



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

January 29-30, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

SAINT EPHREM THE SYRIAN

Eastern Catholics and Eastern Orthodox Christians celebrate his feast on January 28. Ephrem is especially beloved in the Syriac Orthodox Church, and counted as a Venerable Father (i.e., a sainted Monk) in the Eastern Orthodox Church. His feast day is celebrated on 28 January and on the Saturday of the Venerable Fathers. He was declared a Doctor of the Church in the Catholic Church in 1920.

In a 2007 General Audience on St. Ephrem's life, Pope Benedict XVI noted that St. Ephrem became known as the "Harp of the Holy Spirit," for the hymns and writings that sang the praises of God "in an unparalleled way" and "with rare skill."

Ephrem was born in the city of Nisibis in approximately 306. Traditions differ on the question of his family background, with some sources attesting that his father was at one time a pagan priest. Other sources suggest that his family either was, or later became, entirely Christian.

Ephrem received baptism and began to consider the salvation of his soul more seriously. He embraced an ascetic lifestyle under the direction of an elder, who gave him permission to live as a hermit. Ephrem supported himself with manual labor, making sails for ships, while living in a remarkably austere manner with few comforts and little food.

Ephrem's spiritual director and friend, Bishop James of Nisibis, died in 338. Soon after, Ephrem left his solitude and moved to Edessa in present-day Turkey. Ordained as a deacon in Edessa, he was known for sermons which combined articulate expressions of Catholic orthodoxy with urgent and fruitful calls to repentance.

The deacon was also a voluminous author, producing commentaries on the entire Bible as well as the theological poetry for which he is best known. Ephrem used Syriac-language verse as a means to explain and popularize theological truths, a technique he appropriated from others who had used poetry to promote religious error.

Late in his life, the deacon made a pilgrimage to the city of Caesarea, where God had directed him to seek the guidance of the archbishop later canonized as Saint Basil the Great. Basil helped Ephrem to resolve some of his own spiritual troubles, giving him advice which he would follow as he spent his final years in solitary prayer and writing.

Near the end of his life, Ephrem briefly left his hermitage to serve the poor and sick during a famine. His last illness came in 373, most likely from a disease he contracted through this service.

When his own death approached, he told his friends: "Sing no funeral hymns at Ephrem's burial ... Wrap not my carcass in any costly shroud: erect

no monument to my memory. Allow me only the portion and place of a pilgrim; for I am a pilgrim and a stranger as all my fathers were on earth."

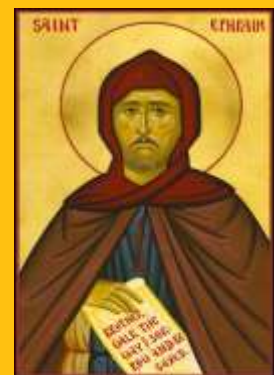
St. Ephrem of Syria died in June of 373. Soon after his death, he was remembered in a public address by his contemporary Saint Gregory of Nyssa, who closed his remarks by asking Ephrem's intercession.

"You are now assisting at the divine altar, and before the Prince of life, with the angels, praising the most holy Trinity," said Gregory. "Remember us all, and obtain for us the pardon of our sins."

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Blessed the one who continually humbles himself willingly; he will be crowned by the One who willingly humbled himself for our sake."

Ephrem the Syrian



Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon | Joseph Abraham, Sub-deacon

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Email: ourladyofpurgatory@verizon.net | Facebook Page: Our Lady of Purgatory Catholic Church - Maronite Rite

OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

SYNODAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

As you know, the Synodal Committee has met twice to discuss the present concerns and suggest ideas that may reflect those concerns. It was a very productive gathering and I thank all who participated in these discussions.

I also emailed the entire community for their input. I will need any responses by Wednesday, February 2. Once these are received, we will put together a summary of what was discussed and how we can proceed in the future. You can also access these discussions on our website at www.ourladyofpurgatory.org May God bless and protect His Holy Church now and forever. Amen

SAINT MARON HAFLI TICKETS ON SALE

As we approach our Saint Maron's Day Hafli, tickets need to be purchased by Sunday, January 30, in order to prepare and order the food for this event. If you haven't reserved your tickets, please do so by calling Sousou Maalouf or the Church office by January 30th. I am looking forward to seeing all of you together to enjoy the food, music, and each other's company.

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.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of February is offered in memory of George and Mary Saba requested by Annemarie Espindola. May their souls rest in peace.



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.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for the well-being of Joseph Thomas requested by Subdeacon Joseph Abraham and Carol Ann Maslanka.

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.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CHURCH

We will be moving our email address to a Gmail account. At the present time, all emails sent to the current email address will be forwarded to the new Gmail address. Our new Email address will be ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com Thank you for your attention in this matter.

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

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 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 members of the Chomak family requested by Walter and Maryann Chomak. Liturgy is being offered as a 40 Day Memorial for the soul of Shirley Roy requested by her family. May her soul rest in peace.

Monday, January 31, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint John Bosco) Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light Convent

Tuesday, February 1, @ 7:00 PM, (Presentation of Christ in the Temple) Blessing of the Candles.

Wednesday, February 2, @ 6:00 PM, Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Robert and Margaret Lizotte requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace.

Thursday, February 3, @ 7:00 PM, Arabic Liturgy (Feast of Saint Simeon the Elder and Saint Anna the Prophetess)

Saturday, February 5, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Agatha) Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Sally Perry requested by Sean and Marie McLaughlin and Keira. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is offered for the soul of David David by his family (FM). May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, February 6, @ 10:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Proclus) Liturgy is being offered for the soul Louise Dupre requested by her family. May her soul rest in peace.

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.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 1/31-2/5/22

Monday:

Romans 7:7-13/John 4:31-38

Tuesday:

Romans 7:14-25/John 4:39-42

Wednesday:

Romans 9:30-10:4/Luke 2:22-35

Thursday:

Acts 8:14-25/Luke 17:11-19

Friday:

2 Corinthians 3:1-6/John 7:37-29

Saturday:

2 Corinthians 3:7-14/John 19:28-37

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.

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.

LECTORS FOR JANUARY 2022

Saturday, January 29,
Mae Dickinson

Sunday, January 30,
Ann Dupre/Halim Choubah

LECTORS FOR FEBRUARY 2022

Saturday, February 5,
Rose David

Sunday, February 6,
Joan Mello/Hiba Chedid

Saturday, February 12,
Carol Ann Maslanka/ Intercessions:
Mariam Uwanogho

Sunday, February 13,
Mae Dickinson/Gaby Baroody

Saturday, February 19,
Smitty Cabral

Sunday, February 20,
Ann Dupre/Rana Choubah

Saturday, February 26,
Rachael Higgins/Intercession: Anna
Higgins

Sunday, February 27,
Jean Barbour/Jano Baroody

(If you are not able to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson)

WEEK OF January 22-23, 2022

Sunday Collection	\$ 2,755.00
Hafli Donations	\$ 50.00
Second Collection	\$ 107.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 28.00
Candles	\$ <u>119.00</u>
Total	\$ 3,059.00

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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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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