



# Our Lady of Purgatory



## Maronite Catholic Church

December 3-4, 2022

### SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST



#### Gospel Reflection for the Birth of John the Baptist

I'm sure that there have been many times when we have been asked by a friend or a family member to do something or to deliver a message for them. Today, as we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist, we are remembering someone who was called by God to deliver a message and a man who took this mission very seriously. John is often called the last of the Old Testament Prophets. What does this mean? The prophets were God's messengers. They spoke to the People of Israel in a very specific way. They reminded them of the covenant or agreement that God made with them. God freed them from slavery in Egypt and assured them that they would see the Promised Land. God said to them, *'I will be your God and you will be my people.'* This promise guided and nourished the people for generations. Over time, however, they forgot all that God had done for them. The prophets came to help them to remember their past and to look to the future with hope. God was always with them, and God will always be with them.

John appeared in the desert with a new and radical message; the long awaited and promised Messiah was coming, get ready and prepare for him. John was only the messenger; he himself was not the

Messiah. His role was to point to Jesus, to lead people to Jesus and to prepare people for Jesus. John was the messenger in time; Jesus is the Word for eternity.

As one gospel tells us, John gave his life 'to testify to the light.' He was not worthy to touch the sandals of Jesus. John also gave his life as he prepared a way for the Lord. As John reminded the people of the promise God made to them, he also challenged the way they were living and treating each other. They had broken the covenant God made with them. The role of the prophet is to preach the word of God without fear and without compromise. In our own time we think of Maximilian Kolbe who gave his life for another prisoner in Auschwitz concentration camp. We think of Martin Luther King who gave his life for racial equality and justice. We remember St. Teresa of Calcutta who spent her whole life serving and loving the poorest people on earth. We recall Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, who is to be canonized in October. He was shot murdered while he said mass because of his concern the poor and justice for them. These and countless other nameless men and women are modern John the Baptist's. They challenge us and they too point and lead us to Jesus.

More than likely, none of us will be asked to give our lives for the gospel. But we are all asked to be messengers by God. Each of us is asked to live, share and proclaim the good with courage and conviction. We are called to live a prophetic life. We are to be inspired, encouraged and challenged by John the Baptist, prophet and messenger of God.

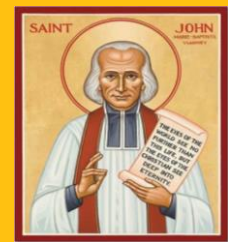
Michael Moore OMI

<https://oblates.ie/gospel-reflection-for-the-birth-of-john-the-baptist/>

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Let us live as the Blessed Virgin lived: loving God only, desiring God only, trying to please God only in all that we do."*

*Saint John Vianney*



#### 2022 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We are preparing for our annual Christmas Pageant, gathering our young children to tell us the story of the Birth of Jesus. We will be sending out information to all of you. I hope that most of our children will be a part of this great tradition at OLOP. This will be held on Saturday, December 10, at the Church and a Christmas Party immediately following. Please mark your calendars now.

This year, the proceeds for the Angel Project will go to the Eparchy of Jbeil to assist those people in need. This money will be sent to Sayedna Michel Aoun to assist those in most need.

#### ANGEL PROGRAM

Will you consider being an Angel for our Children's Christmas Pageant? The proceeds of the Angel Program will benefit the children's pageant and the other half will be sent to Bishop Aoun, the Bishop of Jbeil, to help the needy in his Eparchy. Please fill out a form that is located at the entrances of the Church. Thank you for your generosity.

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

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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.

## FEAST DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It came to the West in the eighth century. In the 11th century it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. In the 18th century it became a feast of the universal Church. It is now recognized as a solemnity.

In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin."

It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life. This is one of the Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians. Even such champions of Mary as Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas Aquinas could not see theological justification for this teaching.

Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary's Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus' redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus' work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset.

## Reflection

In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God's behalf, addresses Mary as "full of grace" or "highly favored". In that context, this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for the task ahead. However, the Church grows in understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit led the Church, especially non-theologians, to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. Or rather, Mary's intimate association with the Incarnation called for the special involvement of God in Mary's whole life.

The logic of piety helped God's people to believe that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. Moreover, this great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus. Rightly understood, the incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/solemnity-of-the-immaculate-conception/>

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Efrangieh Daou, Lisa Mello-Frost, Reggie Thomas, Peter Helmer, Renee Helmer, Natalya Sarkis, Octavia David, Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Angela Scorza-Anderson, 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.

## CHRISTMAS NOVENA SCHEDULE

**Thursday, December 15,**  
Divine Liturgy: 6:30 PM,  
Novena: 7:00 PM

**Friday, December 16,**  
Divine Liturgy: 6:30 PM,  
Novena: 7:00 PM

**Saturday, December 17,**  
Divine Liturgy: 4:30 PM,  
Novena: 5:30 PM

**Sunday, December 18,**  
Divine Liturgy: 10:30 AM,  
Novena: 11:30 AM

**Monday, December 19,**  
Divine Liturgy: 6:30 PM,  
Novena: 7:00 PM

**Tuesday, December 20,**  
Divine Liturgy: 6:30 PM,  
Novena: 7:00 PM

**Wednesday, December 21,**  
Divine Liturgy: 6:30 PM,  
Novena: 7:00 PM

**Thursday, December 22,**  
Divine Liturgy: 6:30 PM,  
Novena: 7:00 PM

**Friday, December 23,**  
Divine Liturgy: 6:30 PM,  
Novena: 7:00 PM

## DIVINE LITURGY TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

**Saturday, December 24,**  
5:00 PM


**Sunday, December 25,**  
10:30 AM

## CONFESSION


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

Join  
**BISHOP GREGORY J. MANSOUR**  
**FR. VINCENT FARHAT**  
&  
**OUR LADY OF PURGATORY PARISH**  
*to pray the Rosary*  
*for our faithful departed*  
**EVERY THURSDAY**  
**5:00PM - VIA ZOOM**

*May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace*



Scan the QR code  
to join the meeting



Meeting ID:  
890 3889 9691



## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 3, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Francis Xavier).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Katheline Kalife requested by Subdeacon Joseph Abraham and Carol Ann Maslanka. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls in Purgatory requested by Marie Kenyon. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the living and deceased family members of Mariam David and family.

**Sunday, December 4, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint James Intercissus).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Dupre requested his family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Moses P. and Annie Moses (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Monday, December 5, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Saba the Hermit).** Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent. Liturgy is being offered to the souls in Purgatory requested by Mariam David and family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Tuesday, December 6, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Nicholas (Zakhia)).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of David P. Sylvia requested by Yvonne Sylvia (FM). May his soul rest in peace.

**Wednesday, December 7, @ 7:00 PM, (Feast of The Immaculate Conception, Feast of Saint Ambrose, Doctor of the Church).**

**Thursday, December 8, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of The Immaculate Conception).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Saeed Mantaha, Steve Morad and Clair Branco requested by family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Saturday, December 10, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Pope Saint Miltiades).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Louis Eyde requested by Farhat Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Bashara and Helena John and their son John, and for Thomas Farris requested by Helena Tavares and family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, December 11, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Daniel the Stylite).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Estephan Diab requested by Jacques and Amal Barbour. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of John and Alda Pinto requested by Fatima DaSilva. May their souls rest in peace.

## MEDICINE DRIVE FOR LEBANON

The MYA is reaching out for your support in an initiative to help get medicine and aid to our home country Lebanon. We have teamed up with the NGO [Medonations](#) to gather medicine and supplies for Lebanon.

Medonations was started by Marina Khawand, a young Maronite that is dedicating her time and work to help provide healthcare access to those in need. She is responsible for starting a brand-new FREE clinic where countless physicians and doctors have pledged to volunteer time at. In order for this organization to continue their amazing work, they need our help.

We are asking Parishes to sponsor a Drop Box at their church where the local community can donate medicine/supplies. Christophe and Emmanuel Chedid have offered to head this drive. We will have a box at the Church for you to bring these medications. I have listed the list from the MYA Office:

**Esomeprazole- Maalox- Lansoprazole- Omeprazole- Pantoprazole- Aspirin 81MG- Naprozen- Loratadine- Fluticasone Nasal- Nasacort Nasal- Cough Syrup for Kids and Adults- Cobalin B12- Calcium- Vitamin D- Kids Vitamins Gummies- Iron- Vitamin B Complex- Vitamin C Glucosamine MSM- Rantidine- Hot and Cold Packs- First Aid Kits- Accu Check- Performa/Guide Strips- Gloves.**

Thank you all for your help.

## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 12/5-12/10/22

### Monday:

Romans 9: 1-5

Luke 1: 67-80

### Tuesday:

Romans 9: 6-13

Matthew 11: 11-15

### Wednesday:

Romans 9: 14-18

Matthew 17: 9-13

### Thursday:

Hebrews 7: 11-17

Luke 11: 27-32

### Friday:

Romans 9:30-33

Matthew 11: 16-19

### Saturday:

Romans 10: 1-13

John 5:31-36

## WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of December is offered in memory of Estephan Diab requested by Jacques and Amal Barbour. May his soul rest in peace.

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns in memory for a special intention requested by Rose David. 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 DECEMBER

### Saturday, December 3,

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

### Sunday, December 4,

Mae Dickinson/Jano Baroody

### Wednesday, December 7,

Mae Dickinson/ Jano Baroody

### Saturday, December 10,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

### Sunday, December 11,

Ann Dupre/Gaby Baroody

### Saturday, December 17,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

### Sunday, December 18,

John Barbour/ Halim Choubah

### Saturday, December 24,

Ann Dupre/ Hiba Chdid

### Sunday, December 25,

Jano Baroody /TBA

### Saturday, December 31,

Annemarie Espindola/Gaby baroody

### Sunday, January 1,

Mae Dickinson/ Hiba Chdid

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

## WEEK OF NOVEMBER

### 26-27, 2022

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,190.00
OLOF Fund	\$ 500.00
Angel program	\$ 240.00
Bazaar Food	\$ 207.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 86.00
Candles	\$ 24.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,247.00</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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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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