



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



May 27-28, 2023

PENTECOST SUNDAY



A kindergarten teacher was walking around her classroom while her students drew pictures. One little girl was scribbling so intently that the teacher asked what she was drawing. The little girl replied, "I'm drawing a picture of Jesus." The teacher said, "Oh honey, nobody really knows what Jesus looked like." The little girl, without missing a beat, responded, "They will in a minute."

We live in a world where we need everything to be tangible to make sure of its existence and its look. Like Thomas in the Gospels, we tend to think that seeing is believing and we often act the same; it is so hard to believe something that we cannot see!

Jesus teaches us the opposite. In the Gospel account of Pentecost Jesus informed His disciples that the Father will send an advocate to be with them forever. A spirit whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him nor experience today in our world. We

cannot receive the spirit if we don't meet and see Him.

We understand the Holy Spirit to be the presence of God in our lives, guiding us, and helping us grow closer to Him. It is a gift that is available to all who seek a deeper relationship with Him. And **there is a big difference between knowing about God and Knowing God.** We can read hundreds of books and have master's degrees in theology. This doesn't mean that we know God. In books we learn about Him but knowing Him requires this "personal relationship" that Jesus talks about in the Gospel: to come to know Him as a person, through experience not through educational knowledge. Then, we can receive the spirit.

The history of salvation did not end with the resurrection of Jesus Christ, neither with Pentecost, nor with the beginning of the early Churches, otherwise our faith would have stopped there. Jesus tells us that through His Holy Spirit, He

will not leave His people and His Church orphaned. He will be among His people. The Holy Spirit that God gifted to the Church on Pentecost is the reminder for each one of us to always be aware of His presence between us so we can always be amazed of what is happening around. If we lose amazement, our Christianity becomes superficial and just a duty that we have to accomplish and check it out of the list every week.

This is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He keeps us fresh and makes us see everything in a new way with the eyes of Jesus.

It is up to us to decide if we want to be like the little girl who was drawing Jesus. With humility and simplicity, we can believe in what the human reason cannot see and let our faith and the Holy Spirit fill that void, or we can be like Thomas, a disciple who lived and experienced Jesus but wouldn't believe unless he put his finger in the Lord's side.

Nadim Khaled.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Let us pray...Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle us the fire of your love. O Lord, on this day of Pentecost, give us the grace and strength to go forth from our homes and parishes to bring the Gospel message to the world we encounter each day of our lives. Amen.

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.

BLESSED MEMORIAL DAY Why We Celebrate Memorial Day

A Lesson in Service and Sacrifice

by Tom McGrath

What we remember—and honor—on Memorial Day is heroic sacrifice. We acknowledge those who nobly gave of themselves, even unto death, for a purpose they believed was greater than themselves. Since the days just following the end of the Civil War, Americans have gathered in late May to honor those who died in military service to their country. In the spirit of the day, we can also recall, honor, and pray for all those we know who have lived lives of service and sacrifice for the good of others.

Sacrifice is more than suffering!

One definition of *sacrifice* is “the destruction or surrender of something for the sake of something else.” Though suffering is always a part of sacrifice to some extent, seeking suffering for its own sake is *not* sacrifice. Sacrifice implies giving up one good for a higher good. For example, a child gives up a day of play to visit an ailing grandparent, or a parent sacrifices watching a favorite television program to help a child who is struggling with homework. Life in the family is full of opportunities for service and sacrifice.

Jesus: the perfect example of sacrifice

What counts in this definition is the phrase “for the sake of something else.” Is that “something else” worthy of the sacrifice we make? True sacrifice is always at the service of life. We learn this from Jesus, who made the ultimate sacrifice and remained faithful through his Passion, death, and Resurrection. Jesus’ greater purpose for this sacrifice was our well-being—that we might have life and have it abundantly.

This Memorial Day, as we remember all who have served and sacrificed on our behalf, let us not forget what Jesus was willing to give up for us—and the lessons we can learn from that perfect example of sacrifice.

<https://www.lovolapress.com/catholicresources/family/holidays-and-special-occasions/other-special-occasions/why-we-celebrate-memorial-day/>

MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the example of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with your strength and peace.

Embolden us to answer the call to work for peace and justice, and thus, seek an end to violence and conflict around the globe.

We pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen



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.

GOD BLESS YOUR MARRIAGE



Congratulations to Justin and Bertha (Baroody) Biskaduros who were married May 19, 2023. We also congratulate Bertha’s parents Gabriel and Amal Baroody, her brother John Baroody, and Justin and Bertha’s family. May Almighty God bless your marriage and keep it strong like the Cedars of Lebanon. God bless you both.

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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Saturday, June 3, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Awtel). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of MaryLou Viveiros requested by Joann David. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for all the souls of the Daher families requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, June 4, @ 10:30 AM, Pentecost Sunday (Feast of Saint Erasmus). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Abouna Boutros Nasr requested by family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Charles Crane II requested by Ida Farhat. 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.

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 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.

LECTORS FOR MAY AND JUNE

Saturday, May 27,

Racheal Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, May 28,

Mae Dickinson /Hiba Chdid

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.

SAINT JOSEPH SODALITY NEWS

. 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.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 5/29-6/3 /23

Monday:

Acts of the Apostles 2:22-28

John 3: 5-8

Tuesday:

Acts of the Apostles 2: 29-39

John 4: 21-24

Wednesday:

Acts of the Apostles 2: 40-47

John 7: 37- 39

Thursday:

Acts of the Apostles 3: 1-10

John 14: 1-7

Friday:

Acts of the Apostles 3: 11-21

John 14: 8-14

Saturday:

Acts of the Apostles 3: 22-4:4

John 14: 27-31

WEEK OF MAY 20-21, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,422.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 30.00
Sanctuary candle	\$ 10.00
Candles	\$ 60.00
Total	\$ 1,522.00

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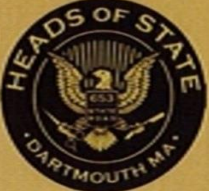
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Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD's Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing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

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