



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

October 23-24, 2021

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE VIRGIN MARY



But what is the origin of this holiday? What most people believe is a variation on what I was taught in public school in the 1960s. The Pilgrims came to Plymouth on a ship called the *Mayflower*. They were the first English settlers in America. They came for religious freedom. And they had a big feast with Indians, and that was the first Thanksgiving. That about sums it up. And that is what Chesterton calls “The Myth of the *Mayflower*.”

First of all, they were not known as “pilgrims” till about 200 years afterwards. They were Puritans, a

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

I would like to wish each and every one of you a blessed and happy Thanksgiving. A time to give thanks to God for all He has given us. In our very busy lives sometimes we become immune to all of the graces and blessings God gives us; when we see so much turmoil, destruction, hatred, and persecution.

I have seen the many blessings and graces He has bestowed on me and this community. With many struggling to make ends meet, to provide for our families in such difficult times, this community pulled together to be able to feed over 20 families who would otherwise not be able to enjoy their Thanksgiving meals. These brothers and sisters of ours who live in our community will be able to gather together, share memories, and enjoy their Thanksgiving meals as a family because of the love and generosity of you. Thank you for making all of this possible and thank you for being a part of this wonderful community in Christ. May God bless you always.

THE CATHOLIC ORIGINS OF THANKSGIVING

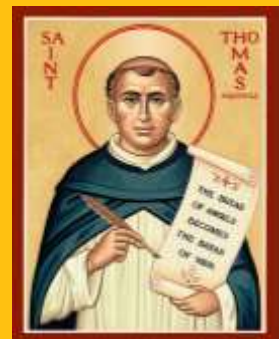
Did you know that Thanksgiving is a Catholic holiday? True, it’s not on the Church calendar. And it is celebrated only in America, whereas Church holidays are universal.

Our national holiday is certainly an event that has taken on a life of its own, with an established tradition involving turkey and mashed potatoes, football, shopping, and a four-day weekend—which is fascinating since none of those things have anything to do with the original event that gave rise to annual celebration on the fourth Thursday in November. But any time a nation does anything in unison that involves families getting together and counting their blessings, it is a good thing. “Thanks,” says G.K. Chesterton, “is the highest form of thought.” And he mentions the fact that the worst moment for an atheist is when he is thankful and suddenly realizes he has no one to thank.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“O God, grant that whatever good things I have, I may share generously with those who have not, and whatever good things I do not have, I may request humbly from those who do.”

St. Thomas Aquinas



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.

radical Anglican “low church” sect that loathed the “high church” Anglicans that happened to include the King of England. In fact, about 30 years after the Puritans arrived in America, some of their fellow Puritans back in England arranged for King Charles I to have his head chopped off.

Secondly, there were at least nine other British settlements before the Plymouth colony. In fact, one of them was at Plymouth. All but one of them failed, including the first settlement at Plymouth. The Puritans who came to Plymouth in 1620 almost didn’t survive. Half the settlers died the first winter. They were saved by a Native American named Squanto, who taught them how to hunt and fish and grow corn.

But here’s what is really interesting: Squanto was a Roman Catholic.

In 1614, he had been captured by an English party led by Captain John Smith (of Pocahontas fame) and taken on a ship to Spain where he was to be sold as a slave. He was rescued by some Dominican friars who instructed him in the Catholic faith. He told them he wanted to return to his people in America. They helped him get to England, where he met John Slaney, who taught him English and arranged for him to get to Newfoundland. Squanto served as an interpreter between the English and the Indians and crossed the Atlantic six times. He was never able to return to his own tribe, because they had been wiped out in a plague.

After he came to the aid of the Plymouth settlers, helping them grow their own food, he arranged for a joint harvest feast with the local Wampanoag tribe. It was this event that is the basis of our Thanksgiving holiday. So, Thanksgiving was started by a Native American Catholic. Ironically, the Wampanoag tribe later took Squanto hostage because they distrusted him, and he was rescued by the English. It is possible that the

Indians poisoned him, which led to his death shortly afterwards in 1622.

And then there is this other thing we never learned in school: In 1621, the year after the Puritans arrived at Plymouth, another group of English settlers arrived in Ferry, Newfoundland. The land had been granted to George Calvert, the First Baron of Baltimore. Calvert’s son, Cecilius, the Second Baron of Baltimore, was granted another chunk of the New World, which he settled in 1632. He called it Maryland. Why did England give this land to George Calvert and his son? As compensation for the fact the George Calvert had been stripped of his title of Secretary of State. And why had he been stripped of his title? Because he declared that he was a Roman Catholic. Maryland (named for some woman whose name was Mary) was the first English Catholic settlement in the New World, and one of its founding principles was...freedom of religion.

The Puritans up the coast get all the credit for establishing freedom of religion, but they did not do it. They were actually quite opposed to the idea. They were anything but tolerant. In fact, it was their intolerance that caused them to come to the new world, not persecution. England was not Puritan enough for them. They did not think the Stuarts had gone far enough to do away with the elements of Catholicism that still remained in the Church of England. Puritan intolerance led the eventual execution of King Charles I (whose wife and children were Catholic). Puritan intolerance was further demonstrated by a course of events in another Puritan settlement established just six years after the one in Plymouth, just down the road, had there been a road. It was called Salem. It was there that anyone who departed from a strict Puritan practice was in danger of being burned as a witch. Chesterton points out that the Puritans lost their belief in priests but kept their belief in witches.

So the Catholics deserve the credit not only for the first Thanksgiving, but for the first real religious freedom in America. Not the Puritans whom we call Pilgrims.

It is perhaps why G.K. Chesterton says that England should also celebrate Thanksgiving—in thanks that the Pilgrims left England!

<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2017/11/23/the-catholic-origins-of-thanksgiving/>

DO YOU WANT TO BE AN ANGEL?

As we all know, the Angels spread the word of Christ’s birth on Christmas to the Shepherds in the fields. Won’t you help our children spread the joy of God’s Love this Christmas by being an Angel?

One half of the proceeds of this Angel Program will help defray the costs of our Christmas Pageant. The other half will be given as a gift from our children to the St. Anthony Padua Food Pantry.

All you have to do is fill out the form on the opposite side of this page and return to Our Lady of Purgatory Church, 11 Franklin Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 with your tax deductible donation of \$25.00.

Please don’t forget to join us on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 6:00 pm for the 2021 OLOP Christmas Pageant.

Thanks for your generosity!

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

A big thank you to the Christmas Bazaar Committee and the volunteers who worked so hard to continue this tradition at OLOP. Despite the few obstacles, all of you brought the spirit and joy of this fundraiser to those who came and visited us that weekend. May we continue to work together for the greater glory of Him. Because with Him, all things are possible. Mabrook!!

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 20, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Gregory of the Decapolis) liturgy is being offered for the souls of Youssef and Hanneh Daher and deceased members of their family requested by Mariam David and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph M. Thomas requested by their family. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 21, @ 10:30 AM, (Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple) Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mark Thomas requested by his family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Helen Yamine requested by Milad and Sousou Maalouf and family. May her soul rest in peace.

Saturday, November 27, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint James Intercisus) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Charbel Baroody requested by Sean and Marie Kenyon McLaughlin and Keira. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 28, @ 10:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Stephen the Younger) Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Charbel Baroody requested by Emmanuel Chedid and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Victoria Lahood and family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

(Please note that daily liturgies will resume at the beginning of December. The new schedule for daily liturgies will be announced at that time.)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

SAINT JOSEPH SODALITY NEWS

Periodically we will be publishing news and coming events from the St. Joseph Sodality. The Sodality is the oldest organization in the Parish, having been founded in 1918. Through their devotion to St. Joseph, Sodality Members seek to emulate the life and faith of St. Joseph, and by doing so, hope to achieve eternal happiness as he did. The Sodality encourages you to consider becoming a member.

December 6, 2021: 10:00 AM Monthly Prayer Service followed by the Communion Breakfast at 11:30 AM after Divine Liturgy.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for the souls of Joe and Marie Kenyon requested by Sean, Marie, and Keira McLaughlin. May their souls rest in peace.

Anyone who would like to offer the sanctuary candle for a loved one or special intention, this will be offered each week. An offering of a \$10.00 donation is appreciated.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of November are offered for the souls of John, Malvina, and Joseph David requested by Joanne, Anthony, and Lorraine David. May their souls rest in peace.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Octavia David, Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, Peter Helmer, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, 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.

LECTORS FOR NOVEMBER 2021

Saturday, November 20,
Rachael Higgins/ Intercessions: Anna Higgins

Sunday, November 21,
Joan Mello/Hiba Chedid

Saturday, November 27,
Mae Dickinson/Intercessions:
Mariam Uwanogho

Sunday, November 28,
Jean Barbour/Jano Baroody
(If you are not able to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson)

WEEK OF OCTOBER 23-24, 2021

Sunday Collection	\$ 2,223.00
2 nd Collection Missions	\$ 214.00
Candles	\$ 55.00
Christmas Raffle	\$ 240.00
Bazaar Donations	\$ 670.00
Bishops Visit Donation	\$ 400.00
Total	\$ 3,802.00

WEEK OF OCTOBER 30 and NOVEMBER 7, 2021

Sunday Collection	\$ 2,663.00
Bazaar Raffle Tickets	\$ 190.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 107.00
Candles	\$ 74.00
Total	\$ 3,034.00

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12-13, 2021

Sunday Collection	\$ 933.00
2 nd Collection	\$ 245.00
Candles	\$ 32.00
Total	\$ 1,210.00

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Total Income	\$ 10,187.50
Total Expenses	\$ 1,465.34
Total Profit	\$ 8,722.16

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY BY SENDING IN YOUR WEEKLY 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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