



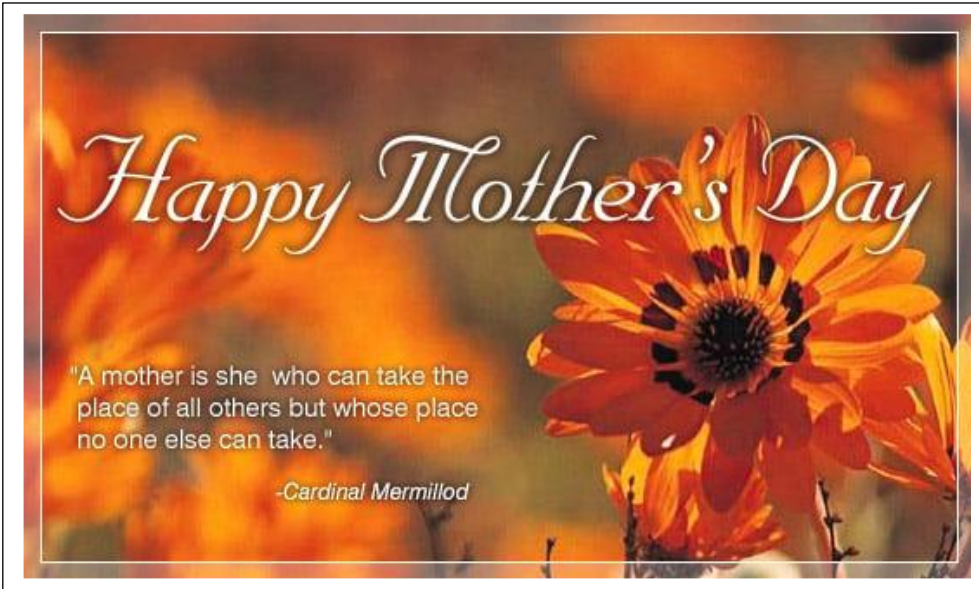
Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



May 13-14, 2023

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

I would like to wish all of our mothers a very happy and blessed Mother's Day. So deserving of our love and admiration not only today but every day. This beautiful day not only belongs to biological mothers either. The gift of a mother goes beyond those boundaries.

In my household, there were many people who played their part in being a mother to me. Not that my mother didn't fulfill her role showering her children with love, encouragement, discipline, and faith. But there were others who also helped in the role of mother. I had aunts who never married and became mothers to me; dear friends who didn't have children who became mothers to me; and even sisters who became mothers to me. To all these people, and those of you like them, I say Happy Mother's Day.

Every day we should give our mothers the gratitude and love they deserve. They

work tirelessly and without recompense to raise their children in a home filled with love and compassion. They work endlessly to keep their children close to their faith, traditions, values, and culture, so that they will pass the same down to their children. Their job is never finished. Their work never ends and for this we can never thank them enough.

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, just as you watch over your Church. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. As our Blessed Mother is a mother to us all, may her virtues, love, and strength be an example for all of us to follow. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

I wish each of you a blessed and happy Mother's Day.

DON'T HIDE YOUR WEAKNESSES, SHARE THEM WITH HIM!

An oyster that has not been wounded in any way does not produce pearls. A pearl is a healed wound. Pearls are a product of pain, the result of a foreign or unwanted substance entering the oyster, such as a parasite or a grain of sand. The inside of an oyster shell is a shiny substance called "nacre." When a grain of sand enters, the nacre cells go to work and cover the grain of sand with layers and more layers to protect the defenseless body from the oyster. As a result, a beautiful pearl is formed! The more pearls, the more valuable...

We always wonder and ask about the meaning of suffering in our lives, and when we find no answers, we begin blaming God. We may try to propose logical connections, such as since He's the one who created everything, and suffering is a part of the world, therefore, He must have created suffering. How can

QUOTE OF THE WEEK.

"The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother."

St. Thérèse of Lisieux



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.

we understand the meaning of suffering in our lives? Can God the Creator and lover of all people allow us to suffer?

We cannot understand suffering if we don't first understand the purpose of Jesus' coming.

Someone might question why Jesus didn't come and take away suffering? Interestingly, He said to us that in this world, we will face troubles. (Jn 16: 33) Jesus did not come to take away suffering, rather He came to transform it and to give it a new meaning.

Our suffering may seem meaningless, but Jesus makes it fruitful by having taken on a body of His own and experienced suffering through it. Jesus redeemed the world when He entered into the depths of our experience. He entered into a tomb, and by His resurrection, He invites us into the redemptive part of suffering.

God never allows pain either with or without purpose. He doesn't profit from suffering to be for the good of the person. He only transforms it. He turns our eyes from focusing only on Great Friday towards Resurrection Sunday so that we can see light and accept our weaknesses when we look at Him.

My brothers and sisters, I pray with you during this Glorious Season of Resurrection so that we can accept all our weaknesses which are out of our control. I pray with you so God may give us the strength to defend everything that attacks our lives, both physically and spiritually. Jesus calls us to be like the oyster. The more wounds, weaknesses, and sufferings we have if we accept them and put them in the hands of God, the more value we come to realize in our lives.

By Seminarian Nadim Khaled.

2023 OUR LADY OF PURGATORY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Education Foundation is accepting 2023 scholarship applications now. You have all received the applications via email. The application must be received by May 28, 2023, to be considered. These scholarships are for graduating seniors who are beginning their college education as well as college students pursuing a four-year college degree.

We thank the Foundation committee for working hard to replenish the funds so that these scholarships will be possible. Please follow the directions and obtain transcripts for submission.

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

I received the sad news that Samira Daiif passed away suddenly in Lebanon this past week. Samira is the mother of Abouna Joseph Daiif, the husband of Sayed, and mother of Sarkis, Semaan, Maria, and Rita. We extend our condolences to Abouna Joseph and his entire family for their loss. A memorial Liturgy in her memory will be on June 25, at 10:30 AM. We ask Almighty God to welcome Samira into His kingdom and may her soul rest in peace. Allah yerhamma

I received the sad news that Anne E. Abraham passed away. Anne is the sister of Subdeacon Joseph Abraham and his wife Carol Ann Maslanka and many cousins. We extend our condolences to Subdeacon Joseph and his wife for their loss. We ask Almighty God to welcome Anne into His kingdom and may her soul rest in peace. Allah yerhamma.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FRIST COMMUNICANTS

On May 6, 2023, Our Lady of Purgatory Church received five of our children for their First Holy Communion. This momentous day was filled with so much joy and gratitude. Jacob Rahme, Angelina Nasrawi, Thomas David, Valentina El Khoury, and William Twomey received Jesus for the first time.

Under the guidance of Mother Marla Marie Lucas, Sister Theresa Touma, and Sr. Emily Lattouf, these children learned the importance of this day and the true meaning of this sacrament. The Church was full of their family and friends who witnessed their joy and excitement.

We will continue to pray for these children in their spiritual journey that leads them closer to Christ. May they always be nourished by Jesus' loving gift to them---knowing that Jesus loves them so very much. Congratulations to all of them and their families. We are very proud of you. God bless you always.



OLOP COOKBOOKS

The Education Foundation is still selling our beautiful cookbooks. All the proceeds go to the foundation for scholarships for your youth. With Mother's Day coming and our children graduating and moving on their own, this would be a beautiful gift and at the same time you would be helping our future children with their education. The cookbooks are \$25.00 each and you may order these cookbooks online or by calling the Church office. Thank you for your support.

SAINT JOSEPH SODALITY NEWS

• Calling all men of the parish. Sunday, May 14, 2023, is Mother's Day. The men of the St. Joseph Sodality will be preparing a special coffee hour to Honor all the mothers of OLOP. If you would like to volunteer to help set up or provide any items for the coffee hour please contact Jacques Barbour: @ 508-725-6705.

• Next St. Joseph Sodality Monthly Devotion will be Sunday June 4, 2023. This is open to everyone, not just members, we meet at 9:45 am before Liturgy. Please join us for the Monthly Devotion and Prayer Service.



LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 13, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, Feast of Saint Addai, One of the 72 Disciples). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Bashara and Helena John, John B. John, Annie Ferris and Thomas Ferris requested by Helena Tavares. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Camil Boutros Gabriel requested by Mariam David and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Leo Macedo requested by family (FM). May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, May 14, @ 10:30 AM, Mother's Day (Feast of Saints Boniface and Aglae, and their 20 Companions). Liturgy is being offered for all Mothers living and deceased. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of David Dickinson requested by Mae Dickinson and family. May his soul rest in peace.

Wednesday, May 17, @ 7:00 PM, Vigil of The Ascension of Our Lord. (Feast of Saint Serapion). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of David Dickinson requested by Mae Dickinson. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for a special intention requested by Mariam David and family.

Saturday, May 20, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Thalaleus of Lebanon). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Olivia and Harold Smith requested by Smitty and Lou Cabral. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Peter and Raja Saba Bou Eassey requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, May 21, @ 10:30 AM, Mother's Day (Feast of Saint Constantine the King and His Mother Saint Helen). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Lee Kalife and for the Kalife family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Shirley Azar Roy 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.

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.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of May is offered in memory of Anthony and Margaret Thomas requested by family. May their souls rest in peace.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Shirley Azar Roy requested by 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

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.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 5/15-5/20 /23

Monday:

Philippians 3:1-12

John 11: 1-16

Tuesday:

Philippians 3: 13-21

John 11: 17-31

Wednesday:

Philippians 4: 1-7

John 11: 32- 46

Thursday:

Acts of the Apostles 1: 1-14

Mark 16: 15-20

Friday:

Philippians 4: 8-14

John 3: 12-15

Saturday:

Philippians 4:15-23

John 14 :1-6

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION 2023

The Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate at Our Lady's Chapel will be holding their annual Corpus Christi Procession on June 11, 2023. The procession begins at 2:00 pm at Our Lady's Chapel (600 Pleasant Street) and will stop at three stations for Eucharistic Benediction- Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. This year, rather than return and finish at Our Lady's Chapel, the procession will conclude after Benediction at the final station (Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church) where refreshments will follow. Return transportation to Our Lady's Chapel will be available for those needing it. You are warmly invited to join in celebrating this public witness of our faith.

LECTORS FOR MAY 2023

Saturday, May 13,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, May 14,

Rana Choubah / Gaby Baroody

Wednesday, May 17

Vigil of the Glorious Ascension

Mae Dickinson /Hiba Chdid

Saturday, May 20,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, May 21,

John Barbour /Halim Choubah

Saturday, May 27,

Racheal Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, May 28,

Mae Dickinson /Hiba Chdid

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

WEEK OF MAY

6-7, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,775.00
Second Collection	\$ 172.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 30.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 55.00
Candles	\$ 35.00
Total	\$ 2,067.00

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.

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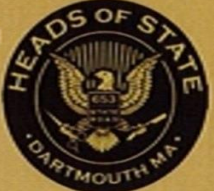
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Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD's Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing day.

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