



# Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



January 28-29, 2023

## SUNDAY OF THE PRIESTS

### REFLECTION ON PRIESTHOOD

BY BLESSED OSCAR ROMERO

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

### This is what we are about:

We plant seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

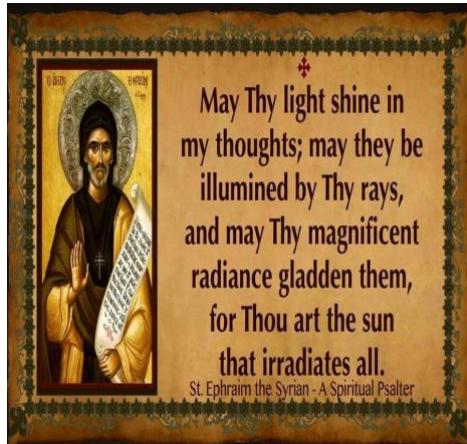
We are workers, not master builders, Ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

*By Archbishop Oscar Romero, Saint of the Catholic Church*

<https://associationofmtcarmel.org/reflection-on-priesthood-by-blessed-oscar-romero/>

### SAINT EPHREM



St. Ephrem of Syria was a deacon, hymn-writer, and teacher of the early Church. Ephrem was born C. 306 at Nisibis, Mesopotamia, (modern-day Nusaybin, Turkey on the Syrian border). Nothing is known of his family, except that he wrote that his family was Christian. As a youth, he was mentored and taught by [St.] James (a.k.a. Jacob), the Bishop of Nisibis. Bishop James and Ephrem together founded a great theological school at Nisibis and the bishop appointed Ephrem to lead the school. In addition to teaching, he began to compose Scripture commentaries and hymns. He taught there for many years, while the city of Nisibis was being fought over.

### FLIGHT FROM PERSECUTION

When the Emperor Constantine I died in 337, the Neo-Persian empire attacked the city repeatedly, finally capturing it in 363. Neo-Persian rule brought persecution of Christians, and most of them fled the area, including Ephrem, who relocated to Edessa (modern day Sanliurfa, Turkey). This city was a part of the Roman Empire and a significant one in early Christianity. It was at Edessa that the Syriac dialect of

the Aramaic language began. Several heretical sects flourished there, including Gnostics, Arians, and Marcionites. Ephrem settled in a cave in the mountains nearby, but he continued to teach and serve the Church in the city.

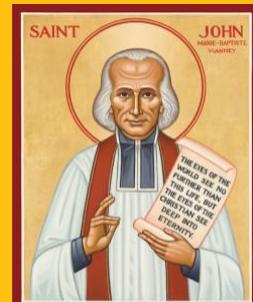
### TOOL FOR FIGHTING HERESY

It was during the last ten years of his life, while living near Edessa, that Ephrem did most of his writing. The language he used was the local dialect of his native Aramaic, which would later become known as Syriac. He continued to teach, but he was primarily focused on preaching and writing. His hymn composition alone was remarkable, and more than four hundred of his hymns are still accessible. He often used hymns as teaching tools, especially to counter contemporary heresies. His mentor and teacher Bishop James had been one of the signatories at

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"The priest is no longer supposed to live for himself...He must be aflame with charity toward everyone. Not even his thoughts, his will, his feelings belong to him, for they are rather those of Jesus Christ who is his life."*

*Saint John Vianney*



**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](http://www.ourladyofpurgatory.org)**

**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.**

the First Council of Nicea in 325, dogmatically defining the full divinity of Christ, so Ephrem was prepared to defend the truths of the Faith against heretics. One of his techniques was to assemble a choir of women to perform his lyrical hymns, especially proclaiming the truths of the Faith in poetic form. His hymns were well known for their great beauty. Ephrem also preached very effectively, and his homilies had a captivating effect on his listeners. He wrote prolifically on Scripture, theology, and apologetics, and was especially eloquent in writing about the Holy Eucharist, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Confession, and papal primacy. In fact, it was Ephrem's fourth century witness to the certainty of the Virgin Mary's conception without sin that adds to the proof that this truth was known even in ancient times. Late in life, Ephrem journeyed to visit [St.] Basil the Great in Caesarea of Cappadocia (currently northern Turkey), who himself was also striving to combat the nefarious errors of Arianism. Basil ordained Ephrem a deacon, but Ephrem declined ordination to the priesthood and returned to Edessa.

### THE GOSPEL IN ACTION

During the last year of his life, a severe famine occurred in the region. Ephrem, as an exemplary deacon, conducted a distribution of grains to the most needy people. He also tended to the sick and dying and saw to the proper burial of the dead. Exhausted, he died in his mountain hermitage, just weeks after the famine subsided, June 9, 373. St. Ephrem, whose name can also be spelled Ephraim or Ephraem, was an eloquent defender of the Faith during times of dangerous heresies, and a contemporary of such luminaries as Sts. Basil, Athanasius, Ambrose, and Cyril of Jerusalem, Doctors of the Church all. Ephrem was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1920. He led a penitential life, eating and sleeping very little. He possessed a brilliant mind, which he dedicated to the service of Christ and His Church. His writings were given so that the average person could comprehend the reality of the eternal mysteries of the Faith, using the same language as Our Lord and the Apostles. He is remembered as The Father of Hymnody, The Sun of the Syrians, Mary's Own Singer, and most commonly, The Harp of the Holy Spirit. His feast day is June 9, and he is a patron for poets, Syrians, and spiritual directors.

He is often depicted with a lyre as a symbol of his hymn writing.

<http://www.stignatiusmobile.org/saint-of-the-month-st-ephrem-of-syria/>

### PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Divine Liturgy for the Presentation of Christ in the Temple will be held on **Wednesday, February 1, at 6:00 PM**. We will have the blessing of the candles that evening as well. If you would like to bring your own candles, a table will be provided for you to set them on. We will also have candles available.

### 2022 TAX LETTERS

If you need 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.

### THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention 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.

### 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.

### 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 Hafla 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 Hafla, 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](mailto: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 Hafla a great success.

**FULL PAGE:** \$150.00

**HALF PAGE:** \$100.00

**QUARTER PAGE:** \$ 50.00

MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONFESION

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

*Our Lady of Purgatory Church*

# Saint Maron's Feast Day Hafla

**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**

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

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**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.

**Monday, January 30, @ 9:00 PM, (Feast of Pope Saint Maximus the Confessor).** Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent.

**Tuesday, January 31, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint John Bosco).**

**Wednesday, February 1, @ 6:00 PM, (Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Feast of Saint Pionius and His Companions).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Robert and Margaret Lizotte requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Thursday, February 2, @ 9:00 AM, (Presentation of Christ in the Temple).**

**Saturday, February 4, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Isidore of Pelusium).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of David David requested by family. May his soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, February 5, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Aghata).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Louise Dupre requested by family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Richard F. Long Sr. for his 1-year anniversary requested by Beatrice Long. May his soul rest in peace.

## 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.

## 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 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)

## LECTORS FOR FEBRUARY

**Saturday, February 4,**

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

**Sunday, February 5,**

Ann Dupre / Gaby Baroody

**Wednesday, February 8,**

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, February 11,**

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

**Sunday, February 11,**

John Barbour / Jano Baroody

**Saturday, February 18,**

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

**Sunday, February 19,**

Rana Choubah / Halim Choubah

**Monday, February 20,**

12:00PM TBA

7:00 PM Mae Dickinson/ Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, February 25,**

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

**Sunday, February 26,**

Mae Dickinson / Gaby Baroody

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

## 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.



## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 1/30-2/4/23

### Monday:

2 Timothy 1: 1-11  
Matthew 16: 24-28

### Tuesday:

2 Timothy 2: 1-13  
Matthew 18: 1-5

### Wednesday:

2 Timothy 2: 14-26  
Matthew 20: 20-28

### Thursday:

Romans 9: 30-10:4  
Luke 2: 22-35

### Friday:

2 Timothy 4: 1-8  
Luke 22: 24-30

### Saturday:

Titus 1: 1-9  
John 13: 13-17

## WEEK OF JANUARY

21-22,2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 2,742.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 120.00
Sanctuary Candles	\$ 10.00
Candles	\$ 20.00
Total	\$ 2,892.00

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

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BSN RN

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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.*

Joseph & Marie Kenyon

Your Loving Children

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