



# Our Lady of Purgatory



## Maronite Catholic Church

September 24-25, 2022

### SECOND SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS

#### HAPPY AND BLESSED 40TH ANNIVERSARY SAYEDNA GREGORY



“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” Remembering these words at the ordination of Fr. Gregory Mansour 40 years ago, I have been a witness to his commitment to these sacred words he chose for his ordination day. As a relative and as a priest, I am reminded of the promise made to God on September 18, 1982, in Flint, Michigan. Bishop Gregory has remained faithful and true to his family, his priests, his flock, and Almighty God.

During our clergy meetings at the NAM Convention this past July, many priests addressed what they thought about Bishop Gregory. Many of the priests thanked him because he not only is our shepherd, but he is like a father to his priests, dealing with each of us with compassion, love, and when necessary, with a firm fatherly discipline.

We will never realize the love he has for God and His Church. We will never be able to comprehend the magnitude of his love for his priests. And we may never

realize his concern and responsibility to his flock. But one thing is certain, as we reminisce the many years of dedication Bishop Gregory has given to the Maronite Church around the world, we will all thank God for His good and faithful servant, who has and always will, “lay down his life for one’s friend.” And for this we say thank you Sayedna for caring for your flock with love and zeal. Thank you for showing us the way to holiness. May God grant you many years of good health, happiness, and peace.

#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY DEACON JEAN



On behalf of Father Vincent and the entire community of Our Lady of Purgatory, we wish Deacon Jean a very Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the occasion of his Ordination to Deacon. We thank you for all what you do for this Church and we wish you many more happy years of ministry. God bless you always.

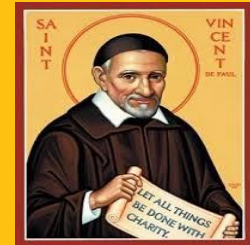
#### CALLED TO BE HOLY

Over the next several weeks we will reflect upon this quote from Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan and ask ourselves the question, how can we answer God’s call to be holy. Is this even possible with all the evil that exists around us; with all the temptations that invade our daily lives; with all the expectations to be perfect? Bishop Gerald Barbarito of the Diocese of

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“The most powerful weapon to conquer the devil is humility. For, as he does not know at all how to employ it, neither does he know how to defend himself from it.”*

Vincent de Paul



Palm Beach once said, *“we are not called to be perfect; we are called to be holy.”* I recall pondering this remark in great depth and the first thing that came to my mind was “isn’t that the same thing?” In order to be holy, one doesn’t have to be perfect. To be perfect is an absolute impossibility for each one of us. So, what does it mean to be holy and how do we achieve this state of grace?

*Called to be Holy*, written by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, will be the major reference over the next several weeks. We will take this step by step and by doing so we can begin a new routine in our daily lives that will bring us closer to Jesus Christ: to know Jesus, to love Jesus, to trust Jesus, to obey Jesus, and to serve Jesus. Cardinal William Baum once preached, “The danger...is to know about Jesus without knowing Him, to talk about Jesus but not to Him, to let experts speak of Him without letting Him speak about Himself. **A DEEP, PERSONAL, INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST IS THE FOUNDATION OF HOLINESS.**”

Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon

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

We will begin this journey to holiness with daily prayer. In our busy lives we neglect the need to take a moment to speak with Jesus. There may be days that His presence in our lives does not even exist meaning that although we love Him and honor Him, sometimes we just don't think about Him. I am not saying that we should go about our daily lives calling His name every minute of the day. However, we need to take a moment or two every day to accept His love, offer our petitions, and give thanks and praise to Him. This is how we encounter Jesus and build our deep relationship with Him. This is what He asks of us, and this is how we achieve this state of holiness that we are asked to achieve.

This coming week, take some time and spend it with Jesus. Whether it is in the Church, in the privacy of our homes or offices or in the park, sit alone and in quiet and speak to Jesus. Here are some suggestions for us to begin your journey to holiness:

1) Go into our room alone, close our eyes and speak to Jesus. Talk to Him about our concerns, our shortcomings, and our needs and let Him answer us.

2) Use devotional items such as icons, crucifixes, statues, rosaries, and prayer cards. Sometimes we are not sure how to pray. Know that prayer has many ways to communicate with Jesus. These may consist of daily mass and Eucharistic Adoration. They also include quiet time of contemplation and meditation using our own words, using Catholic prayers, or sitting in peace and quiet allowing Jesus to enter our lives and speak to us as we listen.

3) Use the daily office (Maronite Daily Office or the Latin Daily Office) and follow each day using the prayers and scripture readings assigned. Those who are ordained to Holy Orders have a duty to follow this practice. It is a way to structure our lives and to take the time we need to renew ourselves spiritually. These books may be purchased at a Catholic bookstore and the Maronite Daily Office may be purchased through our Eparchy website. This would also be a wonderful way to pray with our families as well.

I hope this new beginning of our call to holiness will inspire us and help us build a deeper and loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Next week we will focus on growing in virtues. Have a blessed week.

## FEAST OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL



St. Vincent de Paul was born to a poor peasant family in the French village of Pouy on April 24, 1581. His first formal education was provided by the Franciscans. He did so well, he was hired to tutor the children of a nearby wealthy family. He used the monies he earned teaching to continue his formal studies at the University of Toulouse where he studied theology.

He was ordained in 1600 and remained in Toulouse for a time. In 1605, while on a ship traveling from Marseilles to Narbone, he was captured, brought to Tunis and sold as a slave. Two years later he and his master managed to escape and both returned to France.

St. Vincent went to Avignon and later to Rome to continue his studies. While there he became a chaplain to the Count of Goigny and was placed in charge of distributing money to the deserving poor. He became pastor of a small parish in Clichy for a short period of time, while also serving as a tutor and spiritual director.

From that point forward he spent his life preaching missions to and providing relief to the poor. He even established hospitals for them. This work became his passion. He later extended his concern and ministry to convicts. The need to evangelize and assist these souls was so great and the demands beyond his own ability to meet that he founded the Ladies of Charity, a lay institute of woman, to help, as well as a religious institute of priests - the Congregation of Priests of the Mission, commonly referred to now as the Vincentians.

This was at a time when there were not many priests in France and what priests there were, were neither well-formed nor faithful to their way of life. Vincent

helped reform the clergy and the manner in which they were instructed and prepared for the priesthood. He did this first through the presentation of retreats and later by helping develop a precursor to our modern-day seminaries. At one point his community was directing 53 upper-level seminaries. His retreats, open to priests and laymen, were so well attended that it is said he infused a "Christian spirit among more than 20,000 persons in his last 23 years."

The Vincentians remain with us today with nearly 4,000 members in 86 countries. In addition to his order of Vincentian priests, St. Vincent cofounded the Daughters of Charity along with St. Louise de Marillac. There are more than 18,000 Daughters today serving the needs of the poor in 94 countries. He was eighty years old when he died in Paris on September 27, 1660. He had "become the symbol of the successful reform of the French Church". St. Vincent is sometimes referred to as "The Apostle of Charity" and "The Father of the Poor".

His incorrupt heart can be found in the Convent of the Sisters of Charity and his bones have been embedded in a wax effigy of the Saint located at the Church of the Lazarist Mission. Both sites are located in Paris, France.

Two miracles have been attributed to St. Vincent - a nun cured of ulcers and a laywoman cured of paralysis. As a result of the first, Pope Benedict XIII beatified him on August 13, 1729. Less than 8 years later (on June 16, 1737) he was canonized by Pope Clement XIII. The Bull of Canonization recognized Vincent for his charity and reform of the clergy, as well as for his early role in opposing Jansenism.

It has been reported that St. Vincent wrote more than 30,000 letters in his lifetime and that nearly 7,000 had been collected in the 18th century. There are at least five collections of his letters in existence today.

The feast day for St. Vincent, the patron of all charitable societies, is September 27.

[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=326](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=326)

## WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of September is offered in memory of Jean D'arc ElKhoury requested by Jacques and Amal Barbour. May her soul rest in peace.

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, September 24, @ 4:30 PM,**  
(Feast of Saint Thecla, the First Woman Martyr). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Richard and Lorraine Nader, and Ernest Coury. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Youssef and Hanneh Daher, and the living and deceased members of their family requested by Mariam David and Family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, September 25, @ 10:30 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Paphnutius the Confessor). **Remember Me Into Your Kingdom Liturgy.** Liturgy is being offered for the souls Peter and Raja Saba Bou Eassy (FM). May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Thomas Family requested by Mrs. George J. Thomas (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Monday, September 26, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint John the Evangelist). Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent. **No Liturgy.**

**Tuesday, September 27, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Saint Vincent de Paul). **No Liturgy.**

**Wednesday, September 28, @ 6:00 PM,**  
(Feast of Saint Chariton). **No Liturgy.**

**Thursday, September 29, @ 7:00 PM,**  
(Feast of Saint Romanos). **No Liturgy.**

**Saturday, October 1, @ 4:30 PM,**  
(Feast of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Doctor of the Church). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Sarkees and Frousema Peters and the deceased members of their family requested by Joann, Anthony, and Loraine David. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in Purgatory requested by Mariam David and Family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, October 2, @ 10:30 AM,**  
(Feast of Saints Cyprian and Justina). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Adel Abi Younis requested by Deacon Jean and Martha Mattar and family (40-Day Mass). May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Cherly David requested by family (FM). May her 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.

## CCD REGISTRATION TO BEGIN

As we enjoy the summer break with our families and friends, it is also time to prepare for the beginning of our CCD Program this Fall. We have begun to prepare a wonderful program for our children. As we begin to transition to our new home, our CCD program can now be offered in a facility that will entice this program to flourish and to offer our children the tools that will help them understand the importance of having God in their lives and to understand His great love for us.

CCD classes will revert to Sunday mornings after 10:30 AM Divine Liturgy. The Church Hall will provide all the necessary ingredients to allow the parents to gather for coffee and pastries while their children are having classes. The children will also be able to gather to enjoy other children in the parish. We will also provide snacks for the children during their class.

I am sure that I need not inform the parents of the importance of our CCD program. In this ever-changing secular world, it is the Churches obligation and priority to help our children understand and implement the teachings of Jesus. These teachings begin with you and we, the Church, are here to support and guide your efforts.

I pray that all of you who have children will take advantage of this opportunity. This is a commitment on your part, but a commitment that is vital and necessary in educating our children in the faith. Please be sure to sign your children up for our program. Blessings to all of you.

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Charbel Baroody requested by Jano and Philip Baroody. 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.

## LECTORS FOR SEPTEMBER

**Saturday, September 24,**

Rachel Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

**Sunday, September 25,**

Mae Dickinson / Jano Baroody

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

## SAINT THERESA MARONITE CHURCH MAHRAJAN

St. Theresa in Brockton, MA, will be having their annual Mahrajan on Friday, September 30, from 5:00 PM-11:00 PM, Saturday, October 1, from 1:00 PM-12:00 AM, and Sunday, October 2, from 12:00 Noon-6:00 PM. Please join our brothers and sisters for great food, raffles, baked goods, and live entertainment. Held on the Church grounds at 343 North Main Street, Brockton, MA, 02301.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Reggie Thomas, Helena Tavares, Angela Scorza-Anderson, Renee Helmer, Terry Amsden, Natalya Sarkis, 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

## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 9/26-10/1/22

### Monday:

Revelations 3: 1-6  
Matthew 10: 16-22

### Tuesday:

Revelations 3: 7-13  
Matthew 11: 20-24

### Wednesday:

Revelations 3: 14-22  
Matthew 12: 29-32

### Thursday:

Revelations 4: 1-11  
Matthew 12: 33-37

### Friday:

Revelations 5:1-10  
Matthew 12: 38-42

### Saturday:

Revelations 6:9-17  
Matthew 12: 43-45

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2022

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
<b>OLOF Fund</b>	<b>\$ 250.00</b>
<b>Memorial</b>	<b>\$ 225.00</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$ 190.00</b>
<b>Coffee hour</b>	<b>\$ 22.00</b>
<b>Sanctuary Candle</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>\$ 48.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,745.00</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.

# SOLAVIE

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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

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