



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



June 10-11, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

TABLE TALK

John 13: 31 – 35

The Apostle John says: When Judas the Iscariot had gone out, Jesus said to his disciples, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Love is the greatest commandment ever given to mankind because it is through love that we are bound to God. We hear about the NEW COMMANDMENT that Jesus gives us. Jesus tells us “I give you a New Commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” What does Jesus mean by this new commandment? Aren’t we told to love God, love thy neighbor, and honor our mother and father in the Old Testament? These are part of the Ten Commandments. So, what does Jesus mean by this? To understand this new commandment, we must look at the love Jesus had for His disciples. How did He love them?

Jesus gave all He had for those He loved. There was nothing selfish about His love. All we need to do is to look at His disciples. There were no limits to His

love. He loved them as He loves all of us. With all our shortcomings, sinfulness, downfalls--- with all our doubts, questions and weaknesses Jesus still loves us. He loves us so much so that He died on the cross so that we may live forever.

Most of us probably think that love should bring us nothing but happiness---isn’t that what love is all about---to feel good and to be happy? For those of us who are older and wiser, we know that this is not the case. **We know that with great love comes great pain.** Jesus knew and understood His disciples and with this understanding He still loved them.” It is similar to when a couple first starts dating and everything is perfect and he or she says this is the one of my dreams...Then they marry and live together and all of a sudden, they begin to see each other’s weaknesses, their moods, their bad habits and irritabilities and they no longer see each other at their best. This is what we call humanity. We are not perfect. We are not immune from bad moments that reveal our human shortcomings. If we were perfect, there would be no need for God, and this is what we must remember. It is when we see ourselves for who we are---the good and the bad---we realize that we make mistakes along the road. After all, is not every day a learning experience? And when we see our bad side we say to ourselves “I hope that person will forgive me? I hope that person still loves me?” This is why this New Commandment is so important. This is why Jesus expects that this commandment be followed by each of His disciples and followers.

Jesus lived with His disciples- He knew who would betray Him, who would deny Him, and who would leave Him alone on His way to Golgotha. And yet with all this

knowledge Jesus continued to love them. **Jesus showed us that we must love not for what we want people to be or what we imagine them to be but for who they are.** Jesus loved with forgiveness. How many of us have had arguments with those we love or have been victims of insults, gossip, or unjust remarks? How much energy do we waste by ignoring those who hurt us or fighting with those who treated us badly; letting those events fester inside us only to destroy our spirit and our soul? **Jesus taught us that for love to endure, it must be built on forgiveness or else love is nothing.**

No one ever said being a follower of Jesus would be an easy road. No one ever said that the teachings and lessons Jesus gives us would not be difficult. But what we have been told is that if we do take these teachings, follow through with them and we make them our own, our reward will be great with God. May we all strive for this love that Jesus speaks about. May we practice this New Commandment of love to others so that we will be afforded the joy that God will one day give to us. May we look at the crucifix and say to ourselves “I love you Jesus; help me to be like you, to forgive and to love.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist.”

Saint Gregory the Great



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

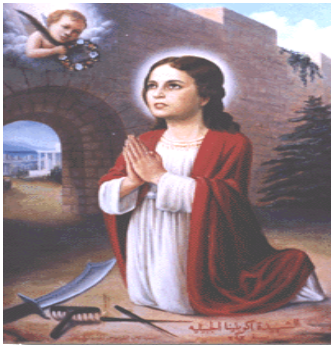
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Email: ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com | Facebook Page: Our Lady of Purgatory Catholic Church - Maronite Rite

OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

SAINT AQUILINA OF JBEL



Between 63 B.C. and 330 A.D., Byblos was under Roman Rule, and although Christianity existed in Byblos from the time of the Apostles, Christians were a minority among the majority pagans. During their rule, the Romans not only strengthened the worship of idols, but some of their governors actively persecuted the Christians. When Aquilina was condemned to death in 293, Volusian was the Magistrate of Byblos. Aquilina's martyrdom was a precursor of the great persecution begun in 303 by Diocletian, the Roman Emperor.

Aquilina was born in Byblos in 281. Her father's name was Eutolmius. She received her catechism from Evthalios, Bishop of Byblos. Her heart was inflamed with the love of Christ; hence her faith and fervor radiated like the sun in Byblos and its surroundings. At the age of twelve, Aquilina began an endeavor to spread Christianity among her compatriots. That was done through her example and teachings driven by the zeal of apostles and the innocence of children. Due to her preaching, many of the pagans were baptized, especially young lads and maidens. She was reported to and brought before Magistrate Volusian during the reign of Emperor Diocletian, and, according to ancient tradition, this dialogue took place "I am Christian," she answered, when Volusian questioned her." The Magistrate said, "You are leading your friends and comrades away from the religion of our gods to the belief in Christ, the Crucified. Don't you know that our kings condemn this Christ and sentence to death those who worship Him? Leave this error and offer oblation to the gods and you shall live. If you refuse, you shall undergo the most atrocious sufferings."

The maiden answered, "I am not afraid of suffering at all; rather, I aspire to it

because with it I emulate my God, Jesus Christ, and die like Him, so that I am resurrected and glorified with Him."

Upon her response, Volusian ordered that she be flogged. She was then tied and flogged mercilessly. The Magistrate tried again to shake her determination, but she answered with courage: "Neither you nor Satan will be able to impose on me sufferings stronger than my strength to sustain, with the power of my God, Jesus."

Volusian, the Magistrate, tried to forget the matter of this maiden, counting on time to change her position, saying to her: "You are going to change your opinion in a few days, so contemplate the matter." Aquilina answered, "I shall never change my mind. I am determined and I shall not budge. I lived a Christian since my childhood, and Christian I shall die." Upon her answer, the Magistrate ordered that her eardrums be punctured with flaming iron rods forcing the brain to discharge through her nose. Her whole body was lacerated by a sharp rake until she fainted and fell on the floor. Volusian thought that she had died so he ordered that she be thrown outside the walls of the city.

With the help of an angel, Aquilina regained consciousness and went before the Magistrate. Upon seeing her, he was astonished and thought that he was dreaming. He ordered that she be imprisoned and decapitated in the morning. The next day, she was found miraculously dead. She gained the crown of martyrdom on the thirteenth of June 293 A.D. The Christians buried her body outside the city where her tomb became a site for pilgrimage and cures.

Later her holy relics were transported to Constantinople where a great basilica was built in her honor near the Forum of Constantine in the Philoxene quarter. This basilica was later destroyed in a fire.

THANK YOU SEMINARIAN NADIM KHALED

This week we said goodbye to our Seminarian Nadim Khaled as he travels to Lebanon to visit his family. It was a joy having him with us and we thank him for his work and zeal he shared with us the past 5 weeks. We will continue to keep Nadim, our seminarians, and those discerning priesthood and religious life in our prayers. We look forward to having him with us again in the future.

2023 OUR LADY OF PURGATORY SCHOLARSHIPS

This year we did not have any applications for the 2023 Scholarship Program. Therefore, there will be no awards given out this year. We will continue to fundraise for next year. Soon, I will have several dates for activities that are planned for OLOP. This is a great opportunity for our youth to stay active in the parish and to be eligible for a scholarship that is granted by the OLOP Education Foundation Committee.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES

- **Christophe Chedid** received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from UMASS Dartmouth.
- **Emmanuel Chedid** received an Associates Degree in advanced automotive and high performance from The New England Institute of Technology.
- **Dylan Barbour** received a B.A. in Biology and a Minor in Economics from UMASS Amherst.
- **Samuel Abi Younes** received a B.A. in Finance Economics from UMASS Amherst.
- **Michael Mello** graduated from Bristol Community College with his Associates Degree in Liberal Arts and is continuing on to UMASS Dartmouth where he will major in Communications, with a Minor in Music.

ANNUAL LEBANESE FESTIVAL SAVE THE DATES

September may sound like a faraway but as we prepare for our Annual Lebanese Festival, it is never too early to begin preparations. The festival will be held on Friday, September 8, and Saturday, September 9, at our new property on Acushnet Avenue.

In the next few weeks, I will be sending out information and asking you to volunteer for what I expect will be a warm and exciting welcome to our new home. For this major fundraiser to be a success, your help is needed. I ask you in advance to think about how you can help make this festival a great success. Younger and older alike, your participation will make a great difference.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, June 10, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Barnabas, One of the 72 Disciples). Liturgy is being offered for a special intention requested by Mariam David and family. 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, June 11, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Bartholomew, one of the 12 Disciples). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Hiam Chaib requested by Amal Baroody and Maria Abi Rached. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Alfred and his Mother Afeefe (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Saturday, June 17, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Amos the Prophet). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Kenyon and Daher families requested by family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Lorraine Mendonca requested by Annemarie Espindola. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, June 18, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Leontius of Tripoli). Liturgy is being offered for all Fathers living and deceased.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sharon Conti, David Techlin, 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.

CONFESSION

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

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.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention 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.

SAINT JOSEPH SODALITY NEWS

. 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.

. The women of the parish, along with the help of the St. Joseph Sodality members, will be sponsoring the coffee hour on Father's Day. If you would like to help, please reach out to Amal Barbour at: (508) 801-9685 or Abouna Vincent.

. SAVE the date for the NAM Convention July 7 to July 9.

LECTORS FOR JUNE

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)

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of June is offered in memory of Abraham and Amelia Sarkis and for Joann Yozfek requested by family. May their souls rest in peace.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 6/12-6/17/23

Monday:

Acts of the Apostles 5:34-42

John 16: 5-11

Tuesday:

Acts of the Apostles 6: 1-12

John 16: 12-15

Wednesday:

Acts of the Apostles 7: 1-8

John 16: 16- 19

Thursday:

Acts of the Apostles 7: 9-16

John 16: 20-24

Friday:

Galatians 1: 11-17

Matthew 11: 25-30

Saturday:

Acts of the Apostles 7: 30-38

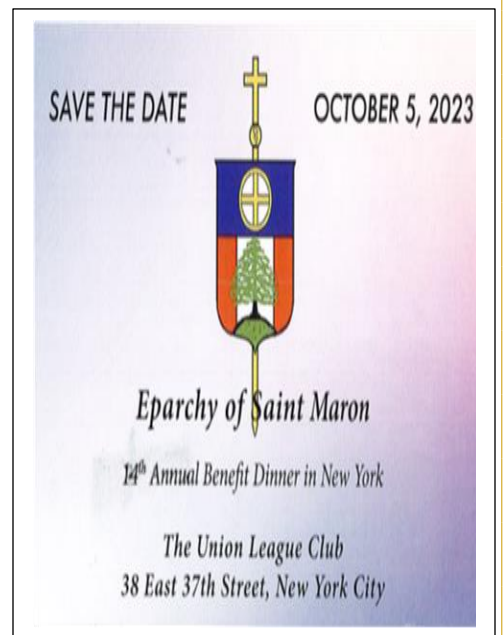
John 16: 29-33

WEEK OF JUNE

3-4, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,050.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 10.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 87.00
Candles	\$ 38.00
Total	\$ 1,185.00

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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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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