



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

May 15-16, 2021

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE HARVEST

In the Maronite Church there are three unique feasts that celebrate Mary, they are Our Lady of the Seeds, Our Lady of the Harvest and Our Lady of the Grapes. The Syriac Churches developed the earliest Marian theology, focusing on typology, symbolism, creation and the Incarnation. There are textual records of these feasts from the fifth and sixth centuries in the Antiochene Church, but tradition maintains their origins go back to late apostolic times. The feasts are celebrated on the following dates:
15 January – Our Lady of the Seeds
15 May – Our Lady of the Harvest

15 August – Our Lady of the Grapes

It is possible that these feasts grew out of earlier agricultural feasts and they are linked with the natural seasons of the Earth. In Syriac thought, creation does not only contain symbols of God, rather in it, everything has been placed to reveal God in his hiddenness.

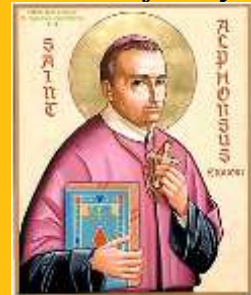
There is a connection between these feasts and the Mystery of the Eucharist. The three feasts yield the ingredients for bread and wine and link the Virgin Mary to the Eucharist. They reveal God's divine plan.

Their symbolism is best captured in the celebration of Maronite

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The clients of this most merciful Mother are very fortunate. She helps them both in this life and in the next, consoling them and sponsoring their cause in Purgatory. For the simple reason that the Souls in Purgatory need help so desperately, since they cannot help themselves, our Mother of Mercy does so much more to relieve them. She exercises over these Poor Souls, who are the spouses of Christ, particular dominion, with power to relieve them and even deliver them from their pains. See how important it is then to have devotion to this good Lady, because she never forgets her servants as long as they suffer in these flames. If she helps all the Poor Souls, she is especially indulgent and consoling to her own clients.”

*Saint Alphonsus Liguori,
Doctor of the Church, The
Glories of Mary*



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

Address: 11 Franklin Street, New Bedford, MA 02740

Office: 508-996-8934 | Fax: 774-202-0758 | Evening Emergency Number: 561-371-5316 | Website: www.ourladyofpurgatory.org

Email: 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.

Mass. As the gifts are being received on the altar, we chant;

***Alleluia! Our Lord Jesus said
"I am the Bread of Life.***

***From the Father I was sent as
Word***

without flesh to give new life.

***Of the Virgin Mary I was born,
taking flesh as man;***

***as good earth receives a seed,
her womb received me.***

***Priestly hands now lift me high
above the altars."***

Alleluia! Our gifts, Lord, receive.

Through Mary the Word was made flesh. Through faith and reason she chose to bear the Son of God who would save the world from their sins.

On this glorious feast, we give thanks to Our Lady! Through the harvest of wheat and grapes, we gracefully receive the gifts of bread and wine, which have become the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<https://livingmaronite.com/resources/feast-days/our-lady-of-the-harvest-15-may/#:~:text=15%20May%20%E2%80%93%20Our%20Lady%20of%20the%20Harvest,been%20placed%20to%20reveal%20God%20in%20his%20hiddenness.>

TABLE TALK: 1 Peter 2:1-25

"Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Heavenly Father." (Mt 5:16)

St. Peter's letter tells us that we as Catholics cannot remain as we are. There are things we must rid ourselves of in order to be followers of Christ.

One must rid themselves of deceit by not deceiving others in order to achieve one's own needs---those whose motives are never pure. We must turn our wickedness, our hatred of others into just and good deeds; to love one another. We

must turn away from the acts of the Pharisees and scribes---that of hypocrisy and dishonesty. We must turn away from envy, jealousy, and resentment so that our hearts are at peace and we rejoice with others. We must turn away from slander---of gossip and destruction of others. All of these vices lead to destruction of the human heart. They carry with them everything that keeps us away from God and His promise to us of eternal life.

St. Peter tells us that in order to do this we must be like infants who long for "spiritual milk." Jesus tells us that unless we are childlike, we cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven. It is through this spiritual milk that Christians are nourished with the Word of God by which we grow until we reach salvation. We must begin with the basics just as a child begins with the basics. We are also chosen by God to be His living stones. By becoming living stones in the sight of God, we strive to build a community of faith. A stone is useless when it sits by itself; however, if we all become a living stone in the building of our community, our foundation is strong and secure and we are protected by the community and by God.

Now what does St. Peter mean when he tells us that we are a "chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation?" Just as the Gentiles became a "chosen race" by accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior, by our baptism, we have also become a chosen race through our initiation into the Body of Christ---His Church. And by our baptism each and every one of us are part of this royal priesthood. This is not a new idea that came to fruition during Vatican II; rather, it

is confirmed and explained in the encyclical *Lumen Gentium* which states that "those who are baptized participate in the priesthood of Christ. Christ has formed the baptized into a priestly community." You exercise this "royal priesthood" by your active participation in the liturgy; by your celebration and reception of the sacraments; and by prayer and living with justice and love. Finally, we are a Holy Nation that is marked with God's hand as He claims us as His own. Just as God claimed the people of Israel as His own by leading them out of Egypt, so does Jesus claim us as His own by leading us out of darkness and into the light of sin by His death on a cross. Once you were "no people" but now you are God's people; you "had not received mercy" but now you have received mercy. We receive mercy from God in order to give mercy back to others. The question is how do we get there? Brothers and Sisters, we are already there. We have been given this gift through our baptism, our participation, and our love for Jesus Christ. What we must now do is implement what God has given us into our daily lives. ***This is difficult, but not impossible!*** If we truly understand our initiation into the "royal priesthood", then we must always remember our hope for an everlasting kingdom by offering ourselves as a sacrifice, our cross as a sacrifice to God and to lead blameless and holy lives. Bishop Gerald Barbarito of Palm Beach once said "we are not called to be perfect; we are called to be Holy." Perfection lies only in God. If we were able to be perfect, there would be no need for Jesus' sacrifice on a cross. What is needed on our behalf is to be holy and this is what we are called to do.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 15, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Our Lady of the Harvest) liturgy is being offered for the souls of the Bashara and Helena and John John and Annie and Thomas Ferris requested by Helena Tavares. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Peter and Raja Bou Eassey by their family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.
Sunday, May 16, @ 10:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Gennadius) liturgy is being offered for the souls of Tommy and Josie Thomas requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of David Dickinson requested by Mae Dickinson and family. May his soul rest in peace.

Monday, May 17, @ 6:00 PM, NO LITURGY

Tuesday, May 18, @ 9:00 AM, NO LITURGY

Wednesday, May 19, @ 6:00 PM, NO LITURGY

Thursday, May 20, @ 9:00 AM, NO LITURGY

Saturday, May 22, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Rita of Cascia) liturgy is being offered for the souls of Olivia and Harold Smith requested by Smitty and Lou Cabral. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Josephine Asack requested by Matthew and Cathy Thomas and family. May her soul rest in peace.
Sunday, May 23, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Isaiah the Prophet) liturgy is offered for the souls of Anthony and Margaret Abraham Thomas requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Jean Stovold requested by Christine Peters, Sokratis, Sharon, and Corrine. May her soul rest in peace.

FR. VINCENT OUT OF TOWN

Please note that I will be away from Monday, May 17, to Friday, May 21. For emergencies only, please contact me at 561-371-5316. Thank you and God bless.

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 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.

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.

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.

LECTORS FOR MAY 2021

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 May 8-9, 2021

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,258.00
April Online Giving	\$ 669.76
Candles	\$ 55.00
Total:	\$ 1,982.76

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.]



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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