



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

December 25-26, 2021

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD SUNDAY AFTER THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD FELICITATIONS TO THE VIRGIN MARY

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I wish all of you a very Happy New Year filled with the love, peace, and joy that the birth of our Lord brings. The birth of our Lord brings to us hope--the hope that helps us to begin anew. The hope that brings us to the realization, that with the birth of our Lord, we may begin our journey that leads us to His Father. Many of us will begin a New Year's resolution January 1st. Usually this entail going to the gym, eating better, or quit smoking, just to name a few. But there is also another resolution that we must all consider--our spiritual growth. Over the past two years, we have had our challenges living out our faith as a community. Either the Churches were closed or limited due to the pandemic or many were uneasy about being in a crowded building. Perhaps this has made us a little complacent and relaxed by joining in via live stream. But there is only one place to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and that is in the Church. Receiving Him helps us throughout the week to live out our faith to the fullest and to honor Him at the Eucharistic Table.

This is not to pass judgment on anyone but it should be a reminder for us that our faith and our Church should be one of the most important aspects of our daily lives. It should prompt us that our relationship with Jesus is one that we cannot take for granted.

This past year has been filled with much joy for our community. It has also had its share of difficulties, trials, sorrows, which have made this community stronger in faith, love, and commitment. We have much to be grateful for and much to look forward to in the future of this Church. Together with the help of Almighty God, we can continue this journey in the hope of continued growth and unity, just as we are called to do. May the love of God and the birth of our Lord Jesus radiate our hearts each day. God bless you and your families.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, February 5, 2022, we will be having our Saint Maron Hafli. 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.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"To give worthy praise to the Lord's mercy, we unite ourselves with Your Immaculate Mother, for then our hymn will be more pleasing to You, because She is chosen from among men and angels. Through Her, as through a pure crystal, Your mercy was passed on to us. Through Her, man became pleasing to God; Through Her, streams of grace flowed down upon us." (1746)

St. Faustina



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.

Prayers for World Peace



JANUARY 1, 2022, WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

Vatican City, Dec 21, 2021 / 03:45 am

Pope Francis called for more investment in education and less in weaponry in his 2022 World Peace Day message, released Tuesday.

In the **message** published Dec. 21, the pope said the world had witnessed a “significant reduction” in education funding in recent years, while military spending had soared beyond Cold War levels.

“It is high time, then, that governments develop economic policies aimed at inverting the proportion of public funds spent on education and on weaponry,” he wrote in the message, signed on Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

The World Day of Peace — instituted by St. Paul VI in 1968 — is celebrated each year on Jan. 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The pope provides a message for the occasion, which is sent to foreign ministers around the world.

The pope’s message for the 2022 World Day of Peace, the 55th celebration, is entitled “Dialogue between generations, education, and work: tools for building lasting peace.”

In the text, Pope Francis outlined three “paths for building a lasting peace”: promoting dialogue between generations, investing in education, and improving labor conditions.

The pope called for a new alliance between the young and elderly to address the problems of isolation and self-absorption heightened by the coronavirus pandemic.

“Although technological and economic development has tended to create a divide between generations, our current crises show the urgent need for an intergenerational partnership,” he wrote.

“Young people need the wisdom and experience of the elderly, while those who are older need the support, affection, creativity, and dynamism of the young.”

The pope expressed the hope that a new dialogue between generations could become “the driving force behind a healthy politics.”

He lamented the tendency to see education and training as expenditures instead of investments. He said that they should be considered “the primary means of promoting integral human development,” because they help to shape free and responsible people.

He added that greater investment in education must be accompanied by the promotion of a “**culture of care**,” which could become “a common language working to break down barriers and build bridges.”

Support for education helps young people to take their rightful place in the labor market, he wrote, and build “a more habitable and beautiful world” through their work.

But he noted that COVID-19 had made it harder for the young to find stable employment. “Millions of economic and productive activities have failed; short-term workers are increasingly vulnerable; many of those who provide essential services have an even lower public and political profile; and in many cases, distance teaching has led to a deficit in learning and delays in completing programs of study,” he said. “Furthermore, young people entering the job market and recently unemployed adults presently face bleak prospects.”

Migrant workers, meanwhile, have been left exposed “to various forms of slavery and with no system of welfare to protect them.”

The pope observed that only one in three people working today “enjoys a system of social protection, or benefit from it only in limited ways,” while violence

and organized crime are rising in many places.

“The only answer to this is an expansion of dignified employment opportunities,” the pope said. “Labor, in fact, is the foundation on which to build justice and solidarity in every community.”

He went on: “It is more urgent than ever to promote, throughout our world, decent and dignified working conditions, oriented to the common good and to the safeguarding of creation.”

“The freedom of entrepreneurial initiatives needs to be ensured and supported; at the same time, efforts must be made to encourage a renewed sense of social responsibility, so that profit will not be the sole guiding criterion.”

Pope Francis encouraged all Catholic workers and entrepreneurs to strive for “a fair balance between economic freedom and social justice,” drawing on the “sure guidelines” found in the Church’s social doctrine.

Concluding his message, the pope wrote: “To government leaders and to all those charged with political and social responsibilities, to priests and pastoral workers, and to all men and women of goodwill, I make this appeal: let us walk together with courage and creativity on the path of intergenerational dialogue, education, and work.” “May more and more men and women strive daily, with quiet humility and courage, to be artisans of peace. And may they be ever inspired and accompanied by the blessings of the God of peace!”

At a Dec. 21 Vatican press conference presenting the pope’s text, Cardinal Peter Turkson said that the 2022 message highlighted Pope Francis’ conviction that every individual can contribute to building peace.

“This means that everyone has a fundamental role to play in a single great creative project to write a new page of history,” the prefect of the **Dicasterium for Promoting Integral Human Development** said. “A page of full of hope, peace, reconciliation.”

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/249944/2022-world-peace-day-message-pope-francis-calls-for-investment-in-education-not-weaponry>

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 25. NO SATURDAY EVENING VIGIL LITURGY

Sunday, December 26, @ 10:30 PM, (Feast of Felicitations of the Virgin Mary) Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nan Farhat requested by her brothers and sisters. May her soul rest in peace.

Monday, December 27, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Stephen) Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light Convent

Tuesday, December 28, @ 9:00 AM, OLOP NO LITURGY

Wednesday, December 29, @ 6:15 PM, NO LITURGY

Thursday, December 30, @ 7:00 PM, Arabic Liturgy (Feast of Saint Anysia) Intention is for the people of Lebanon.

Friday, December 31, @ 5:00 PM, NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL

Saturday, January 1, 2022, @ 4:30 PM, NO LITURGY

Sunday, January 2, @ 10:30 AM, (Pope Saint Silvester I) Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mansour Barbour requested by his family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is offered for the soul of Nancy David by her family (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

The Feast of the Epiphany (**Holy Day of Obligation**) will be held on Wednesday evening, January 5, at 7:00 PM. Please join us for the blessing of the water as we close the ending of the Season of the Glorious Birth of our Lord.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

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.

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.

January 9, 2022, monthly devotion and Communion Breakfast to follow.

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.

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.

LECTORS FOR DECEMBER 2021

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

LECTORS FOR JANUARY 2022

Sunday, January 2, Ann Dupre/Jano Baroody

Saturday, January 8, Smitty Cabral/ Intercessions: Mariam Uwanogho

Sunday, January 9, Mae Dickinson/Hiba Chedid

Saturday, January 15, Carol Ann Maslanka
Sunday, January 16, Joan Mello/Gaby Baroody

Saturday, January 22, Rachael Higgins/ Intercessions: Anna Higgins

Sunday, January 23, Jean Barbour/Rana Choubah

Saturday, January 29, Mae Dickinson

Sunday, January 30, Ann Dupre/Halim Choubah
(If you are not able to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson)

WEEK OF DECEMBER 18-19, 2021

Sunday Collection	\$ 693.00
Candles	\$ 35.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 100.00
Total	\$ 645.00

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.]

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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*

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