



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



January 21-22, 2023

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS EPIPHANY

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

RESPECTING THE GIFT OF LIFE

This week, we especially remember all the lives that were taken because of abortion, and we pray for their beautiful and innocent souls. We also remember and pray for the men and women who made the decision to eradicate the life of their unborn child. The sadness and guilt that many of them feel stays with them their entire lives and we must show them compassion and give them hope.

Life is a gift from God, and we must respect life from conception to natural death. We must also promote ways for helping women who are in this difficult predicament and to give viable options to promote the dignity of life. Saint Pope John Paul II stated in his encyclical letter *Evangelium Vitae* (EV), the Gospel of Life: *“As well as the mother, there are often other people too who decide upon the death of the child in the womb. In the first place, the father of the child may be to blame, not only when he directly pressures the woman to have an abortion, but also when he indirectly encourages such a decision on her part by leaving her alone to face the problems of pregnancy. ... Nor can one overlook the pressures which sometimes come from the wider family circle and from friends. Sometimes the woman is subjected to such strong pressure that she feels psychologically forced to have an abortion: certainly, in this case the moral responsibility lies particularly with those who have directly or indirectly obliged her to have an abortion. (EV, 59) I would like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The*

Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. (EV, 99)” This is why we must show compassion and help them realize they are not alone.

So, every day and especially this week, let us remember the hundreds of thousands of innocent voices that have been silenced by abortion. Let us also continue to pray for everyone involved, that they may see the unborn child as a gift from God and know that this beautiful gift will bring joy and love to the world. Every life is precious.

A PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN

Heavenly Father, in Your love for us, protect against the wickedness of the devil, those helpless little ones to whom You have given the gift of life. Touch with pity the hearts of those women pregnant in our world today who are not thinking of motherhood. Help them to see that the child they carry is made in Your image, as well as theirs, made for eternal life. Dispel their fear of selfishness and give them true womanly hearts to love their babies and give them birth and all the needed care that a mother can give. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

<https://cmfcuro.com/2021/01/20/catholic-prayers-for-the-unborn-2021/>

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“To love your neighbor is to take special concern for those who are vulnerable and who would otherwise be overlooked.”

Jim Daly

THE IMPROTANT THINGS IN LIFE

A philosophy professor stood before his class with some items on the table in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks, about 2 inches in diameter.

He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So, the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks.

He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up the remaining open areas of the jar.

He then asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous “Yes.”

“Now,” said the professor, “I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The rocks are the important things – your family, your partner, your health, your children – things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the

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.

other things that matter – like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else, the small stuff.”

“If you put the sand into the jar first,” he continued, “there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take your partner out dancing. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party, or fix the disposal.”

“Take care of the rocks first – the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.”

The professor asked, can the jar accept anything more? Even before the students could answer he took a small bottle of water and poured into it and the water slowly sink into the jar, the students shook their head in disbelief of the lessons that they have learned.

Together with all our efforts we need the support and grace of God. Water represents the grace of God - the Holy Spirit that renews us. Even with all our efforts and hard work we still have an element to add, the spiritual aspect. Let us not forget of this. So let us give a chance to God and his Spirit to renew us and fill us to the full.

<https://stories4homilies.wordpress.com/2013/09/11/the-important-things-in-life/>

ALLAH YERHAMMA

We extend our condolences to Amal and Gaby Baroody whose niece, Jessy Cheaib, who passed away in Lebanon this past week. We also ask God to comfort Jessy’s family in Lebanon during this time of grief. May Almighty God to welcome Jessy into His Kingdom and may her soul rest in peace. Allah yerhamma.

FINANCE COUNCIL

MEMBERS:

Jimmy Kalife, Wassim Chedid, Rose Dupre, Rana Choubah, Nigel Hitchings, and Joseph Barckett.

PARISH COUNCIL

MEMBERS:

Fadi Bark, Johnny Kalife, Vicki Thomas Marini, Jacques Barbour.

2022 TAX LETTERS

If you are in need of your contributions for your taxes for 2022, please contact the church office and we will provide you with this as you prepare to file your taxes.

SAINT MARON DAY HAFLI SPONSORSHIPS BOOK

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Purgatory:

In keeping with the traditions at OLOP, this year we will be having an Ad Book for the Saint Maron Hafli on February 4th. You can submit an ad in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone, or to support a business. If you want, we can set up the ad for you.

If you would like to become a sponsor for the Hafli, please use this form or email the office with your message and/or picture that you would like included in the booklet. If you would like to include a photo or business card, please email those to the office, in high resolution, to: ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com

We are looking forward to seeing all of you there enjoying great food, live music, dancing, and wonderful raffles. Most importantly, we are looking forward to being together and enjoying each other’s company. As always, thank you for your support in making our Hafli a great success.

FULL PAGE: \$150.00
HALF PAGE: \$100.00
QUARTER PAGE: \$ 50.00



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

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

Live Entertainment by
Adyad Atallah

&

Bachir Khoury Band

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



LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 21, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Sebastian). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph, Peter and Marie Kenyon requested by family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George J. and Mary C. Saba requested by family. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, January 22, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Timothy, Disciple of Saint Paul). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Charbel, Mounir, Helen and Sami Baroodi requested by Philip and Jano Baroodi. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Jessy Cheaib requested by Amal Baroodi. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Nader requested by Joann Longden. May his soul rest in peace.

Monday, January 23, @ 9:00 PM, (Feast of Pope Saint Sergius, Feast of Saint Marianne Cope). Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent.

Tuesday, January 24, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Francis de Sale, Doctor of the Church).

Wednesday, January 25, @ 6:00 PM, (Conversion of Saint Paul). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Robert and Margaret Lizotte requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Thursday, January 26, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Agnes).

Saturday, January 28, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Ephrem, Doctor of the Church). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Flora Azar requested by Mariam David and family. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, January 29, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Hippolytus of Antioch). Remember me in Your Kingdom liturgy. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Abouna Boutros Nasr requested by Joumana and Jean Chedid and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Patriarch Hoyek, Father Elias El Hoyek and Sister Adeline Badr El Hoyek requested by Thomas Lazieh. 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.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Jessy Cheaib requested by Amal Baroodi 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.

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.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 1/23-1/28/23

Monday:

2 Corinthians 4: 16-5:1-5,10
John 5: 1-16

Tuesday:

2 Corinthians 5: 11-21
John 9: 1-12

Wednesday:

2 Corinthians 6: 1-13
John 9: 13-25

Thursday:

2 Corinthians 6: 14-7:1
John 9: 26-41

Friday:

2 Corinthians 7: 2-10
John 7: 40-52

Saturday:

2 Corinthians 7: 11-16
John 19: 38-42

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.

LECTORS FOR JANUARY

Saturday, January 21,

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, January 22,

Ann Dupre / Gaby Baroodi

Saturday, January 28,

Annmarie Espindola

Intercessions: Annmarie Espindola

Sunday, January 29,

Mae Dickinson / Rana Choubah

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

WEEK OF January 14-15,2023

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Sunday Collection | \$ | 943.00 |
| Special Collection | \$ | 92.00 |
| Coffee Hour | \$ | 150.00 |
| Lebanese Market | \$ | 36.00 |
| Sanctuary Candles | \$ | 20.00 |
| Candles | \$ | 45.00 |
| Total | \$ | 1,286.00 |

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.

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 MARONITSEMINARY@COMCAST.NET

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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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