\$ 1,318.00

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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