



# Our Lady of Purgatory



## Maronite Catholic Church

March 5-6, 2022

### SEASON OF GREAT LENT

## Sunday of the Healing of the Leper

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

##### *The Lord's Prayer*

*"This is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one. If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions."*

*(Matthew 6:9-15 NAB)*

Each week when we gather in this Church, we recite this prayer that Jesus taught us. And sometimes we may recite this prayer from memory and never give these words their due meaning. As we begin our Lenten journey, I thought this would be a great opportunity to reflect on this prayer and enlighten our hearts with what these words are asking of us; these words that Jesus gave us to pray.

This prayer should fill us with hope and consolation. St. Augustine said that "the Lord's Prayer is so perfect that it sums up in a few words everything man needs to ask God for." In the beginning of this prayer, we are acknowledging God as our Father and that His name be Holy. And by this acknowledgment God is sanctified because His creation sees Him as our Father who is the creator of all. We also acknowledge that the kingdom that Jesus promised us

as our final destination, will be coming when our journey on this earth is over. This realization of the Kingdom of God helps us share in God's inner life. This realization makes us strive for goodness and holiness so that we may share in the eternal life that Jesus

promised us. And finally, in the beginning of this prayer we are saying that we will surrender to the will of God regardless of our wants and needs. We literally place our trust and our life in God's loving hands, unconditionally and unequivocally.

By asking God to give us our daily bread, we are petitioning Him to give us only what we need. As we become older and wiser, we realize that the material things that were once important are no longer the center of our lives. We may enjoy the fruits of our hard work; however, we become more aware that our needs are much different than our wants. The Fathers of the Church interpret "daily bread" not only as material food needed to survive. The bread of life, the Eucharist, is what nourishes our bodies and souls and helps us receive the graces that are bestowed upon us through this sacrament. Let us receive so that we may live---this is the Blessed Eucharist and this is what we are petitioning to God.

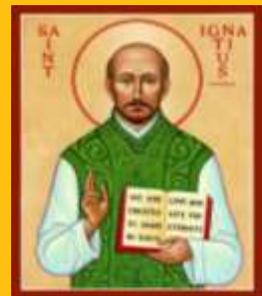
Forgiveness of our debts is the reason our Lord came to this world. What a gift of unconditional love Jesus gave us. However, he warns us that just as He forgives us our sins, we also must forgive others.

We cannot ask God to do something for us if we are not willing to do the same for others. God makes this very clear throughout the Old and New Testament---referring to man's sinful condition. This should not be a surprise to any of us. The gospel tells us "Those who are without sin cast the first stone." Why does Jesus give us these words? The answer is very simple---it is a reminder that no one would be able to

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"If God gives you an abundant harvest of trials, it is a sign of great holiness which He desires you to attain. Do you want to become a great saint? Ask God to send you many sufferings. The flame of Divine Love never rises higher than when fed with the wood of the Cross, which the infinite charity of the Savior used to finish His sacrifice. All the pleasures of the world are nothing compared with the sweetness found in the gall and vinegar offered to Jesus Christ. That is, hard and painful things endured for Jesus Christ and with Jesus Christ."*

*Saint Ignatius of Loyola*



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.

condemn anyone because even the righteous are sinners. This prayer implies that our unwillingness to forgive others dictates God's unwillingness to forgive us.

Temptation is the work of evil and we are surrounded by temptation continuously. This is the real truth of the human life. No matter how much we try to avoid temptation, it is always lurking around the corner trying to find its way into our lives. Once we understand that we are incapable of combating this certainty of temptation alone, through prayer and especially the Lord's Prayer, we rely on His help to make us stronger against the evils of this world. God asks us to rely on Him, trust in Him, and believe in Him, and by doing so we will never lose hope. Brothers and sisters, no one on this earth is perfect. God knows that we have our defects. That is why He asks us not for perfection but for holiness. That is why God loves all of His creation, defects and all. And that is why he forgives us, sins and all. However, we are also called to love and forgive others just as God loves and forgives us. If we wait to love others who haven't sinned against us or behaved badly against us, we will never be able to love. St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians tells us:

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. **So, faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.** It is only through love that we are able to forgive others who have hurt us. Brothers and sisters, as we begin our journey in this Season of Lent, let us

pray the Lord's Prayer with the understanding of the meaning of these words. Let us say this prayer with conviction and ask God's help to fulfill the commands of His prayer. May we find in our hearts the strength to love and forgive those who have offended us just as the Father loves and forgives us when we offend Him. In the words of St. Pius V, "In loving our enemies there shines forth in us some likeness to God our Father, who, by the death of His Son, ransomed from everlasting perdition and reconciled himself the human race, which before was most unfriendly and hostile to him." May the Lord's Prayer comfort you with hope and consolation and may it bring you peace until we reach our final destination in the Kingdom of God.

### **ANNUAL CLERGY RETREAT**

Fr. Vincent will be out of town March 7-11, 2022, to attend the Annual Clergy Retreat for the Eparchy of Saint Maron. Weekday Liturgies will be canceled Monday through Thursday. Benediction of the Cross will take place on Friday, March 11, at 7:00 PM. For any emergencies, please contact the office or Deacon Jean. Blessings.

### **ADORATION OF THE CROSS/STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

We will be celebrating Adoration of the Cross/Stations of the Cross every Friday during the Season of Lent. These services will begin at 7:00 PM. Please join us in prayer for the Season of Lent.

### **WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS**

The altar bread and wine for the month of March is offered in memory of Steven Espindola requested by Annemarie Espindola. May his soul rest in peace.

### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)**

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

### **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](mailto:ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com) Thank you for your attention in this matter.

### **SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR MAHRAJAN**

Dear Parishioners of OLOP:

The date is set for our Annual Mahrajan. We will begin the summer festivities in the New England area on **Friday, June 24 and Saturday, June 25, 2022** pm, on the grounds of OLOP. By having the festival at the beginning of the summer, we are hoping that more people will be ready to get out and enjoy our food, entertainment, and culture. Schools are getting out this week which will also add to the celebration of the beginning of summer break. Please mark your calendars. May this festival continue to grow bigger and better every year. Blessings.

### **OUR CONDOLENCES**

We extend our condolences on the passing of Lauretta Mello, the mother of Michael and Joan Mello. We also keep in our prayers Lauretta's husband, children and grandchildren. May Almighty God welcome Lauretta into His kingdom and may her soul rest in peace.

### **IN OUR PRAYERS**

Angela Scorza-Anderson, Terry Amsden, Lisa Mello-Frost, Ziad Al-Ghoubry, Lesleigh Farhat, Nicholas Awad, Natalya 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.

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, March 5, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Albert the Great)** liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph, Peter and Marie Kenyon requested by family. May their soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Deceased members of Coury and Zialah families requested by family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, March 6, @ 10:30 AM, Healing of the Leper (Feast of Saint Conan of Isauria)** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Florence Dyer requested by family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joanne Sarkis Yozfek requested by family. May her soul rest in peace.

**Monday, March 7, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of The 7 Young Men of Ephesus).** Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light Convent. **NO DIVINE LITURGY**

**Tuesday, March 8, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of saint Frances of Rome).** **NO DIVINE LITURGY**

**Wednesday, March 9, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of The Forty Martyrs)** **NO DIVINE LITURGY.**

**Thursday, March 10, @ 7:00 PM, Arabic Liturgy (Feast of Saint Auxentius).** **NO DIVINE LITURGY**

**Friday, March 11, @ 7:00PM, Benediction/Stations of the Cross**

**Saturday March 12, @ 4:30 PM (Feast of Pope Saint Gregory the Great).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Melvina and Joseph David requested by family. May their soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Amy Cabral requested by Lou and Smitty Cabral. May her soul rest in peace.

**Sunday March 13, @10:30 AM Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman (Feast of Saint Theophanes).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Georgette and Samir Sawaya requested by Zakhia and Hiba Chdid. May their soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of John and Theresa Saba requested by George Saba. May their soul rest in peace.

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Joanne Yozfek requested by 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.

## SPRING FORWARD AND CHANGE THE CLOCKS

This is a friendly reminder to move your clocks forward at 2:00 AM, Sunday, March 13. We do not want you to miss Divine Liturgy. Blessings.



## "CALLING ALL RECIPES!!!"

Please help us display our beautiful parishes "Legacy Through Food" cookbook. If you have a recipe (or ten) you would like to share, OLOP Education Foundation would love to hear from you!

**IT IS VERY IMPROTANT THAT WE RECEIVE THESE RECIPES BY APRIL 15, SO THAT WE CAN HAVE THEM READY FOR THE MAHRAJAN!**

We are hoping to include your favorite Lebanese, American, and children's cherished dishes as well. We would appreciate if you attach any stories and pictures about your family's recipes or traditions to be included with your recipe.

Any format will do. You may email Leilah Moses Silveira at [leelee8878@comcast.net](mailto:leelee8878@comcast.net) or Annemarie Espindola at [saba.ase@comcast.net](mailto:saba.ase@comcast.net) or Sarah Thomas Hitchings at [sa.thomas@me.com](mailto:sa.thomas@me.com) with any recipes, stories, pictures, or questions. All proceeds benefit the OLOP Education Foundation. Cookbooks are planning to be sold at the 2022 Mahrajan, Christmas Bazaar, and throughout the 2022 holiday season. Sahtain and thank you.

## LECTORS FOR MARCH 2022

**Saturday, March 5,**

Mae Dickinson

**Sunday, March 6,**

Ann Dupre/Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, March 12,**

Rachel Higgins/Intercession: Anna Higgins

**Sunday, March 13,**

Joan Mello/Jano Baroody

**Saturday, March 19,**

Carol Maslanka

**Sunday, March 20,**

Mae Dickinson/Gaby Baroody

**Saturday, March 26**

Smitty cabral/intercessions: Mariam Uwanogho

**Sunday, March 27**

Jean Barbour/Halim Choubah

## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 3/07-3/12/22

**Monday:**

1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Matthew 6:22-24

**Tuesday:**

Galatians 2:11-17

Matthew 7:1-12

**Wednesday:**

2 Corinthians 4:11-18

Luke 6:20-23

**Thursday:**

Philippians 4:4-10

Luke 8:4-15

**Friday:**

Romans 1:18-25

Matthew 18:23-35

**Saturday:**

Hebrews 12:28-13:9

Mark 11:19-25

## WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26-27, 2022

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,375.00</b>
<b>Bishop's Appeal</b>	<b>\$ 540.00</b>
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	<b>\$ 7.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>\$ 106.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,028.00</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.**

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hearing your laugh. We Love you  
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