



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



June 17-18, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY ST. JOSEPH & ALL FATHERS

Heavenly Father, You entrusted Your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of St. Joseph, His foster father.

BLESS ALL FATHERS as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to You for love and salvation, through Jesus Christ our rock and defender. Amen.



HAPPY AND BLESSED FATHER'S DAY

I would like to wish all our father's, father figures, brother priests and brothers a very happy and blessed Father's Day! The men in our lives is a beautiful gift from God. With so many changes in our society, the role of the father can be a daunting task to say the least. There are so many things we take for granted and perhaps even forget about when it comes to the role of our fathers and the men in our lives. But one thing is very clear, God, in His Divine Providence, gave to us the role model of what a good Christian father should be.

I am so very thankful for my father and those who were father figures to me as I am sure you share my same feelings. It is not an easy vocation. Fathers will make mistakes along the way just like all of us. But a true Christian father will never give up. And most likely, he will use the role model of our beloved Saint Joseph to steer him in a righteous and just manner. As your spiritual father, I wish you all the blessings, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, to continue to protect, love, and be an example to your families as Our Father in heaven intended fatherhood to be.

I am sharing with you a beautiful reflection written by Pope Francis. May this be a source of inspiration as you continue to fulfill your vocation of fatherhood. In June of 2022, we looked at Pope Francis' apostolic letter. As another Father's Day draws near it seems appropriate to reflect again on this enlightened document. St. Joseph is often seen as a saint for fathers and father figures alike. A spiritual and virtuous counselor to emulate and seek guidance from as we map our role as fathers. Pope Francis penned the apostolic letter titled *Patris Corde* ("With a

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

Father's Heart") in preparation for the year honoring St. Joseph, 2021.

In his letter he explains the fatherhood of St. Joseph through seven lenses: a beloved father; a tender and loving father; an obedient father; an accepting father; a creatively courageous father; a working father, and a "father in the shadows." Let's take a closer look at each of these.

Beloved Father: Joseph is the earthly father of Jesus, but he, like Mary, knows that this child is born unto this earth to be the redeemer of humanity and that his true Father lives and reigns in the kingdom of heaven. As such, he uses his legal, earthly authority as a father to protect and provide for Jesus in safety and love so that he may grow into his fullness as the Messiah.

Tender and Loving Father: We can rightly say that Joseph modeled fatherhood for Jesus. Knowing what God's plan for Jesus was and being his earthly father, Joseph's gift of tender love and ministrations helped him grow strong in mind and body. As a result, when it came time for Christ to take up his ministry he did so with the unconditional love of his family and an inherent understanding of his role in God's plan.

An Obedient Father: We often think that it is a child's responsibility to be obedient to his father. But Joseph shows us that even fathers are answering to a higher calling. When Mary is pregnant, Joseph has a dream that tells him the Child of God will be born through Mary. At that moment and forevermore, Joseph puts the welfare of Mary and Jesus above all else. Listening to God's commands he is obedient not only to the Word of God but also to his paternal responsibility of putting his family's best interests before his own.

An Accepting Father: Here, perhaps, is the most difficult lens through which Joseph models fatherhood for us. Can we accept our children and their lives even when we do not understand why it is so? Pope Francis tells us, "In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude. Only the Lord can give us the strength needed to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations, and disappointments." We see in Joseph the acceptance of God's plan, even though quite conceivably he didn't understand it, and most certainly was contrary to the societal norms of the day.

A Creatively Courageous

Father: In *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis says that "in the face of difficulty, we can either give up and walk away, or somehow engage with it." Joseph, as the father of Jesus, husband of Mary and protector of the Holy Family, is faced with difficulties time and again. However, trusting in the divine providence of God's plan, he creatively turns troubles into opportunities. If we feel like our difficulties outnumber our blessings at times, we need to remember that God trusts us to be creative, courageous, and find solutions to our problems.

A Working Father: St. Joseph has long been associated with the ethic of work. He earned an honorable living as a carpenter and provided for his family; likewise, he taught Jesus the value, joy, and dignity that can be found in providing for one's family from the fruits of his labor. How then, Pope Francis asks, "can we speak of human dignity without working to ensure that everyone is able to earn a decent living?" We, as followers of Christ, must find ways to make certain that everybody has the opportunity to work.

A Father in the Shadows: The role of a responsible and loving father or father figure, as we have seen in St. Joseph, is not an easy one. A father must embody many truths and live them actively. He must teach, model, and communicate the virtues of fatherhood so that the child can grow to the fullness of their potential. And then finally, he must be able to let go of all the previous truths. He must be a father in the shadows, who allows the child to have the freedom to walk "the paths of life unaccompanied."

<https://catholicphilly.com/2022/06/commentaries/fathers-day-through-the-lens-of-st-joseph/>

NEW RECTORY AND CHURCH ADDRESS

As you may know, the rectory has moved to the new location. The address for the rectory/office will now be: 4254 Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford, MA, 02745. We will have the same phone number and email address.

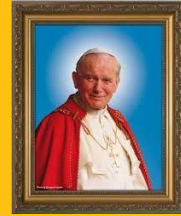
WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

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.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"In revealing and in reliving on earth the very fatherhood of God, a man is called upon to ensure the harmonious and united development of all the members of the family."

St. John Paul II



ANNUAL LEBANESE FESTIVAL - SAVE THE DATES

September may sound like a long time away 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.

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 envelope for Sodality.

. 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.

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

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Saturday, June 24, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of the Birth of Saint John the Baptist). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Butch, Susan and Amy Cabral requested by Lou and Smitty Cabral. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Raymond Boutros Roupheal Gabriel requested by Joann, Anthony and Lorraine David. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, June 25, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Feast of Saints Zachariah and Elizabeth, Parents of Saint John the Baptist). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Samira Al-Daif (40- Day Mass). May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for Abraham and Amelia Sarkis requested by family. May their souls rest in peace.

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.

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.

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.

LECTORS FOR JUNE

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)

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.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 6/19-6/24/23

Monday:

Acts of the Apostles 7:44-50
Matthew 18: 6-10

Tuesday:

Acts of the Apostles 7: 51-8:1a
Matthew 16: 12-15

Wednesday:

Acts of the Apostles 8: 1b-8
Matthew 18: 11- 14

Thursday:

Acts of the Apostles 8: 9-13b,25
Matthew 18: 15-20

Friday:

Acts of the Apostles 8: 26-40
Matthew 18: 21-35

Saturday:

Galatians 4: 21-5:1
Luke 1: 57-66

WEEK OF JUNE 10-11, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,362.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 56.00
Candles	\$ 61.00
Total	\$ 1,479.00

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.

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 5, 2023



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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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