



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

March 18-19, 2023

HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC SAINT JOSEPH THE VIRGIN



FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH

St. Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus, was probably born in Bethlehem and probably died in Nazareth. His important mission in God's plan of salvation was "to legally insert Jesus Christ into the line of David from whom, according to the prophets, the Messiah would be born, and to act as his father and guardian" (*Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*). Most of our information about St. Joseph comes from the opening two chapters of St. Matthew's Gospel. No words of his are recorded in the Gospels; he was the "silent" man. We find no devotion to St. Joseph in the early Church. It was the will of God that the Virgin Birth of Our Lord be first firmly impressed upon the minds of the faithful. He was later venerated by the great saints of the Middle Ages. Pius IX (1870) declared him patron and protector of the universal family of the Church.

SAINT JOSEPH

St. Joseph was an ordinary manual laborer although descended from the royal house of David. In the designs of Providence, he was destined to become the spouse of the Mother of God. His high privilege is expressed in a single phrase, "Foster-father of Jesus." About him Sacred Scripture has little more to say than that he was a just man-an expression which indicates how faithfully he fulfilled his high trust of protecting and guarding God's greatest treasures upon earth, Jesus and Mary.

The darkest hours of his life may well have been those when he first learned of Mary's pregnancy; but precisely in this time of trial Joseph showed himself great. His suffering, which likewise formed a part of the work of the redemption, was not without great providential import: Joseph was to be, for all times, the trustworthy witness of the Messiah's virgin birth. After this, he modestly retires into the background of holy Scripture.

Of St. Joseph's death the Bible tells us nothing. There are indications, however, that he died before the beginning of Christ's public life. His was the most beautiful death that one could have, in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Humbly and unknown, he passed his years at Nazareth, silent and almost forgotten he remained in the background through centuries of Church history. Only in more recent times has he been accorded greater honor. Liturgical veneration of St. Joseph began in the fifteenth century, fostered by Saints Brigid of Sweden and Bernadine of Siena. St. Teresa, too, did much to further his cult.

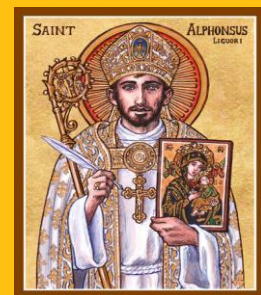
At present there are two major feasts in his honor. On March 19 our veneration is directed to him personally and to his part in the work of redemption, while on May 1, we honor him as the patron of workmen throughout the world and as our guide in the difficult matter of establishing equitable norms regarding obligations and rights in the social order.

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2020-03-19>

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Go, then to Joseph, and do all that he shall say to you;
Go to Joseph, and obey him as
Jesus and Mary obeyed him;
Go to Joseph, and speak to him as
they spoke to him;
Go to Joseph, and consult him as
they consulted him;
Go to Joseph, and honor him as
they honored him;
Go to Joseph, and be grateful to
him as they were grateful to him;
Go to Joseph, and love him, as
they love him still."*

St. Alphonsus Liguori



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.

LENTEN READ-ALONG: WHERE DO WE BEGIN WITH FORGIVENESS?



Forgiveness can be complicated. I can think of times in my life when I wanted to forgive, but I felt “stuck” in something that stood in the way. For example, maybe I had a conflict with a family member when I continued to think that I was right, and the other person was wrong. The obstacle to forgiveness was my need to be right and be validated in it! Sometimes I have been in conflicts when I knew that I did have a good share of the blame to bear, and an inability to forgive myself stood in the way to freedom. I did want to forgive, but I wanted other things too: love, acceptance, validation, an apology from another person.

One of the great gifts that I have received in learning more about Ignatian spirituality has been coming to understand that God wants to be with us exactly where we are in our process. So do good friends or spiritual directors. In fact, God is already right there with us; we just need to discover it.

Forgiveness is almost like going on a long hike. We have to pay attention to everything in the environment and look closely at the terrain in order to go deeper into the process. Years ago, my family went on a hike in the White Mountains over the course of a week, and we had to prepare for and negotiate changes in the temperature ranging from a hot June afternoon when short sleeves were a necessity to hail at one of the upper levels where we layered on our garments. It was one long path that we took to get to our destination, but there were many ups and downs along the way, and we needed patience and good companions to get us through.

One way that we can begin is to look honestly at our own desires. St. Ignatius advises beginning a prayer period in the Spiritual Exercises with two key

elements: placing ourselves in the presence of God and asking for the grace that we desire. God truly cares about what we want, what we really desire, and not just what we think that we “ought to” want. That is how much God loves us.

We might start with a simple question: What do I want? Do I want to forgive, even a *little* bit? (The answer is probably *yes* if one is still reading at this point.) Can I imagine being at a place later where I am freer, happier, more at peace, or more loving, even if I am not there yet? How do I feel about whatever has happened? Where is the hurt, anger, or whatever difficult feeling?

However, we answer these questions, we can bring the real answers to God, because God wants a relationship with the real, authentic person. God is right there with us in whatever we are experiencing. We can start by telling our story to God and sharing what the lay of the land is for us, right here and right now. We can offer to God our desire for the grace to begin the process, even if we do not fully know the lay of the land ahead, because we know that God is our traveling companion along the way.

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/where-do-we-begin-with-forgiveness/>

NO DAILY LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Due to the stained-glass windows being removed the week of March 28, there will be no daily liturgies Tuesday through Thursday. Thank you for your understanding.

SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection every weekend throughout Lent to help cover the Annual Bishop’s Appeal. Thank you for your generosity and assistance in meeting our obligation with this appeal.

PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE

Our Palm Sunday Annual Bake Sale is getting under way. We will be offering mammoul with dates, walnuts, or pistachios, kaak ma haleeb, biklawas, ghribee, and assorted bake goods. Pre-order slips will be available next week if you choose to pre-order your goodies.

SAVE THE DATE Maamoul Day: Tuesday March 28 Starting at 10:00 AM



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday, March 21, 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.

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS



As we prepare for the Risen Lord on Easter, donations are being accepted to help with the cost of the Easter flowers. If you would like to donate towards the flowers, you may do so in memory of a loved one or special intention. Please write your intention on the envelope and we will remember your intention at a special Liturgy. Thank you for your kindness.

MYA SAVE THE DATE



- Part 1: Registration**
12:00 pm - Arrival & Registration
12:15 pm - Welcome (icebreaker)
12:30 pm - Lunch
- Part 2: Mercy & Healing**
2:00 pm - Talk 1: Mercy & Healing
2:20 pm - Discussion groups (Guys with Father Vince & Girls with Mother Marla Marie)
3:00 pm - Reconvene (Short Break)
- Part 3: Forgiveness**
3:30 pm - Talk 2: Forgiveness
3:50 pm - Discussion groups (Guys with Father Vince & Girls with Mother Marla Marie)
4:30 pm - Reconvene (Short Break)
- Part 4: Mass & Dinner**
5:00 pm - Mass
5:45 pm - Adoration (Benediction & Confession)
6:30 pm - Dinner & Social

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 18, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Cyril of Jerusalem). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Tavares requested by Dan and Helena Tavares and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Saba family requested by Annemarie Espindola. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, March 19, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Joseph the Virgin, the Spouse of Mary). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Charbel Nehmtallah ElKhoury requested by family (40-day Mass). May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Chedid requested by family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Walter Chomak requested by family. May his soul rest in peace.

Monday, March 20, @ 9:00 AM. (Feast of Saint Photina the Samaritan Woman). Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent.

Tuesday, March 21, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Synesius, Bishop of Ptolemais).

Wednesday, March 22, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Sergius Paulus).

Thursday, March 23, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Rafka).

Friday, March 24, @ 7:00 PM, Benediction/ Station of the Cross. (Feast of Saint Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia).

Saturday, March 25, @ 4:30 PM, (The Annunciation to the Virgin Mary). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph, Matilda and George Attallah requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Jason Ballan. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, March 26, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Gabriel the Archangel). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Hanna and Mariam Barbour requested by Hayatt Thomas and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Georgette and Samir Sawaya requested by Zakhia and Hiba Chdid and family. May their souls rest in peace.

CONFESSION

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

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of March is offered in memory of Samir and Georgette Sawaya requested by Zakhia and Hiba Chdid. May Their souls rest in peace.

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.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Efrangieh Daou, Reggie Thomas, Peter Helmer, Renee Helmer, Natalya Sarkis, Octavia David, Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Angela Scorza-Anderson, Theresa John, Laurette Bou Ramia, Annie Peter, Jeannie Francis, Mariam David, Norma Thomas, Zita Drouin, Lucienne Rodrigues, Edmond Salameh, Ed Da Rocha, and Alice Daher. If anyone is missing from this list, please contact the Church office.

MYO SAVE THE DATE

Calling all MYO, grades 7-12, for a day of reflection, fun, food and meeting other MYO from the area. We are inviting the MYO group from Lawrence, Boston, Brockton, Fall River, and Cranston, for this special MYO Kick Off. All will be held on Saturday, March 25, from 11:30 AM- 5:00 PM. We are looking forward to seeing you all there.

LECTORS FOR MARCH

Saturday, March 18,

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Helen & Anna Higgins

Sunday, March 19,

Rana Choubah/ Jano Baroody

Saturday, March 25,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, March 26,

Mae Dickinson/ Hiba Chdid

(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, and Smitty Cabral.

WEEK OF MARCH

11-12,2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,333.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 193.00
Advertisement	\$ 100.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 20.00
Assessment	\$ 20.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 70.00
Candles	\$ 37.00
Total	\$ 1,773.00

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.



Saturday March 25 | 11:30-5pm
at Our Lady of Fatima (future home of OLOP)
4256 Acushnet Ave New Bedford

Maronite Youth KICK OFF

RSVP to Fr. Vince Farhat by March 20
Ph: 508-996-8934
Email: ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com

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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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