



# Our Lady of Purgatory



## Maronite Catholic Church

December 4-5, 2021

### SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST



Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life. This is one of the Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians. Even such champions of Mary as Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas Aquinas could not see theological justification for this teaching.

#### FEAST DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It came to the West in the eighth century. In the 11th century it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. In the 18th century it became a feast of the universal Church. It is now recognized as a solemnity.

In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin.”

It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and

teaching.

Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary’s Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus’ redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus’ work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset.

#### Reflection

In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God’s behalf, addresses Mary as “full of grace” or “highly favored”. In that context, this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for the task ahead. However, the Church grows in understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit led the Church, especially non-theologians, to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name depart from your lips, never suffer it to leave your heart. And that you may obtain the assistance of her prayer, neglect not to walk in her footsteps. With her for guide, you shall never go astray; while invoking her, you shall never lose heart; so long as she is in your mind, you are safe from deception; while she holds your hand, you cannot fall; under her protection you have nothing to fear; if she walks before you, you shall not grow weary; if she shows you favor, you shall reach the goal."*

*Saint Bernard of Clairvaux,  
Father and Doctor of the  
Church*



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.

Incarnation. Or rather, Mary's intimate association with the Incarnation called for the special involvement of God in Mary's whole life.

The logic of piety helped God's people to believe that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. Moreover, this great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus. Rightly understood, the incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/solemnity-of-the-immaculate-conception/>

## PASSING OF TANIOS EL KHOURY

Tanios El Khoury, the cousin of Bashir El Khoury and many of our friends of the Khoury Family in Fall River, passed away in Lebanon this past week. We keep Tanios in our prayers as well as his wife and two children, family in Lebanon and in our parishes. May Almighty God welcome him into His kingdom and may his soul rest in peace. Allah yerhammo.

## WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of December is offered for the soul of Estephane Diab requested by Jacques and Amal Barbour and family. May his soul rest in peace.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday, June 8, we will gather for Eucharistic Adoration at 6:00 PM. This is an opportunity to spend some time with Jesus and ask for His help. Mark your calendars and please join us for this beautiful service



## PRAYER OF POPE SAINT JOHN XXIII TO MARY, QUEEN OF LEBANON

*In 1954, the Church in Lebanon held a National Marian Congress. Ven. Pope Pius XII named then-Archbishop Angelo Roncalli, papal nuncio to Istanbul, to be his Cardinal Legate (i.e., representative) to the closing ceremonies. In his concluding homily for these, given October 24, the future Pope St. John XXIII gave the following prayer.*

Now, O Mary, Queen of Lebanon and recently proclaimed Queen of the World, hear my prayer. The archangel who was the first to greet you called you, "full of grace." A great Doctor of the Church, St. Bernard, commented, "You are full of grace, and your grace overflows to us: You have more than enough grace for yourself, enough to spare for us."

O Mary, pour out the superabundance of your grace over this beloved nation of yours. For the first time in its long history it enjoys full liberty and political and social independence. May its decrees be ever inspired by principles of respect and fidelity for its glorious ancestral traditions; may its social life be characterized by those mystical gifts of unity and peace that are most fervent intention of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass which I am now celebrating under your loving gaze, O Mother, O Queen of Lebanon, in close sacrificial union with blessed Jesus, your Son and our Brother.

One more prayer, O Mary. In answer to the prayer of Jesus that all His brothers should be united among themselves and with Him, as He is united with the Father (cf. John 17:23), the promise of one fold under the pastoral staff of one shepherd (John 10:16) will surely be fulfilled; let the attainment of this unity for which all believers in Christ are longing begin here, in the land of Lebanon, through your intercession, O Mary!

The restoration of the catholicity of faith in all its breadth and perfection will be the most important event of modern times. May it be ascribed to your name, O Queen of Lebanon, as our Holy Father says in the words which I shall transmit to these your faithful people in his name

The Pope will say to the Lebanese, "Your fervor, renewed in these devotions to Mary, must be the salt that does not lose its savor, the light set on a candlestick so that its flame may be a light to all that are in the house; may the warmth of your charity be shown above all in welcoming your separated brethren, whose deep devotion to Mary is well known to us, and to whom in our encyclical *Fulgens Corona* we have sent a father invitation to join with us in appealing to Mary, and begging most earnestly for this unity" (Letter of Ven. Pius XII to the Cardinal Legate for the celebration of the National Marian Congress of Lebanon).

My dear Lebanese brothers, nothing is beyond the reach of prayer. The Archangel Gabriel is still here with us. The last word of his message is precisely this: "With God nothing will be impossible" (Luke 1:37).

So, courage and faith!

On the summit of the holy mountain the ancient cedars are still growing, ever growing, and their branches are still wide and robust enough to gather in a mystical embrace all who worship Christ "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23). This will be the future glory of Lebanon, the glory of Mary, her Mother and Queen.

Amen.

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention requested by Rose David.

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.

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 4, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Barbara)** liturgy is being offered for the souls in purgatory requested by Sean and Marie Kenyon McLaughlin and Keira. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Kathleen Kalife requested by Subdeacon Joseph Abraham and Carol Ann Maslanka. May her soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, December 5, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Saba the Hermit)** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Tanios El Khoury requested by the Khoury Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Dupre requested by his family. May his soul rest in peace.

**Please note that daily liturgies will resume December 6. The new schedule for daily liturgies will as follows:**

**Monday, December 6, @ 9:00 AM, Maronite Sisters of the Light Convent (Feast of Saint Nicholas (Zakhia))**

**Tuesday, December 7, @ 9:00 AM, OLOP (Feast of Saint Ambrose, Doctor of the Church)** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Victoria Lahood and family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Wednesday, December 8, @ 6:00 PM, Immaculate Conception- Holy Day of Obligation**

**Thursday, December 9, @ 7:00 PM, Arabic/Liturgy for Lebanon, OLOP (Feast of Saint Francis of Paola),** liturgy is being offered for the people of Lebanon.

**Saturday, December 11, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint James Intercisus)** liturgy is being offered for the soul of Christine David requested by Subdeacon Joe and Carol Ann Maslanka. May her soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, December 12, @ 10:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Stephen the Younger)** Liturgy is being offered as a 40 Day Memorial for the souls of

Farid and Nabila Hawwa requested by Rana and Halim Choubah. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Ann Farhat requested by her brothers and sisters. May her soul rest in peace.

## 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.

## WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27-28, 2021

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,244.00
Candles	\$ 36.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 24.00
Donations	\$ 200.00
Angel Program	\$ 100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,604.00</b>

**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.**

## CHRISTMAS NOVENA SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 15	7:00 PM
Thursday, December 16	7:00 PM
Friday, December 17	7:00 PM
Saturday, December 18	5:30 PM
Sunday, December 19	11:30 AM
Monday, December 20	7:00 PM
Tuesday, December 21	7:00 PM
Wednesday, December 22	7:00 PM
Thursday, December 23	7:00 PM
<b>** Christmas Novena's will follow Divine Liturgies which will begin at 6:15 PM</b>	

## CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGIES

Friday, December 24	5:30 PM	Glorious Birth of Our Lord Vigil
Saturday, December 25	10:30 AM	Glorious Birth of Our Lord Liturgy

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

## LECTORS FOR NOVEMBER 2021

**Saturday, December 4,**  
Rose David

**Sunday, December 5,**  
Ann Dupre/Gaby Baroody

**Saturday, December 11,**  
Smitty Cabral Intercessions: Mariam Uwanogho

**Sunday, December 12,**  
Joan Mello/Hiba Chedid  
**(If you are not able to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson)**

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Joe Reid, 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.



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[Sample bulletin block / graphic is optional / In email.]

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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*

*Your Loving Children*

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