



# Our Lady of Purgatory



## Maronite Catholic Church

December 11-12, 2021

### SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD REVELATION TO JOSEPH



#### The Response of Silence

At times it can be helpful to speak openly and thoroughly to God about what we experience in life. You may feel compelled to talk and talk and talk. And God will listen. But there are other times when words seem quite insufficient. In fact, there are times when words appear to be counterproductive. In those moments the greatest blessings come through silence. We must realize that silence is a language. In fact, communication with God, in moments of silence, has potential to be far deeper than words can bring us. Do not be afraid of silent communication with God. Do not feel as though you must speak or

even hear what He has to say. Simply being silent, in His presence, knowing that He is there may be exactly what your soul is in need of in those moments (See *Diary* #1200).

When you pray, do you feel as though you must speak continuously to our Lord? Do you feel as though you must talk continuously, saying this prayer or that one? Or are you content simply being in His presence in the silence? Ponder today your experience of being silent in the presence of God. Try to discern the unique and profound language God speaks this way. Try to commit yourself to these prolonged moments of silent communication with God and then look at the fruit they bear in your soul. If you discover that you are more at peace, gain a new level of clarity in life, or have grown in a certain confidence, then you can be assured that these good fruits in your life have come to you from God through the Mercy of His Heart, communicated to you in silence.

*Lord, I desire to seek You and know You. Help me to hear You speak through the silence. Help me to understand this deep language of love and to allow You to transform me through this form of prayer. I love You, dear Lord, and I desire to*

*rest in Your Heart. Jesus, I trust in You.*

<https://divinemeracy.life/2018/07/16/reflection-233-the-response-of-silence-2/>

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“I have great love for St. Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have a statue of St. Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the church! Yes! We know that he can do that. So, when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath St. Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words, I tell him: pray for this problem!”*

*Pope Francis*



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.



## FEAST OF SAINT NEMTALLAH EL-HARDINI

**Youssef Kassab Al-Hardini** was born in 1808 in Hardin, Lebanon. As a child, he was strongly influenced by the monastic tradition of the Maronite Church. Four of his brothers became priests or monks, and Youssef himself entered the Lebanese Maronite Order in 1828. The young man began religious life at the monastery of St Anthony in Qozhaya, near the Qadisha (Holy Valley), where he remained for two years until he began his novitiate and was given the name "Nimatullah". During the novitiate, he deepened his life of personal and community prayer and dedicated time to manual labor, while also learning to bind books.

### *Love for the Blessed Sacrament*

Nimatullah was especially noted for his love of the Blessed Sacrament. During his free time - frequently at the sacrifice of sleep - he was often found in the chapel on his knees, arms raised in the form of a cross and eyes fixed on the tabernacle. On 14 November 1830 he made his religious profession and was sent to the monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Kfifan to study philosophy and theology. On 25 December 1833 he was ordained a priest and became director of the scholasticate and a professor.

During the two civil wars of 1840 and 1845, he suffered greatly with his people. His brother, Fr Elisha, suggested he withdraw to a hermitage, but he replied: "Those who struggle for virtue in community life will have greater merit".

He observed that the ordinary, everyday life is a continuous martyrdom, since the monk must always be a model to his brother monks, guarding himself from becoming a source of scandal; instead, the hermit lives alone, away from all external temptations. It was also a decisive moment in his spiritual life, and he offered himself to God for Lebanon and his Order. His motto was: "The greatest is he that can save his soul", and he would often repeat this to his brother monks.

### *The "first concern" of a monk*

Fr Nimatullah was at times also reprimanded by his superiors for being too hard on himself and too merciful and indulgent towards his brothers. He understood holiness in terms of communion and fraternal charity and is said to have remarked: "A monk's first concern, night and day, should be not to hurt or trouble his brother monks". Throughout his life he had a special devotion to the Virgin Mary, his "source of strength". He never tired of repeating her holy name, and carried a special place in his heart for the mystery of the Immaculate Conception (a dogma proclaimed by the Church in 1854). After the Angelus he would often repeat: "Blessed be the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin". In 1845 the Holy See appointed him Assistant General of the order. A man of culture, Fr Nimatullah asked the Superior General to send monks to further their studies at the new college founded by the Jesuits in Ghazir.

### *A truly humble man of God*

He served as Assistant General for two more terms, but refused to be appointed Abbot General: "Better death than to be appointed Superior General", he is reported as saying.

His reluctance to assume positions of authority in his Order came from his deep humility and his earnest belief that he was far from living in continual contact with God, so necessary to properly serve the monks and the Order. Even when he was Assistant General, he remained humble,

refusing to have a special servant accompany him and attend to his personal needs, as was the custom in the Order at the time.

### *"O Mary, I entrust my soul to you"*

In December 1858, while teaching at the monastery of Kfifan, he became gravely ill, a result of the bitter cold in that region. His condition worsened, leading to his death on 14 December. He died holding an icon of the Blessed Virgin and saying: "O Mary, to you I entrust my soul". He was 50 years old. When the then Patriarch Boulos Massad heard of Fr Nimatullah's death, he commented: "Congratulations to this monk who knew how to benefit from his monastic life". While still alive, Fr Nimatullah was known as the "Saint of Kfifan", a monk who gave himself completely to his brother monks and neighbours during a time of suffering in his Land and difficulty within his Order. Fr Nimatullah was beatified by Pope John Paul II on 10 May 1998.

## SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, February 5, 2022**, we will be having our Saint Maron Hafli which will be held at Saint Anthony of the Desert Church Hall in Fall River. A full course meal, cash bar and live entertainment with singer Chady Neddef from Canada. More information will be forthcoming in the near future. Spread the word to your family and friends.

## 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.

## CONFESSION

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

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 11, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Daniel the Stylite)** liturgy is being offered for the soul of Christine David requested by Subdeacon Joe and Carol Ann Maslanka. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Marianne Faris and deceased family members of the Farris family requested by Mariam David and family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, December 12, @ 10:30 PM, (Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe)** 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.

**Monday, December 13, @ 9:00 AM, Maronite Sisters of the Light Convent (Feast of Saint Lucy) NO LITURGY**

**Tuesday, December 14, @ 9:00 AM, OLOP (Feast of Saint Nemtallah El-Hardini) NO LITURGY**

**Wednesday, December 15, @ 6:15 PM,**

**Thursday, December 16, @ 6:15 PM,** liturgy is being offered for the people of Lebanon.

**Friday, December 17, @ 6:15 PM,**

**Saturday, December 18, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Daniel the Prophet)** liturgy is being offered for the souls of the Thomas family, Beshara, Helen, Emily, and Amelia, requested by Subdeacon Joseph Abraham and Carol Ann Maslanka. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nazira Saba requested by Annemaire Espindola. May her soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, December 19, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Athenodorus)** Liturgy is being offered for the parishioners of OLOP.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## LECTORS FOR NOVEMBER 2021

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

**Sunday, December 12,**  
Rana Choubah/Halim Choubah

**Saturday, December 18,**  
Rachael Higgins/Intercessions Anna Higgins

**Sunday, December 19,**  
Jean Barbour/Jano Baroudi

**Friday, December 24,**  
Christmas Eve, Rachael Higgins/Gaby Baroody

**Saturday, December 25,**  
Christmas Day, Carol Ann Maslanka/Jano Baroody

**Sunday, December 26,**  
Mae Dickinson/Hiba Chedid

**Friday, December 31,**  
New Year's Eve, Joan Mello/Rose David  
(If you are not able to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson)

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 4-5, 2021

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,981.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>\$ 35.00</b>
<b>Sanctuary Candles</b>	<b>\$ 30.00</b>
<b>Angel Program</b>	<b>\$ 725.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,771.00</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



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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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