



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



May 20-21, 2023

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION



FEAST OF SAINTS

CONSTANTINE AND HELENA

Junior Emperor and emperor called the "Thirteenth Apostle" in the East. The son of Constantius I Chlorus, junior emperor and St. Helena, Constantine was raised on the court of co-Emperor Diocletian. When his father died in 306, Constantine was declared junior emperor of York, England, by the local legions and earned a place as a ruler of the Empire by defeating of his main rivals at the battle of the Milvian Bridge in 312. According to legend, he adopted the insignia of Christ, the chi-rho, and placed it upon his labarum - the military standards that held the banners his armies carried into battle to vanquish their pagan enemies. His purple banners were inscribed with the Latin for "In this sign conquer." Constantine then shared rule of the Empire with Licinius Licinianus, exerting his considerable influence upon his colleague to secure the declaration of Christianity to be a free religion.

When, however, Licinius and Constantine launched a persecution of the Christians, Constantine marched to the East and routed his opponent at the battle of Adrianople. Constantine was the most dominating figure of his lifetime, towering over his contemporaries, including Pope Sylvester I. He presided over the Council of Nicaea, gave extensive grants of land and property to the Church, founded the Christian city of Constantinople to serve as his new capital, and undertook a long-sighted program of Christianization for the whole of the Roman Empire. While he was baptized a Christian only on his deathbed, Constantine nevertheless was a genuinely important figure in Christian history and was revered as a saint, especially in the Eastern Church.

St. Helena was the mother of Emperor Constantine the Great and an Empress of the Roman Empire. Very little is known about Helena's early life, but it is believed she is from Drepanum (later known as Helenopolis) in Asia Minor and born into

a poor family and lower class in the Roman culture of the day. St. Ambrose described Helena as a "good stable-maid." Despite her background, Helena married Constantius Chlorus. With him she birthed her only son, Constantine. around the year 274. Nearly two decades later in 292, Constantius, now co-Regent of the West, got swept up in his rising stature and divorced Helena for Theodora, the stepdaughter of Emperor Maximianus Herculeus. It is believed he did this to advance his own reputation and advance his standing in the Roman society.

Constantine was forever loyal to his dear mother, whom he loved very much. As he grew and became a member of the inner circle, he never left Helena's side. Following the death of Constantius in 308, Constantine became Emperor and summoned his mother back into inner

QUOTE OF THE WEEK.

"Always remember to love your neighbor; always prefer the one who tries your patience, who tests your virtue, because with her you can always merit: suffering is Love; the Law is Love."

Blessed Mary of Jesus Crucified "The Little Arab"



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.

circle and the imperial court. Helena received the title of Augusta.

Constantine ordered all to honor his mother. He even had coins minted, bearing her image. Through her son's influence, Helena began to embrace Christianity. With her title of Augusta Imperatrix, Helena was given free reign over the imperial treasury. She was tasked with locating relics of Christian tradition. Between the years 326-328, Helena took a trip to the Holy Places in the Middle East. During her journey, Helena had many churches constructed, including the one at the site of Jesus Christ's birth - the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem and another at the site of his ascension - Church of Eleona on the Mount of Olives. During this time Jerusalem was still being rebuilt after Titus' destruction. Around the year 130, Emperor Hadrian had a temple built over the site of Jesus' death. This temple was believed to be dedicated to Venus. Helena had this temple destroyed and chose a site in this location to be excavated. This led to the discovery of three crosses.

Tradition says Helena brought a woman near death to the crosses. There she had the woman place a hand on all three crosses. Nothing happened when she touched the first two crosses, but when she placed her hand on the third cross she suddenly recovered. Helena declared the third cross to be the True Cross. At this site, Constantine ordered the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to be built.

Theodoret of Cyrus, an influential theologian, wrote that that during her search, Helena also discovered the nails of the crucifixion. She had one of the nails placed in Constantine's helmet and one in the bridle of his horse to aid him with their miraculous powers. Churches were built at these sites, as well.

Several of the relics believed to be found by St. Helena are located in Cyprus. Among these are parts of Jesus' tunic, pieces of the holy cross, and pieces of the rope used to tie Jesus to the cross. When Helena returned to Rome from Jerusalem in 327, she brought parts of the True Cross back with her. She stored these in her palace's chapel. They can still be seen to this day, though her palace has been converted to the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem.

St. Helena died around 330 with her dearly devoted son by her side. She was then buried in the Mausoleum of Helena

outside of Rome. Her sarcophagus can be seen in the Pio-Clementine Vatican Museum.

St. Helena was renowned for helping not only individuals, but entire communities through her works of charity. She often sought out to help the poor and destitute. She would visit churches and leave them with rich donations. St. Helena was a very devout servant of God, so much so that one would easily believe her to have been a follower of Jesus Christ from birth. Through her influence and work, Christianity continued to spread throughout the known world.

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=123

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.

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.

OLOP COOKBOOKS

The Education Foundation is still selling our beautiful cookbooks. All the proceeds go to the foundation for scholarships for your youth. With 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.

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.

SAINT JOSEPH SODALITY NEWS

. Thank you to all the men who helped with the Mother's Day Coffee hour. It was enjoyed by all who attended.

. Our Next Monthly Devotion will be on Sunday, June 4, at 10:00 am. All are welcome to join us.

. This is a friendly reminder that Sodality dues for members were due in March. If you have not paid your annual dues of \$25.00, you can give it to George Saba, Fr. Vincent or place it in the collection basket in a marked enveloped for Sodality.

. Starting Sunday, May 28th, we will be meeting at 10:00 am to rehearse hymns that we use during the monthly devotions. Hope to see you there.

. The St. Joseph Sodality will be having a display table at the NAM Convention on July 6th, 7th, and 8th. We are planning a display that will include the history of the St. Joseph Sodality and what we do as a sodality. If you would like to help on any of those days, please see Jacques Barbour for more information.

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.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention requested by Claire Barbour. 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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 20, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Thalaleus of Lebanon). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Olivia and Harold Smith and for the soul of Alfred Le Beau 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, (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.

Saturday, May 27, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Theodora and Didymos). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Roufael and Shoushlia Gabriel and the deceased members of their family requested by Joann, Anthony, and Lorraine David. May their souls rest in peace. 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, May 28, @ 10:30 AM, Pentecost Sunday (Feast of Saint Heliconis). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Anthony and Margaret Abraham Thomas requested by family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Charbel Baroody and Victor Belair requested by Jano and Philip Baroody. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Alfred Nasr and his mother Afeefe (FM). May their souls 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 MAY

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

LECTORS FOR JUNE

Saturday, June 3,

Racheal Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, June 4,

Ann Dupre /Jano Baroody

Saturday, June 10,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, June 11,

Rana Choubah / Gaby Baroody

Saturday, June 17,

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, June 18,

John Barbour /Halim Choubah

Saturday, June 24,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, June 25,

Mae Dickinson /Hiba Chdid

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Fadi Bark, Johnny Kalife, Vicki Thomas Marini, Jacques Barbour, and Smitty Cabral.

FINANCE COUNCIL

MEMBERS:

Jimmy Kalife, Wassim Chedid, Rose Dupre, Rana Choubah, Nigel Hitchings, and Joseph Barckett.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 5/22-5/27 /23

Monday:

Ephesians 4: 1-13

John 12: 20-25

Tuesday:

Ephesians 4: 17-24

John 12: 26-30

Wednesday:

Ephesians 4: 25-32

John 12: 31- 36

Thursday:

Ephesians 5: 1-7

John 12: 37-43

Friday:

Ephesians 5: 8-21

Mark 12: 28-34

Saturday:

Ephesians 6: 10-20,23-24

Matthew 5: 43-48

WEEK OF MAY

13-14, 2023

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday Collection | \$ 978.00 |
| Coffee Hour | \$ 87.00 |
| Candles | \$ 39.00 |
| Total | \$ 1,104.00 |

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.

Our Lady of Purgatory
Presents

"Full of Grace"

Wednesday May 24th
7:00 PM

A night of prayer & music
honoring our
Blessed Mother

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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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