



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

December 10-11, 2022

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD REVELATION TO JOSEPH



FEAST OF SAINT NEMTALLAH EL-HARDINI

Youssef Kassab Al-Hardini was born in 1808 in Hardin, Lebanon. As a child, he was strongly influenced by the monastic tradition of the Maronite Church. Four of his brothers became priests or monks, and Youssef himself entered the Lebanese Maronite Order in 1828. The young man began religious life at the monastery of St Anthony in Qozhaya, near the Qadisha (Holy Valley), where he remained for two years until he began his novitiate and was given the name "Nemtallah". During the novitiate, he deepened his life of personal and community prayer and dedicated time to manual labor, while also learning to bind books.

Love for the Blessed Sacrament Nemtallah was especially noted for his love of the Blessed Sacrament. During his free time - frequently at the sacrifice of sleep - he was often found in the chapel on his knees, arms raised in the form of a cross, and eyes fixed on the tabernacle.

On 14 November 1830 he made his religious profession and was sent to the monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in

Kfifan to study philosophy and theology. On 25 December 1833 he was ordained a priest and became director of the scholasticate and a professor.

During the two civil wars of 1840 and 1845, he suffered greatly with his people. His brother, Fr Elisha, suggested he withdraw to a hermitage, but he replied: "Those who struggle for virtue in community life will have greater merit".

He observed that the ordinary, everyday life is a continuous martyrdom, since the monk must always be a model to his brother monks, guarding himself from becoming a source of scandal; instead, the hermit lives alone, away from all external temptations. It was also a decisive moment in his spiritual life, and he offered himself to God for Lebanon and his Order. His motto was: "The greatest is he that can save his soul", and he would often repeat this to his brother monks.

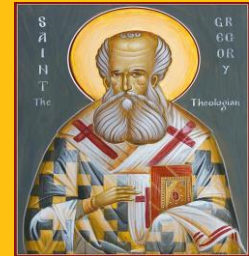
The "first concern" of a monk Fr Nemtallah was at times also reprimanded by his superiors for being too hard on himself and too merciful and indulgent towards his brothers. He understood holiness in terms of communion and fraternal charity and is said to have remarked: "A monk's first concern, night and day, should be not to hurt or trouble his brother monks". Throughout his life he had a special devotion to the Virgin Mary, his "source of strength". He never tired of repeating her holy name and carried a special place in his heart for the mystery of the Immaculate Conception (a dogma proclaimed by the Church in 1854). After the Angelus he would often repeat: "Blessed be the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin".

In 1845 the Holy See appointed him Assistant General of the order. A man of

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could."

St. Gregory Nazianzen



culture, Fr Nemtallah asked the Superior General to send monks to further their studies at the new college founded by the Jesuits in Ghazir.

A truly humble man of God He served as Assistant General for two more terms but refused to be appointed Abbot General: "Better death than to be appointed Superior General", he is reported as saying.

His reluctance to assume positions of authority in his Order came from his deep humility and his earnest belief that he was far from living in continual contact with God, so necessary to properly serve the monks and the Order. Even when he was Assistant General, he remained humble, refusing to have a special servant accompany him and attend to his personal needs, as was the custom in the Order at the time.

"O Mary, I entrust my soul to you" In December 1858, while teaching at the monastery of Kfifan, he became gravely ill, a result of the bitter cold in that region.

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.

His condition worsened, leading to his death on 14 December. He died holding an icon of the Blessed Virgin and saying: "O Mary, to you I entrust my soul". He was 50 years old. When the then Patriarch Boulos Massad heard of Fr Nemtallah's death, he commented: "Congratulations to this monk who knew how to benefit from his monastic life".

While still alive, Fr Nemtallah was known as the "Saint of Kfifan", a monk who gave himself completely to his brother monks and neighbors during a time of suffering in his Land and difficulty within his Order. Fr Nemtallah was beatified by Pope John Paul II on 10 May 1998.

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

At times it can be helpful to speak openly and thoroughly to God about what we experience in life. You may feel compelled to talk and talk and talk. And God will listen. But there are other times when words seem quite insufficient. In fact, there are times when words appear to be counterproductive. In those moments the greatest blessings come through silence. We must realize that silence is a language. In fact, communication with God, in moments of silence, has potential to be far deeper than words can bring us. Do not be afraid of silent communication with God. Do not feel as though you must speak or even hear what He has to say. Simply being silent, in His presence, knowing that He is there may be exactly what your soul is in need of in those moments (See *Diary* #1200).

When you pray, do you feel as though you must speak continuously to our Lord? Do you feel as though you must talk continuously, saying this prayer or that one? Or are you content simply being in His presence in the silence? Ponder today your experience of being silent in the presence of God. Try to discern the unique and profound language God speaks this way. Try to commit yourself to these prolonged moments of silent communication with God and then look at the fruit they bear in your soul. If you discover that you are more at peace, gain a new level of clarity in life, or have grown in a certain confidence, then you can be assured that these good fruits in your life have come to you from God through the Mercy of His Heart, communicated to you in silence.

Lord, I desire to seek You and know You. Help me to hear You speak through

the silence. Help me to understand this deep language of love and to allow You to transform me through this form of prayer. I love You, dear Lord, and I desire to rest in Your Heart. Jesus, I trust in You.

<https://divinemeracy.life/2018/07/16/reflection-233-the-response-of-silence-2/>

MEDICINE DRIVE FOR THE 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.

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.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday, December 13, we will gather for Eucharistic Adoration at 6:00 PM. This is an opportunity to spend some time with Jesus and ask for His help. Mark your calendars and please join us for this beautiful service.

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

SAVE THE DATES:

- Children's Christmas Pageant Saturday evening, **December 10**, with reception following at the Lebanese Center.
- Christmas Novena, beginning Thursday, **December 15 through December 23**, beginning at 7:00 PM, following Divine Liturgy which begins at 6:30 PM.
- Saint Maron's Day Hafli, Saturday, **February 4, 2023**, beginning at 7:30 PM.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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 Elias Irani requested by family (40- Day Mass). May his soul rest in peace. 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.

Monday, December 12, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Feast of Saints Spiridion the Wonderworker). Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent. Liturgy is being offered to the soul of Ann Farhat requested by family. May her soul rest in peace.

Tuesday, December 13, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Lucy). Liturgy is being offered for the souls in Purgatory requested by Mariam David and family. May Their souls rest in peace.

Wednesday, December 14, @ 7:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Nemtallah El-Hardini). Liturgy is being offered for the healing of Abouna Tanios Abi Ramia requested by Mariam David and family.

Thursday, December 15, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Eleutherius and His Mother). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mark Moses requested by Mr. and Mrs. George Moses. May his soul rest in peace.

Saturday, December 17, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of The Three Young Men: Ananias, Azarias and Misael). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of John David requested by Mariam David and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nazira Saba requested by Annemarie Espindola (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, December 18, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Daniel the Prophet). Remember me in your kingdom Liturgy. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Jose DaSilva requested by Fatima DaSilva and family. May his soul rest in peace.

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 for the living and deceased members of John and Melvina David family requested by Mariam David and family. 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.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 12/12-12/17/22

Monday:

Romans 10: 14-21
John 7: 1-10

Tuesday:

Romans 11: 1-12
John 7: 11-18

Wednesday:

Romans 11: 13-24
John 7: 25-30

Thursday:

Romans 11: 25-36
John 7: 31-36

Friday:

Romans 12:1-8
John 7: 37-44

Saturday:

Romans 12: 9-21
John 7: 45-53

LECTORS FOR DECEMBER

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 DECEMBER 3-4, 2022

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,664.00
On-line Giving	\$ 1,593.48
Christmas Flowers	\$ 160.00
OLOF Fund	\$ 1000.00
Angel program	\$ 50.00
Bazaar Food	\$ 204.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 84.00
Candles	\$ 52.00
Total	\$ 4,807.48

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.

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*



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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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