



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



April 22-23, 2023

# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION



### FEAST OF SAINT MARK THE EVANGELIST

Much of what we know about St. Mark, the author of the Second Gospel, comes largely from the New Testament and early Christian traditions. Mark the Evangelist is believed to be the 'John Mark' referred to in the Acts of the Apostles, the history of the early Church found in the Canon of the New Testament.

He was the son of Mary of Jerusalem (Acts 12:12) whose home became a meeting place for the apostles. He is also the cousin of St. Barnabas (Colossians 4:10), a Levite and a Cypriot.

Mark joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey to Antioch in 44 A.D. When the group reached Cyprus, Christian tradition holds that Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem, possibly because he was missing his home (Acts 13:13). This

incident may have caused Paul to question whether Mark could be a reliable missionary. This created a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas and led Paul to refuse Mark's accompaniment on their second journey to the churches of Cilicia and the rest of Asia Minor.

However, it can be assumed the troubles between Paul and Mark did not last long, because when Paul was first imprisoned, Mark, who was at the time in Rome with plans of visiting Asia Minor, visited him as one of his trusted companions (Col 4:10).

Mark's hopes to visit Asia Minor were most likely carried out, because during Paul's second captivity and just before his martyrdom, Paul wrote to Timothy at Ephesus advising him to "take Mark and bring him with you [to Rome], for he is profitable to me for the ministry" (2 Timothy 4:11). If Mark returned to Rome at this time, he was probably there when Paul was martyred.

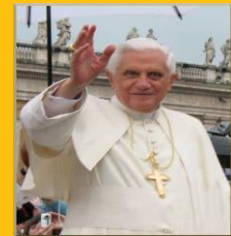
According to Christian tradition, Mark also held a close relationship with St. Peter, who referred to Mark as 'his son' in his letter addressed to several churches in Asia Minor (1 Peter 5:13). Clement of Alexandria, Irenaeus and Papias all indicate that Mark was an interpreter for Peter.

Although Papias states Mark had not personally heard the Lord speak firsthand and, like Luke, Mark was not one of the twelve apostles, some believe Mark was likely speaking of himself when he wrote the description of

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Through the intercession of Mary, we pray that each and every Christian community, reliving the experience of the disciples of Emmaus, rediscover the transforming grace of the risen Lord."*

**Pope Benedict XVI**



Jesus' arrest in Gethsemane. "Now a young man followed him wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body. They seized him, but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked" (Mark 14:51-52).

St. Mark lived for years in Alexandria, where he died as a martyr while being dragged through the streets.

Mark's Gospel was probably written between 60 and 70 A.D. and was based upon the teachings of St. Peter. It is believed Mark provided both Luke and Matthew with basic sources for their Gospel's.

He was probably the first bishop of Alexandria, Egypt and the founder of the Church of Alexandria, although he

**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.

is not mentioned in connection to the city by either Clement of Alexandria nor by Origen.

In 828, relics of St. Mark were stolen from Alexandria and taken to Venice, Italy. There they are enshrined in a beautiful cathedral dedicated to the saint.

St. Mark's symbol is a winged lion. This is believed to be derived from his description of St. John the Baptist, as "a voice of one crying out in the desert" (Mark 1:3). The wings come from Ezekiel's vision of four winged creatures as the evangelists.

He is often depicted as writing or holding his Gospel. He is sometimes shown as a bishop on a throne or as a man helping Venetian sailors.

St. Mark is the patron saint of Venice. His feast day is celebrated on April 25.

[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=305](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=305)

## **OUR ROAD TO EMMAUS**

As we reflect on the life of Saint Mark the Evangelist, we see that doubt and questions arose with St. Paul, pertaining to St. Mark's ability to be a missionary for Christ. For thousands of years, humankind has all experienced their own roads to Emmaus, filled with doubt, despair, feeling of hopelessness and usefulness. Isn't it nice to know that we are all in good company as we make our own journey to Emmaus?

When this happens to us, we must remember this beautiful gospel passage which reminds us that we are never left alone to feel hopeless, in despair, or useless. We must remember that Jesus journeys with us every moment of our lives, and when we really struggle with life's punches, Jesus is there to walk with us, to carry us, and to let us know that we are never alone. And when we allow Jesus to walk with us, so too will our hearts be burning within us.

As we continue our earthly life, preparing ourselves for the day of our reunion with Christ, may we travel our Road to Emmaus with faith, hope and love, knowing that our Risen Christ will also travel on our same road leading us to Him.

Messiah Qam! Hakkan Qam! Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

## **WELCOME NADIM KHALED**



Bishop Gregory has assigned Seminarian Nadim Khaled to Our Lady of Purgatory Church for six weeks beginning in May. I am very happy to welcome Nadim to our Church as he continues his journey towards Holy Priesthood. I pray this assignment will help him in his ministry and I am confident that he will be a great help in ours. Nadim will arrive the first week of May. I know you will all welcome him with an open heart. Welcome to our community Nadim.

## **SECOND COLLECTION**

As per the directive of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, there will be a second collection for Catholic Home Missions. This money is used to help missions in the United States. Our Eparchy has received large grants from the USCCB from this collection for several years. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

## **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.

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

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Gerges Daher 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.

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)**

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

## **UPDATE ON NEW CHURCH CONSTRUCTION**

We have received the Building Permit from the City of New Bedford for the construction of the Church. I have resubmitted the plans for the Church to the Chancery for approval so that we may begin the work on the Church and rectory. We should be hearing from them very soon. I would like to thank Bishop Gregory and Chorbishop Michael for all their thorough work bringing us to this point in our new journey of faith. It has been quite a journey thus far, but I firmly believe that God is in the driver's seat leading us to do His will.

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, Stained Glass Windows, Icons, and 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.



## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**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 souls of Arnold and Laretta Mello requested by Michael and Joan Mello and family. May their souls 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.

**Saturday, April 29, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Catherine of Sienna, Doctor of the Church).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Dory Gutierrez. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Camil Boutros Roufael Gabriel requested by Joann, Anthony and Lorraine David. May his soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, April 30, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint James, son of Zebedee). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy.** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joe and Salma Joseph requested by Marianne Saade. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joann Yozefek requested by family. May her soul 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

Debbie Freedenberg, 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 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 4/24-4/29/23

**Monday:**

1 Peter 2:18-25

Luke 24: 44-49

**Tuesday:**

1 Peter 3: 1-12

John 6: 28-33

**Wednesday:**

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 6: 24-40

**Thursday:**

1 Peter 4: 1-11

John 6:41-47

**Friday:**

1 Peter 4: 12-19

John 6: 48-59

**Saturday:**

1 Peter 5:1-14

John 6:60-71

## WEEK OF APRIL 15-16,2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 2,400.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 10.00
Lebanese Market	\$ 10.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 21.00
Candles	\$ 79.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,520.00</b>

**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**  
Foul 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.*

**Joseph & Marie Kenyon** *Your Loving Children*

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