



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



January 22-23, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“Therefore, you are without excuse, every one of you who passes judgment. For by the standard by which you judge another you condemn yourself, since you, the judge, do the very same things. We know that the judgment of God on those who do such things is true. Do you suppose, then, you who judge those who engage in such things and yet do them yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you hold his priceless kindness, forbearance, and patience in low esteem, unaware that the kindness of God would lead you to repentance? By your stubbornness and impenitent heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself for the day of wrath and revelation of the just judgment of God, who will repay everyone according to his works: eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality through perseverance in good works, but wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness. Yes, affliction and distress will come upon every human being who does evil, Jew first and then Greek. But there will be glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good, Jew first and then Greek. There is no partiality with God.” Romans 2:1-11

I may sound like a broken record or you may be thinking to yourself enough Abouna!!! I understand. However, if Jesus felt the need to

remind people over 2000 years ago time and time again, then I also have an obligation to remind myself and you of the same!

In the reflection from the Letter to the Romans, St. Paul is addressing the Jewish people. The background of this letter makes St. Paul tell the Jewish people that they are not exempt from their condemnation of others. Although they are the chosen ones in the sight of God, they are not exempt in their judgment of others. St. Paul tells them that when they condemn others, especially the Gentiles, they are just as much a sinner as those who are different than them. The Jewish people considered themselves privileged and believed that they would be saved for the mere fact that they were chosen ones of God.

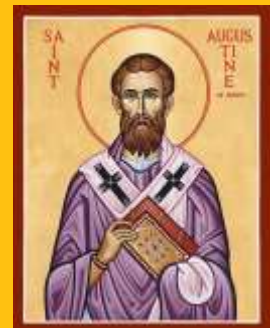
St. Paul reminds them of some very important lessons. He says “Do you suppose, then, you who judge those who engage in such things and yet do them yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you hold his priceless kindness, forbearance, and patience in low esteem, unaware that the kindness of God would lead you to repentance?” We cannot treat His kindness, forbearance (mercy), and patience with disrespect. When we pass judgment on others, that is exactly what we are doing. We expect God to treat us with mercy and kindness but because we are followers of Christ, we are exempt from doing the same. There is no such thing as a favored people in the sight of God.

This leads us to another thought. Having faith alone does not give us a free pass to the kingdom of heaven. To believe one thing and act completely opposite does not work in the sight of God. It is through faith and good deeds that determines how we will be judged in the end. Faith and works go together in living the life that Jesus asks us to live. In moral theology we are taught that faith leads to good works and it is by this measure that we are condemned or rewarded. When we are ready to pass judgment on others let us take a step back and think about what Jesus has told us time and time again. Judgment of an action can be determined as good or evil. The person can be judged by the love

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.”

Saint Augustine



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.

that Jesus instructs us to show; the compassion that Jesus instructs us to give; and the forgiveness that Jesus instructs us to extend.

Let us remember the sinful woman who was caught in adultery and the mercy that Jesus extended to her. Or the sinful woman who anointed his feet and the gentleness he showed her. Or the tax collector that Jesus dined with who repented for his evil ways and followed Jesus.

No one likes to be judged--- "Vengeance is mine says the Lord. I will repay." Let us not pass judgment but help each other to convert our ways. May we build up one another with the love of Jesus Christ so that when we come face to face with Almighty God, he will look down upon us with mercy and say job well done my good and faithful servant.

HAFLI SPONSORSHIPS

Our Saint Maron's Day Hafli is around the corner and we are preparing to make this first Hafli since my arrival to New Bedford a special and enjoyable event. We have an excellent singer coming from Montreal along with the El Khoury Ensemble as well as a beautiful mezza and full course dinner.

In order to make this fundraiser a greater success, if anyone would like to be a sponsor, I have included what these expenses are. As always, I thank you for your help and generosity to OLOP and I hope you will all join us for an evening of fun and unity.

Band	\$ 4,300.00
Food Expense	\$ 3,000.00
Incidentals and Centerpieces	\$ 800.00

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

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

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.

SAINT MARON HAFLI TICKETS ON SALE

**OUR LADY OF PURGATORY CHURCH
SAINT MARON
FEAST DAY HAFLI
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022
7:00 PM - 12:00 AM**

CANADIAN SINGER
Chadi Naddaf
and
Bashir El Khoury Ensemble



Tickets
\$85.00 Dance Floor Seating
\$75.00 General Seating
\$40.00 MYO (12-17 yrs.)
No Charge for Children under 12 yrs.

CASH BAR

Mezza . Dinner . Desserts . Dancing

Locations:
Saint Sharbel Hall @ Saint Anthony of the Desert Church
300 North Eastern Highway
Fall River, MA 02723

For Reservations:
Church Office: 508-996-8934 or Sousou Maalouf: 508-916-1523

2021 CONTRIBUTION LETTERS

Please notify the Church office if you need a contribution letter from the Church for your 2021 taxes. I will prepare the statement and send it to you via email or hard copy. Thank you and God bless.

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.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of January is offered for the deceased members of the Maalouf and Assaf families requested by Milad and Sousou Maalouf and family. May their souls rest in peace.

OLOP ONLINE SHOPPING NOW AVAILABLE

OLOP now has online shopping found on our website at www.ourladyofpurgatory.org At the present time, you may purchase tickets for the Saint Maron Day Hafli. In a short while, we will be having other items that you may enjoy and can order online. I would like to thank Joe Barckett for setting this up and Rob Macedo for taking care of our website. Below is the link to the online shopping for your future reference.

<https://www.ourladyofpurgatory.org/2022/01/13/olop-hafli-tickets-available-online/>

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 22, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Timothy, Disciple of Saint Paul) Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph, Peter, and Marie Kenyon by their family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is in memory of George J. and Mary C. Saba by their family. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, January 23, @ 10:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Marianne Cope) Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Samir Abi Rachid and Hiam Chaib requested by George and Maria Abi Rachid and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is offered for the soul Msgr. William Bonczewski by OLOP Parish. May his soul rest in peace.

Monday, January 24, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Francis de Sales, Doctor of the Church) Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light Convent

Tuesday, January 25, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul)

Wednesday, January 26, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Agnes) Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Robert and Margaret Lizotte requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace.

Thursday, January 27, @ 7:00 PM, Arabic Liturgy (Feast of Saint Paula)

Saturday, January 29, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Ephrem) liturgy is being offered for the soul of George Arbaugh requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, January 30, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Maximus) Liturgy is being offered for the deceased member of the Chomak family requested by Walter and Maryann Chomak.

CONFESSION

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

SECOND COLLECTION JANUARY 22-23

As per the directive of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, there will be a second collection on January 22-23, for the USCCB. This money is used for Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa, and the Catholic relief services to help those struggling brothers and sisters. Thank you for your generosity.

LIVE IN NANNY NEEDED

There is an opportunity for a Live-In nanny in the Dartmouth area. If you or someone you know is interested please contact the Church office. Preferably 40-64 years old. This will be a full-time position beginning immediately. Thank you.

MYO KICK OFF

Last week we held a MYO kickoff party at OLOP. The Maronite Sisters and I would like to gather our youth each month for prayer, social activities, and create an atmosphere where our youth from the Church can feel a sense of community with each other. We had a very enjoyable time together and have planned gatherings on Friday, February 4, and Saturday, May 7.

On April 1-3, there will be a Regional MYO Retreat in Lawrence, MA. This will be a weekend event and they will gather and stay at Saint Basil's Seminary in Methuen, MA. I would love to send several of our MYO to this weekend retreat where they can meet many other youths from the New England area. More details will be forthcoming on this gathering. Thank you to the Sisters and the parents for bringing their children. We look forward to seeing more at our next meeting. God bless our children.



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 1/24-1/29/22

Monday:

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1-5
John 5:1-16

Tuesday:

2 Corinthians 5:11-21
John 9:1-12

Wednesday:

2 Corinthians 6:1-13
John 9:13-25

Thursday:

2 Corinthians 6:14-17:1
John 9:26-41

Friday:

2 Corinthians 7:2-10
John 7:40-52

Saturday:

2 Corinthians 7:11-16
John 19:38-42

LECTORS FOR JANUARY 2022

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)

IN OUR PRAYERS

Ziad Al-Ghoubry, Lesleigh Farhat, Nicholas Awad, Natalayal Sarkis, 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.

WEEK OF January 15-16, 2022

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,826.00
Hafli Donations	\$ 3,650.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 250.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 38.00
Candles	\$ 100.00
Total	\$ 5,864.00

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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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