



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

December 31, 2022-January 1, 2023

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD THE CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I wish each of you a very Happy and Blessed New Year filled with good health, happiness and peace. Every New Year gives us an opportunity to reflect on our lives, our faith, and those who surround us throughout the year. January 1st is a Holy Day of Obligation commemorating the Circumcision of our Lord and it is also a universal day of prayer for World Peace. This day of prayer is not only intended for peace in the world but also peace in our lives and peace in our relationships with others. You have heard me say numerous times that we must live today as if it is our last. What do we want our last moments to be like? Do we want them to be filled with anger, resentment, hurt, or pain? Will we be at peace if we are filled with all these negative feelings that separate us not only from those around us but also from God? How do we get past them?

Those we have loved and who have hurt us in some way or another were people who meant so much to us at one time. It is because of this great love that the depth of our pain is so great. Kahlil Gibran says it well---“**Love knows not its own depth until the hour of separation.**” How poignant are these words. If we have truly loved, then we can find it in ourselves to rediscover these feelings once again. If we truly understand human nature and we know that we are weak and culpable of making wrong decisions, of saying things we regret, of acting in a way that we would have thought twice about, then we would understand that each of

us are in need of forgiveness and a new beginning. New Years is the time to make this new beginning.

As we celebrate the universal day of prayer for peace, may we begin with ourselves. Each of us needs to take a moment to reflect on our relationship with others and to bring back the love that once permeated our lives. Do not let another year go by with anger, resentment, hurt, and pain. This inner peace is attainable first by recognizing our own failures and shortcomings and then putting aside our pride and reestablishing our relationships with those who were once dear to us. By doing so we build upon something special that was once a part of our lives and only then will we find the peace that each of us yearn for.

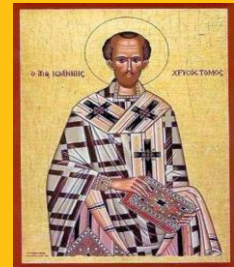
Our Church, the Church that Jesus established and intended, is a Church filled with graces; a Church filled with the love and presence of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to remember this very important fact. To deprive ourselves of these graces because of broken relationships is to deprive ourselves of allowing God to work through us. **WE MUST TRUST THAT IN GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.** My prayer for all of us is that we put aside everything that separates us from the love of God and the love of others. My prayer for all of us is to have an inner peace so that if we are called from this life, we may go, knowing that nothing was left unsaid, an act was not left undone, and that our lives were enriched because of our faith in God and the people in our lives. May 2023 be filled with these prayers and may we continue to grow together as a community and family of faith. God bless you.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body.

As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die.”

Saint Peter Chrysologus



SAVE THE DATES:

- Feast of the Epiphany, Thursday, **January 5, 2023**, at 7:00 PM, and Friday, **January 6, 2023**, at 9:00 AM. Divine Liturgies for Holy Day of Obligation.
- Saint Maron’s Day Hafli, Saturday, **February 4, 2023**, beginning at 7:30 PM.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention requested by Hiba 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.

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

Email: 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.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE

World Day of Peace, celebrated on January 1 every year, is primarily a Catholic feast day dedicated to universal peace on the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. On this occasion, Popes generally make authoritative declarations on the Catholic Social Teachings (C.S.T.). The theme of the feast has always been about creating a culture of care. The Pope and the Vatican Church stress the need to care and share tolerance for each other, and to create a society that focuses on good moral values and does not yield to the temptation to disregard others. The benefits of a peaceful society have been the emphasis of every year's World Day of Peace.

World Day of Peace began in 1967 when Pope Paul VI announced that the world needs to be sensitized and oriented for peace and understanding. Inspired by the papal letters "Pacem in Terris" and "Populorum Progressio", the Pope recommended that the church play a greater role in our search for world peace, and so this day, January 1, was appointed as a holy day to celebrate efforts for world peace.

According to the letters "Pacem in Terris" and "Populorum Progressio," the Church and the Pope would focus on working toward achieving peace by developing order in four major areas: The relationship of an individual with other human beings, the relationship of an individual with particular states, the relationship of states among states, and the relationship of individuals and states with the worldwide community. The church determined that in order to achieve actual peace, a culture of understanding and tolerance must be developed, beginning from the individual up to the state and then the global level.

Though the main theme of World Day of Peace does not change (creating a culture of care), Keeping the main theme around every year's observance of World Day of Peace fixated around the concept of creating a culture of care, the sub-themes changes every year to match the needs and rising issues of that year. The sub-theme for 2020 was 'Hope,' which came as a tribute to the world's suffering from COVID-19.

<https://nationaltoday.com/world-day-of-peace/>

CONFESSION

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

The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ---God Reveals Himself to Us

The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the oldest Christian feasts, though, throughout the centuries, it has celebrated a variety of things. *Epiphany* comes from a Greek verb meaning "to reveal," and all of the various events celebrated by the Feast of the Epiphany are revelations of Christ to man.

History

Like many of the most ancient Christian feasts, Epiphany was first celebrated in the East, where it has been held from the beginning almost universally on January 6. Today, among both Eastern Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, the feast is known as Theophany—the revelation of God to man.

A Fourfold Feast

Epiphany originally celebrated four different events, in the following order of importance: the Baptism of the Lord; Christ's first miracle, the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana; the Nativity of Christ; and the visitation of the Wise Men or Magi.

Each of these is a revelation of God to man: At Christ's Baptism, the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God the Father is heard, declaring that Jesus is His Son; at the wedding in Cana, the miracle reveals Christ's divinity; at the Nativity, the angels bear witness to Christ, and the shepherds, representing the people of Israel, bow down before Him; and at the visitation of the Magi, Christ's divinity is revealed to the Gentiles—the other nations of the earth.

The End of Christmastide

Eventually, the celebration of the Nativity was separated out, in the West, into Christmas; and shortly thereafter, Western Christians adopted the Eastern feast of the Epiphany, still celebrating the Baptism, the first miracle, and the visit from the Wise Men.

Thus, Epiphany came to mark the end of Christmastide—the Twelve Days of Christmas, which began with the revelation of Christ to Israel in His Birth and ended with the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles at Epiphany.

Over the centuries, the various celebrations were further separated in the West, and now the Baptism of the Lord is

celebrated on the Sunday after January 6, and the wedding at Cana is commemorated on the Sunday after the Baptism of the Lord.

Epiphany Customs

In many parts of Europe, the celebration of Epiphany is at least as important as the celebration of Christmas. In Italy and other Mediterranean countries, Christians exchange gifts on Epiphany—the day on which the Wise Men brought their gifts to the Christ Child—while in Northern Europe, it's not unusual to give gifts on both Christmas and Epiphany (often with smaller gifts on each of the twelve days of Christmas in between).

<http://catholicism.about.com/od/holydaysandholidays/p/Epiphany.htm>

WITH GRATITUDE AND THANKS

My Dear Parishioners and Friends of OLOP:

I would like to take this time to thank all of you for the warm Christmas messages, cards, well wishes, and gifts that you extended to me. More importantly, I thank you for the beautiful celebration of the Birth of our Lord. Those who attended the novena and assisted with your beautiful voices, those who helped decorate the Church, to the choir members who worked hard to bring such beautiful music for Jesus, to the children who participated in the Christmas pageant, to those who served the altar, and to all of you for being part of this wonderful community.

I wish all of you the joy, love, and peace that our Lord's birth brings and to a happy, healthy, and fruitful new year for your families and for the community of Our Lady of Purgatory Church. God bless all of you.

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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 31, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Zoticus). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Fred Thomas, Joao and Fernanda Baptista, Mena Carvalho and Edigio Baptista requested by Fernanda Thomas. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, January 1, @ 10:30 AM, New Year's Day, (Feast of Saints Basil and Gregory, Doctors of the Church). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Thomas David by Matt and Cathy Thomas and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nancy David requested by family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nancy Maroun requested by family. May her soul rest in peace.

Monday, January 2, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Pope Saint Silvester I).

Tuesday, January 3, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Malachi the Prophet).

Wednesday, January 4, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Pope Saint Caius, Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton).

Thursday, January 5, @ 7:00 PM, Vigil of the Glorious Epiphany, (Feast of Saint Paul, the First Hermit, Feast of Saint John Neumann).

Friday, January 6, @ 9:00 AM Feast of the Glorious Epiphany.

Saturday, January 7, @ 4:30 PM, (Praises of Saint John the Baptist). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Walter and Janet Lalor requested by Jim Thomas and family. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, January 8, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Carterius the Priest). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Samir and Georgette Sawaya requested by Zakhia and Hiba Chdid. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Chomak family requested by Mary Ann Chomak and family. May their souls rest in peace.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of January is offered in memory of Mansour Barbour requested by Norma Barbour and family. May his soul rest in peace.

LECTORS FOR JANUARY

Saturday, December 31, 2022
Annemarie Espindola /Gaby Baroody

Sunday, January 1, 2023
Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

Saturday, January 7,
Rachael Higgins
Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, January 8,
Ann Dupre /Gaby Baroody

Saturday, January 14,
Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral
Sunday, January 15,

John Barbour / Halim Choubah
Saturday, January 21,

Mae Dickinson
Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, January 22,
Ann Dupre / Gaby Baroody

Saturday, January 28,
Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola
Sunday, January 29,

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

SAINT MARON HAFLI

The Saint Maron Hafli tickets are on sale now. Please reserve yours by calling:

The Church Office @ 508-996-8934
Or

Sousou Maalouf @ 508-916-1523

WONDERING IF THE LORD IS CALLING YOU TO THE MARONITE PRIESTHOOD? MEN AGED 18-40 ARE INVITED FOR A WEEKEND OF FELLOWSHIP, PRAYER & DISCUSSION.

SPEAK, LORD, FOR YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING.

(1 SAM. 3:10)

MARCH 24-26
2023

MARONITE SEMINARY
WASHINGTON, DC

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED
PLEASE RSVP AT (202) 723-8831 OR MARONITESEMINARY@COMCAST.NET

WEEK OF DECEMBER 24-25, 2022

Sunday Collection	\$ 3,145.00
Donations	\$ 300.00
Total	\$ 3,445.00

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.

Our Lady of Purgatory Church
**Saint Maron's
Feast Day Hafli**
Saturday, February 4, 2023
at
Our Future Home
(Formerly Our Lady of Fatima Church)
4256 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, MA. 02745

Cash Bar & Mezza
@ 7:30 PM
Dinner Served
@ 8:30 PM

Dance Floor Seating: \$85.00
General Seating: \$75.00
Children (12 -17): \$40.00
Children (under 12yrs.): No Charge

For Ticket Sales Contact:
Church Office: (508) 996-8934
Sousou Maalouf: (508) 916-1523

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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.

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