



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



May 28-29, 2022

### SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION 7TH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION



#### BLESSED MEMORIAL DAY

Why are human beings willing to fight and die for freedom? As Americans, this Memorial Day we will remember those who died in the service of our country. But as Catholic Americans, we should also reflect on the meaning of true freedom and thank God for the Church which proclaims the way to the fullness of that freedom. One reason why we are willing to fight and die for freedom is because the need for freedom is imprinted into our very nature. This is why we fight for it for others.

Why are human beings willing to fight and die for freedom? As Americans, this Memorial Day we will remember those who died in the service of our country. But as Catholic Americans, we should also reflect on the meaning of true freedom and thank God for the Church which proclaims the way to the fullness of that freedom.

I honor those in my family and yours who paid the ultimate price for the freedom that I have enjoyed as an American. However, I believe that some today have trivialized the meaning of freedom or distorted it beyond recognition. True freedom is

much deeper than being able to do what we want. Freedom directs us toward truth and choosing the truth perfects our exercise of freedom.

Again, the Catholic Catechism is so very helpful for our understanding: *“The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just. The choice to disobey and do evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to “the slavery of sin.” Freedom makes man responsible for his acts to the extent that they are voluntary. Progress in virtue, knowledge of the good, and asceticism enhance the mastery of the will over its acts.”* (See, CCC #1731-1734)

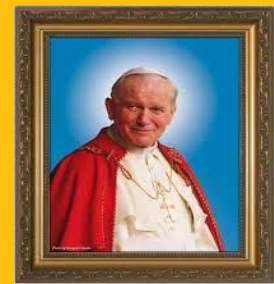
The Church teaches us that to understand freedom we need to consider both our nature and the very purpose of our humanity. “Through our physical bodies, we sum up the elements of the material world and bring them to their highest perfection and freely raise their voice in praise to the creator” (cf. *Gaudium et spes* 14). Thus, we know that we are more than the material world, for which we have the capacity to appreciate and give thanks.

Once we understand that we are a unity of body and soul, created in the image of God and endowed with reason and free will, we are ready to taste of the Church’s teaching on freedom. Paragraph 1730 found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is short, but its breadth is enormous. It states that “God created man a rational being, conferring on him the dignity of a person who can initiate and control his own actions. God willed that man should be ‘left in his

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Darkness can only be scattered by light. Hatred can only be conquered by love.”

Saint Pope John Paul II



own counsel,’ so that he might of his own accord seek his Creator and freely attain his full and blessed perfection by cleaving to him.”

The perfection of any created thing is to be able to fully act according to what it is, to its nature. And, in this respect, the thing gives glory to its creator. On the other hand, when, for any reason, a thing cannot fully act according to its nature, we correctly view it as lacking in a good. When a person cannot fully act according to their human nature, this lacking in a good can take on a moral dimension and result in the loss of freedom.

Human beings, by virtue of their reason and free will, are unique among all other created things in that they can freely choose to act in ways that are not in accord with their nature, that is, they can turn away from God and reject their own perfection, which is to become fully human and fully alive. However,

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

Address: 11 Franklin Street, New Bedford, MA 02740

Office: 508-996-8934 | Fax: 774-202-0758 | Evening Emergency Number: 561-371-5316 | Website: [www.ourladyofpurgatory.org](http://www.ourladyofpurgatory.org)

Email: [ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com) | 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.

turning away from God is not true freedom, it is an abuse of freedom. Instead of freeing us; it enslaves us. We need to understand this point because it is critical. Therefore, I have selected two examples.

First, in order to help us understand the significance of the abuse of freedom, Dr. Scott Hahn gives us a general example using a train. It is the nature of a train to run on tracks. As long as the train remains on the tracks, it is able to carry people or needed materials across the country. If, one day, the train viewed its tracks as restricting its freedom and decided to jump its tracks, what would happen? Therefore, acting according to our nature liberates and frees us. Acting against our nature results in a kind of slavery because we are no longer free to "Be all that we can be."

Second, Blessed John Paul II gives us a more specific example in *The Gospel of Life*. He shows us that when freedom is no longer based on objective truth, it destroys itself. He says, since freedom is inherently relational, if the self is understood in terms of absolute autonomy, as it is in secular society, then people will eventually reject each other as each person seeks to have their interests prevail. Thus, society becomes a mass of competing individuals without mutual bonds. Such a society does not become more free; it becomes less free as vice, corruption, brutality, and oppression inevitably increase.

Now, I believe we can try to answer our original question. One reason why we human beings are willing to fight and die for freedom is because the need for freedom is imprinted onto our very nature. By virtue of our ability to reason and our free will, we are impelled to seek truth, especially religious truth.

Our Creator instilled this drive within us, so that we would seek Him, for He is truth. And having found truth, we are obligated to live it to the best of our ability. But we cannot satisfy this obligation unless we are free from coercion. Consequently, it is the obligation of the state to ensure that its citizens are free to exercise their religious freedom. However, if the state fails in its obligation, or is attacked by another state, then, at some point, human beings will rightly and

necessarily fight and die for true freedom.

This Memorial Day Catholics rightly honor our fallen brothers and sisters, those who have died so that we may continue to choose freedom. But we should also remember our Church, who has defended the dignity and freedom of the human person for over two-thousand years.

<https://www.catholic.org/news/national/story.php?id=41601>

***God of power and mercy,  
you destroy war and put down earthly  
pride.***

***Banish violence from our midst and  
wipe away our tears,  
that we may all deserve to be called  
your sons  
and daughters.***

***Keep in your mercy those men and  
women***

***who have died in the cause of freedom  
and bring them safely  
into your kingdom of justice and  
peace.***

***We ask this though Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.***

### **IN OUR PRAYERS**

Angela Scorza-Anderson, Renee Helmer, Terry Amsden, Lisa Mello-Frost, Ziad Al-Ghoubry, Natalya Sarkis, Joe Reid, Octavia David, Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, Peter Helmer, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Leo Rodrick, Theresa John, Laurette Bou Ramia, 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.

### **BANNS OF MARRIAGE**

This is the first Banns of Marriage for Josh Barbour and Rafka Hage who will be married June 11, 2022. If anyone knows of any reason that these two should not be married speak now or forever hold your peace.

### **VOLUNTEERS FOR FESTIVAL**

Dear Parishioners of OLOP:

This past week I emailed a sign-up sheet for the summer festival. In order to make this festival a success, I need your help. We will be setting up Thursday afternoon through Friday afternoon. We will also be doing food prep these days. I ask that if you can help with this festival, please fill out this form and let me know what days you can be here and for how long. If it is 2 hours or all day and night, I would appreciate any help you can give. Thank you and God bless all of you.

### **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, 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.

**Our Lady Of Purgatory Church**  
**Summer Lebanese Festival**  
Friday, June 24, 2022  
5:00PM - 11:00PM  
Saturday, June 25, 2022  
12:00PM - 11:00PM  
**Live Entertainment**  
Mitchel  
&  
Rami Badr  
**Money Raffles Prizes**  
\$1,000 - \$500 - \$200  
**Drawing**  
Saturday, June 25, 2022  
10:30PM  
11 Franklin Street, New Bedford, MA 02740

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, May 28, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Heliconis).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Mike and Emily Nemer requested by Kathy. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Michelle Benoit requested by Subdeacon Joe Abraham and Carol Ann Maslanka. May her soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, May 29, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Theodosia of Tyre). Welcome me into Your Kingdom liturgy.** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Abouna Boutros Nasr requested by family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Walter Chomak requested by George Saba. May his soul rest in peace.

**Monday, May 30, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint Felix I).** Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent.

**Tuesday, May 31, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Hermias).**

**Wednesday, June 1, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Justin Martyr).**

**Thursday, June 2, @ 7:00 PM, Arabic Liturgy (Feast of The Four Evangelist).**

**Saturday June 4, @ 4:30 PM (Feast of Saint Erasmus).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Marylou Viveiros requested by Joann David. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of David Dickinson requested by family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the Daher Family requested by the family (FM).

**Sunday, June 5 @10:30 AM Pentecost Sunday. (Feast of Saint Conan and His Son).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Ida Rodrick requested by Alice Daher (40-day mass). May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the Easter Flowers special Intentions.

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention. 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.

## WISH LIST EQUIPMENT FOR FESTIVAL

Dear Parishioners of OLOP:

Last year's festival was a great success for our Church, both financially and communally. As you may know, we were very fortunate to have Msgr. Jim Root and the parishioners of Saint Anthony of the Desert, who were so gracious and helpful by allowing us to use many pieces of equipment that was needed to make our festival a success.

In an effort to continue the success of our festival, we have come up with a wish list of equipment that will be of great help for the festival and other events we are planning throughout the year. You have all been so generous to the Church and as I share with you our wish list, I want to stress that it is exactly that--- a wish list. If anyone would like to donate towards any of these items, it would be a great help and very much appreciated. All of this is to assist in making our events more successful. Once again, I thank you in advance for all your support and I pray that this year's festival will be filled with much success and pride.

Dough Sheeter for Minooshe	\$ 2,200.00
Bain Marie for Sandwich Station	\$ 600.00
(1) Table Top Food Warmers(each)	\$ 200.00
(2) 6 Ft Gas Grills (each)	\$ 500.00
Falafel Fryer	\$ 250.00
Food Warmer	\$ 1,500.00
Food Warmer Trays	\$ 400.00

## LECTORS FOR JUNE 2022

**Saturday, June 4,**

Mae Dickinson

**Sunday, June 5,**

Ann Dupre/Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, June 11,**

Smitty Cabral

**Sunday, June 12,**

Joan Mello/Jano Baroudi

**Saturday, June 18,**

Rachel Higgins

Intercessions: Anna Higgins

**Sunday, June 19,**

Mae Dickinson/Gaby baroody

**Saturday, June 25,**

Carol Ann Maslanka

**Sunday, June 26,**

John Barbour /Halim Choubah

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

## CALLING ALL GRADUATES

Please inform the office if your child(ren) are graduating from High School or College this year. We would like to acknowledge them and offer a special Liturgy in their honor. Please let me know what High School they graduated from and what college they will be attending. Congratulations to all of our graduates.

## LECTORS FOR MAY 2022

**Saturday, May 28,**

Mae Dickinson

**Sunday, May 29,**

John Barbour/Halim Choubah

## WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of May is offered in memory of Anthony and Margaret Thomas requested by family. May their souls rest in peace.

## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 5/30-6/4/22

**Monday:**

Ephesians 4:1-13

John 12:20-25

**Tuesday:**

Ephesians 4:17-24

John 12:26-30

**Wednesday:**

Ephesians 4:25-32

John 12:31-36

**Thursday:**

Ephesians 5:1-7

John 12:37-43

**Friday:**

Ephesians 5:8-21

Mark 12:28-34

**Saturday:**

Ephesians 6:10-20,23-24

Matthew 5:43-48

## WEEK OF MAY 14-15, 2022

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 971.00</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>
<b>Festival Sponsorships</b>	<b>\$ 1100.00</b>
<b>Sanctuary Candles</b>	<b>\$ 50.00</b>
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	<b>\$ 30.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>\$ 27.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2678.00</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.**

# Olive Harvest LLC

Importers and Makers of Fine Olive Oil and Wines

**Chafic Maalouf**  
Founder

43 Broad Street  
Suite B306  
Hudson, MA 01749  
P: 978-261-5119  
C: 508-269-0801  
chafic@oliveharvest.com  
www.oliveharvest.com

## ROLA CHOCO DESIGNS

Rola Chedid  
(508) 971-9686  
rola\_chedid@hotmail.com



54 Emmett Ave.  
North Dartmouth, MA 02747



## CYCLONE CLEANING & RESTORATION SERVICES

- ◆ Carpets & Upholstery
- ◆ Commercial/Residential Cleaning
- ◆ Smoke/Water Damage
- ◆ Washing/Waxing/Stripping Floors

Call the company you've counted on for years - CALL CYCLONE!  
Anthony David • (508) 995-8816  
833 Mount Pleasant St. • New Bedford, MA 02745  
www.CycloneCleaning.com

# Counseling ASSOCIATES

152 Dean Street, Taunton, MA  
508-837-0790

# M & S Excavation



**Milad Maalouf**

Licensed



LAND CLEARING • SITE WORK  
ROADS • SEPTIC SYSTEMS

134 Old Westport Road  
N. Dartmouth, MA 02747

508-971-0067  
Fax 508-991-5631

**CATHOLIC RADIO**  
**88.5 FM**  
**NEW BEDFORD**



**TIRED OF FALSE NEWS? TUNE INTO THE TRUTH!**  
88.5 FM WMPW your local Catholic Radio Station.  
Listen online - wpmw.org  
NEWS- Rosary - Mass- Scripture- Education  
Get the 411 on your Faith.

[Sample bulletin block / graphic is optional / In email.]

## SALON PERSIA

308 THAYER STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI

**Wassim Chedid** 401-837-0664  
Tuesday & Saturday..... 9-12:30pm  
Wednesday & Friday..... 9-6pm

**Zakhia Chedid** 774-444-3337  
Monday & Friday..... 9-12:30pm  
Tuesday & Thursday..... 9-6pm  
Saturday..... 9-4pm

401-831-9536 • WWW.SALONPERSIA.COM

### FULL SERVICE SALON

**Wassim Chedid**  
401-837-0664  
Tuesday & Thurs  
1-6pm  
Saturday  
1-5pm



**Zakhia Chedid**  
774-444-3337  
Monday,  
Wednesday &  
Friday  
1-6pm

WWW.HEADSOFSATESALON.COM  
North Dartmouth, MA  
653 State Road (Route 6) • 508-999-0177



Joseph & Marie Kenyon

*Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD's Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing day.*

Your Loving Children

## OVER 75 YEARS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE CRAFTSMANSHIP



# DUPRE

BLOCK • BRICK • GLASS BLOCK  
BLUESTONE • FIELDSTONE • COBBLESTONE

Cutting and Core Drill • Driveways  
Steel Fabrication and Installation  
Handicap Access

**508-993-8088**

www.duprecontractors.com

369 Nash Rd. • New Bedford