



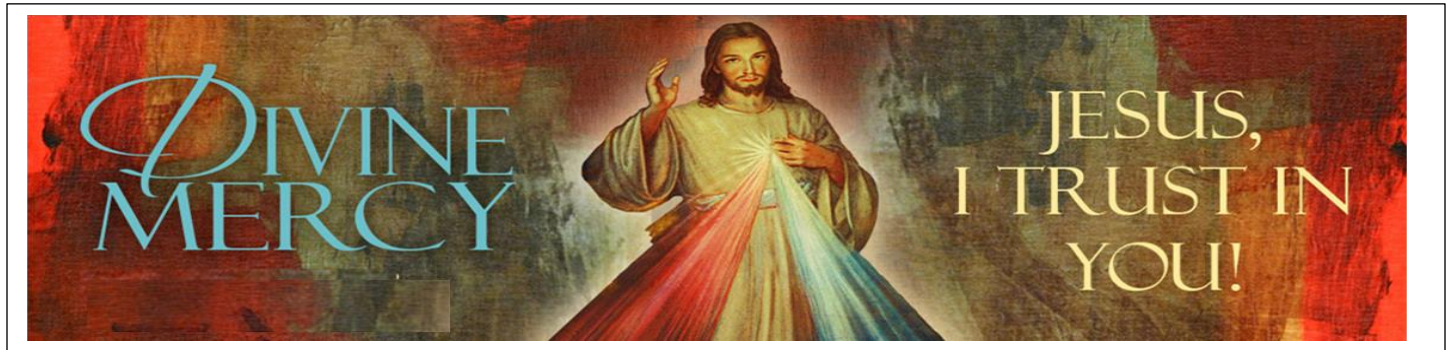
Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



April 15-16, 2023

THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

When and why did the church begin celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday?

The world was in the midst of the Great Depression in 1931 and the memories of World War I were still very much alive in the minds of Europeans when in Poland a sister of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), is said to have been personally visited by Jesus.

According to her diary, which was listed on the Index of Forbidden Books for more than 20 years, an image was revealed to her of the risen Lord, from whose heart shone two rays, one red (representing blood) and the other "pale" (symbolizing water), with the words "Jesus, I trust in you" at the bottom. Faustina wrote in her diary that Jesus told her, "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish."

When she was canonized in 2000

under the direction of fellow countryman Pope John Paul II, he proclaimed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday, thereby widely promoting the devotional practices associated with Faustina's visions, already popular in many communities. St. Faustina, a poorly educated daughter of a humble Polish family, kept a 600-page diary of the apparitions she claimed continued for years. Her entries focus on God's mercy, the call to accept God's mercy and to be merciful, the need for conversion, and the call to trust in Jesus. It had been Jesus' own wish, she wrote, to establish a feast day: "I [Jesus] desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls... I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy."

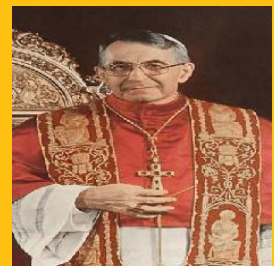
Among the practices associated with the devotion are its novena, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy (a series of prayers organized similarly to a rosary), the Hour of Great Mercy (a

time of prayer traditionally celebrated at 3 p.m.), and the plenary indulgence granted to those who receive the Eucharist and celebrate reconciliation on Divine Mercy Sunday.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Those who sincerely say 'Jesus, I trust in You' will find comfort in all their anxieties and fears. There is nothing that man needs more than Divine Mercy – that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights of the holiness of God."

St. John Paul I



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

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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.

But the road to the universal recognition and institutionalization of the devotion was anything but smooth. Since Sister Faustina's diary, which she claimed Jesus himself had asked her to keep, had been previously listed on the Index of Forbidden Books, it curtailed the exercise of the devotional practices. Detractors claimed that her writing contained theological errors, while her defenders attribute mistakes to a faulty translation from Polish to Italian. While the diary is no longer on the Index and her canonization has officially put away concerns regarding the orthodoxy of her writings, critics remain.

The celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on the theme of how God's mercy can overcome sin and, as the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments states, "a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind [sic] will experience in the years to come."

<https://uscatholic.org/articles/201104/what-is-divine-mercy-sunday/>

UPDATE ON NEW CHURCH CONSTRUCTION

We have submitted all the necessary information to the City to obtain a building permit so that we can renovate the new church building to accommodate our Parish Treasures and make our new home more suitable for our needs. The City is reviewing the submittals and we should receive the Building Permit within the next week. While we are waiting for the Building Permit, we have begun to prepare the new Church for construction. We have also selected M & E Construction as our General Contractor through a competitive bid process. As you know architectural services are being provided by Halim Choubah. Jimmy Kalife has agreed to serve as our Clerk of the Works and oversee day-to-day construction activities at the new Church. We have also begun prep work at the new

Rectory and Gaby Baroody has agreed to oversee day-to-day renovation work at the new Rectory. We thank Halim, Jimmy, and Gaby for their work on behalf of the Parish.

The Capital Campaign is still under way. We are halfway to our goal, and I thank those of you who have pledged towards this endeavor. Our Parish has always been blessed by Parishioners and Friends who have been very generous. Our Altars, our Stained Glass Windows, our Icons, our Stations of the Cross, have all been made possible through generous gifts in memory of loved ones in the past. We would like to remind you that once again, there is an opportunity to help our Parish grow. If you are considering making a financial gift, then there is no time like the present to fill out a pledge card. If you would like to make a specific donation in memory of a loved one or in your family's name to assist in the restoration of the Stained Glass Windows, or the relocation of the Altars, Icons, or the Stations of the Cross, please contact Fr. Vincent at the Church office. Thank you and God bless this community of faith.

MESSIAH QAM

On behalf of the community of Our Lady of Purgatory Church, we wish our Orthodox brothers and sisters a blessed Easter of our Risen Lord. Messiah Qam! Hakkan Qam!

NO WEEKDAY LITURGIES

There will be no weekday Liturgies Monday through Thursday. I appreciate your understanding. I will announce when they will once again resume.

BISHOP'S APPEAL FINANCIALS

Goal:	\$3,500.00
Amount Received:	<u>\$3,359.00</u>
Balance:	\$ 141.00

CONFESSION

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

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ENGAGEMENT

Sam Thomas proposed to his fiancé Anna L'Hommedieu as they plan their wedding in 2024. Congratulations to his parents Matthew and Cathy Thomas, his brother David and sister Vicki (Brandon Marini), Tete Octavia, and all their family. May Almighty God bless you both as you prepare for your wedding nuptials.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ENGAGEMENT

I am happy to inform you that Eddy Aboukheir proposed to his fiancé Jennifer Mitri as they plan their marriage in the near future. We congratulate his parents Elie and Micheline Aboukheir, his brother Kevin, and all their family. May God bless your engagement and future marriage with abundant blessings.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Joseph Nader requested by Joan Longden. 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.

WITH BLESSINGS AND THANKS

It has been a blessing this Season of Lent on many levels, all of which could not have come to fruition without the help of you, the Parishioners of OLOP. I thank you all for your dedication and zeal for making this Lenten Journey such a beautiful and meaningful time. I hope and pray that you received as much as I have, if not more, from our journey together. Our journey of hope, of thanks, of remembering how much we have a God who loves us so very much. A God who never tires of us. A God who is always waiting for us to turn to Him and to heal us of our infirmities. May our merciful and loving God cradle each of you and your families in His loving arms today and always.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 15, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Pope Saint Soter). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Michel Sr., Anna Magaletta, Michel Jr. and Baldassare Magaletta requested by Joann, Anthony and Lorraine David. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, April 16, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Bernadette Soubirous). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Fred Thomas, Jaoa and Fernanda Baptista, Mena Carvalho and Edigio Baptista requested by Fernanda Thomas. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Christine M. David requested by family. May her soul rest in peace.

Saturday, April 22, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Theodore of Sykeon). Liturgy is being offered for the living and deceased members of Joseph Semaan Dawood family (FM). Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in Purgatory requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May all the souls in Purgatory rest in peace.

Sunday, April 23, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint George). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Anthony and Josephine Thomas requested by Matthew and Cathy Thomas and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Lauretta Mello requested by Michael and Joan Mello and family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Arthur and Annie Thomas and Edward Mattar requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

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.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of April is offered in memory of Joseph Daher requested by Alice Daher. May his soul rest in peace.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Josephine Chedid, 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.

LECTORS FOR APRIL

Saturday, April 15,

Mae Dickinson

Intercession: Eric Tavares

Sunday, April 16,

John Barbour/ Halim Choubah

Saturday, April 22,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, April 23,

Ann Dupre /Hiba Chdid

Saturday, April 29,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercession: Eric Tavares

Sunday, April 30,

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

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 4/17-4/22/23

Monday:

1 Peter 1:1-9
John 20: 1-10

Tuesday:

1 Peter 1: 10-16
John 20: 11-18

Wednesday:

1 Peter 1:17-21
Matthew 28: 11-15

Thursday:

1 Peter 1: 22-25
Matthew 28:16-20

Friday:

1 Peter 2: 1-10
John 2: 13-25

Saturday:

1 Peter 2:11-17
Matthew 22:41-46

WEEK OF APRIL 8-9,2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 3,036.00
March Online Giving	\$ 658.06
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 140.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 10.00
Holy Thursday Collection	\$ 456.00
Good Friday Collection	\$ 406.00
Bake Sale	\$ 2,401.82
Candles	\$ 112.00
Total	\$ 6,561.82

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.



Christ is Truly Risen!

Please join us on the occasion of the
Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord.

Sunday, April 30, 2023

Our Lady of the Cedars Church - The Lahoud Center
61 Rockwood Street, Jamaica Plain, MA



Full Lavish Breakfast will be served
Fowl Mdammas, Labneh, Cheese Baladeh,
Zaatar & Meat Pies, Boiled Eggs,
Veggies, Croissants, Deli Platter, Fruits,
Desserts, Coffee, Juice and More.

After the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Liturgy
Donation - Adults \$25 - Children under 12 - \$15

All proceeds to benefit the Ministry of
"Welcome me in your Kingdom"
For Tickets

Karen Tannous Njeim - 857 222 9777
Zeina Freiha - 781 789 0432

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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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