



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



October 1-2, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS

CALLED TO BE HOLY

Last week we began our journey to holiness by taking time for ourselves to pray to Jesus; to thank Him for His love and sacrifice to us. This week we will begin with growing in virtues that leads us to holiness. The first of these virtues is faith. What is faith? What does it mean to have faith?

In the Epistle to the Hebrews from St. Paul, we are told that “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” How do we obtain this faith that says it is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen? Catholicism has been given to us from God through faith and through revelation. Much of our faith has been revealed to us from God by sending His Only Begotten Son to us in His human nature. Jesus Christ revealed to us who God the Father is and He also revealed to us the precepts and teachings so that we may be His followers. This was achieved through His ministry which was passed on to the apostles. It was through his suffering, his death, and His resurrection that we have been assured of this Truth. Most of our belief in God has been revealed.

Now what about faith? It is through what has been revealed to us by Jesus Christ that we are able to obtain the faith we need to understand those things that cannot be explained because of our human limitations. “Faith, of course, has as its object, not propositions and doctrines directly, but a person, namely Jesus the Christ. We believe in Him, and thence flows our belief in what He

and His Church have taught.” (Cardinal Timothy Dolan)

An example of faith would be that of children. As Cardinal Dolan has beautifully exemplified, the faith that children have in their parents as infants or older is not rational but spontaneous and natural, part of their being. When they cry, you will come; when they are scared, you will hold them; when they are hungry, you will feed them; when they are lonely, you will hold them. In short, faith is part of our being and it is a grace that is given to us freely from God if we allow it to penetrate our lives. Most people who have faith really don’t think about it on a daily basis. This usually happens when life is going well, the family is healthy, the children are doing well in school, and life just seems to be going well. But the minute something tragic happens or life becomes so overwhelming for us, we fall back on our faith with much passion and much conviction. Sometimes this faith is questioned; sometimes we may ask ourselves do we really have faith if we are thinking this way or that way? Do we really have faith when we question God where He was or why we may feel abandoned?

Thomas Merton, a Trappist Monk, at probably a very trying moment in his life wrote the following:

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And

I hope I have that desire in all I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face the perils alone.”

With faith we are people of prayer; people who rely on the grace of God in times of trials and tribulations; people who are passionate and kind to others; people who have peace and joy. St. Augustine had said “when our faith sleeps, we are in danger.” That is why we need prayer, we need the sacraments, we need sacred scriptures, and we need Jesus Christ.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Without Him, we can do nothing; with Him, nothing is impossible. Everything we embark upon is for, with, through, and because of Jesus Christ.”

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan



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.

FEAST OF SAINT THERESE OF LISIEUX



On October 1, Catholics around the world honor the life of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, or St. Thérèse of Lisieux on her feast day. St. Thérèse was born January 2, 1873, in Alençon, France to pious parents, both of whom are scheduled to be canonized in October 2016. Her mother died when she was four, leaving her father and elder sisters to raise her.

On Christmas Day 1886 St. Thérèse had a profound experience of intimate union with God, which she described as a "complete conversion." Almost a year later, in a papal audience during a pilgrimage to Rome, in 1887, she asked for and obtained permission from Pope Leo XIII to enter the Carmelite Monastery at the young age of 15.

On entering, she devoted herself to living a life of holiness, doing all things with love and childlike trust in God. She struggled with life in the convent but decided to make an effort to be charitable to all, especially those she didn't like. She performed little acts of charity always, and little sacrifices not caring how unimportant they seemed. These acts helped her come to a deeper understanding of her vocation. She wrote in her autobiography that she had always dreamed of being a missionary, an Apostle, a martyr – yet she was a nun in a quiet cloister in France. How could she fulfill these longings?

"Charity gave me the key to my vocation. I understood that the Church had a Heart and that this Heart was burning with love. I knew that one love drove the members of the Church to action, that if this love were extinguished, the apostles would have proclaimed the Gospel no longer, the

martyrs would have shed their blood no more. I understood that Love comprised all vocations, that Love was everything, that it embraced all times and places...in a word, that it was eternal! Then in the excess of my delirious joy, I cried out: O Jesus, my Love...my vocation, at last I have found it...My vocation is Love!" Thérèse offered herself as a sacrificial victim to the merciful Love of God on June 9, 1895, the feast of the Most Holy Trinity and the following year, on the night between Holy Thursday and Good Friday, she noticed the first symptoms of Tuberculosis, the illness which would lead to her death.

Thérèse recognized in her illness the mysterious visitation of the divine Spouse and welcomed the suffering as an answer to her offering the previous year. She also began to undergo a terrible trial of faith which lasted until her death a year and a half later. "Her last words, 'My God, I love you,' are the seal of her life," said Pope John Paul II. Since her death, millions have been inspired by her 'little way' of loving God and neighbor. Many miracles have been attributed to her intercession. She had predicted during her earthly life that "My Heaven will be spent doing good on Earth."

Saint Thérèse was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II in 1997 - 100 years after her death at the age of 24. She is only the third woman to be so proclaimed, after Saint Catherine of Siena and Saint Teresa of Avila.

St. Thérèse wrote once, 'You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them.'

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.

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.

LEBANON NEEDS OUR HELP

Bishop Michel Aoun has called upon Bishop Gregory and the people of the United States for help in the Eparchy of Jbeil. Bishop Aoun is asking anyone who can assist his Eparchy, to please send a check payable to the Eparchy of Saint Maron, 109 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11201, and earmark the memo "Eparchy of Jbeil-Bishop Aoun. I know he, along with the people of Lebanon will be very grateful for your assistance. Thank you in advance for your support and love.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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 her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Cherly David requested by family (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

Monday, October 3, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Dionysius the Areopagite, Feast of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin). Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent.

Tuesday, October 4, @ 9:00 AM, (Saint Francis of Assisi).

Wednesday, October 5, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Paul the Simple, Feast of the Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of George Morad requested by the family (FM). May his soul rest in peace.

Thursday, October 6, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle).

Saturday, October 8, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Pelagia of Antioch). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Henry Hardy and Jesse Moreno requested by Subdeacon Joe Abraham and Carol Ann Maslanka. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for all the soul of Michael David requested by the Macedo Family (FM). May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, October 9, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saints James, Brother of the Lord). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Norma Sylvia requested by Parish. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Salma Joseph requested by family (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of October is offered in memory of Joseph Daher requested by Alice Daher. May his soul rest in peace.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Samir and Georgette Sawaya requested by Hiba and Zakhia Chdid. 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 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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 10/3-10/8/22

Monday:

Revelations 7: 9-17
Matthew 24: 32- 44

Tuesday:

Revelations 10: 1-11
Luke 6: 20-26

Wednesday:

Revelations 11: 1-12
Luke 5: 33-39

Thursday:

Revelations 12: 1-12
Luke 21: 34-38

Friday:

Revelations 13:1,2b-4,6-7,11-12,15-18
John 5: 17-23

Saturday:

Revelations 14:1-8,13
John 5: 24-30

LECTORS FOR OCTOBER

Saturday, October 1,

Annmarie Espindola

Intercessions: Annmarie Espindola

Sunday, October 2,

Mae Dickinson /Gaby Baroody

Saturday, October 8,

John kalife/ Hiba Chdid

Intercessions: Amal Baroody,

Mae Dickinson & Smitty Cabral

Sunday, October 9,

Ann Dupre /Jano Baroody

Saturday, October 15,

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, October 16,

John Barbour / Halim Choubah

Saturday, October 22,

Rachel Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, October 23,

Ann Dupre / Rana Choubah

Saturday, October 29,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

Sunday, October 30,

Mae Dickinson/ Jano Baroody

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

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 AliceDaher. If anyone is missing from this list, please contact the Church office.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2022

Sunday Collection	\$ 995.00
Coffee hour	\$ 14.00
Candles	\$ 48.00
Total	\$ 1,057.00

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.

SOLAVIE

SKINCARE SUITE



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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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