



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



July 29-30, 2023

TENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

A REFLECTION ON OUR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

I begin this reflection with a personal story, and I ask you to keep this person in prayer. Last year, my grade school classmates organized a reunion for the students at Holy Cross Elementary School, as well as the teachers who taught there for so many years. We honored the teachers and Sisters who taught us, disciplined us, and loved us with a tough and Christlike love.

As we reminisced over the long weekend, a resounding sentiment was heard. This school, these teachers, these religious, were the foundation of who we would become as adults. Many of us had made mistakes along the way and many of us lost contact with friends from the past. But what we all understood and felt that weekend was that this humble school, comprised of different ethnicities, social and economic backgrounds, yielded a cohesive bond amongst all of us. To this day, we remember fondly Sr. Rita, Sister Marianne, Miss Potter, Sr. Juanita Marie, and our recently departed Sr. Karen. These mentors who cared about their students with love and discipline would be remembered more than 50 years since I was a student there. This was the sentiment of all those who came.

This leads me to the present! All of us have a history and probably remember with great fondness and admiration those who shaped our lives as teachers and religious. We must never forget where we came from and those who were responsible for shaping our lives that has gotten us to this point. With our busy lives and schedules, we often forget to look back and remember those who have crossed our paths, those who made a significant difference in our lives, and to

thank them and say a prayer for them.

As we think about the future, we are reminded of those who taught us about our faith, the importance of the Holy Trinity, and who were examples of loving others with both a gentle and firm love, keeping in mind that their goal was to lead us all to Christ.

Today, a new future begins for Our Lady of Purgatory. It is a future that is filled with promise and hope. It is a new journey of faith that depends on our belief that the Church Jesus instituted, is a church that deserves our zeal and commitment to ensure our salvation. It is a Church that one may have disagreements with others, but in the end, it is a Church in which all are united in the common goal---our salvation in Christ Jesus.

As we reflect about the future, I am once again reminded that even our Church community is much like my days in elementary school. Our community is made up of different ethnicities, different languages, and social and economic backgrounds. But what unites us to yield the same cohesive bond, is our faith and belief in Christ Jesus. What unites us is knowing that our Church, Our Lady of Purgatory, is a place for everyone to come and worship, regardless of ethnicity, language, and social and economic backgrounds. It is a place where our Maronite spirituality may be practiced and embraced by all.

Looking back to my Holy Cross days, I didn't always agree with the Sisters. I didn't always believe they had my best interest when I was scolded, paddled, or disciplined. But as I look back to those many years ago, one thing is clear: they loved us and prepared us to make a difference in this world. Sometimes it

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Virtues are formed by prayer. Prayer preserves temperance. Prayer suppresses anger. Prayer prevents emotions of pride and envy. Prayer draws into the soul the Holy Spirit and raises man to Heaven."

St. Ephram



takes many years to realize their impact, but when you do realize it, you immediately count your blessings, only to know that they did have your best interest at heart.

Today, I ask you to remember those people from the past. The past priests who made an impact on your lives, the religious who cared for you and taught you, and I ask you to say a prayer for them. I ask you to thank them for their sacrifice and mentorship. And today, I ask you to join me in saying a prayer for one of those incredible mentors who has had a direct impact on my life since I was 6 years old. Sister Juanita Marie, who sacrificed her life for Christ's flock, who gave of herself for the children she was responsible for, and to ask for God's mercy as she battles pancreatic cancer. We receive more than we give; they have given me much. May all of us in return give to each other and to Christ Jesus.

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.

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED MOTHER EID AL SAIDE

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother (Eid al Saide) Divine Liturgy will be held on Monday evening, August 14, at 6:30 PM, at 4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA, 02745. Immediately following Divine Liturgy, we will have a BBQ in honor of our Blessed Mother. More details will be available next week. I ask anyone who is attending to send me a message so that we may prepare enough food for everyone. May our Blessed Mother continue to lead us to her Son and may all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

DEDICATION OF THE NEW CHURCH

Bishop Gregory will be dedicating the new church on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2023. He will be with us for the entire weekend as we begin our new journey of faith at our new home. More details will be forthcoming regarding the services and festivities for the weekend. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for this beautiful celebration.

RESTORATION AND UPDATING OF THE AMERICAN LEBANESE VETERANS' PLAQUES

We are in the process of restoring and updating the two plaques that commemorate the deceased American Lebanese Veterans who were parishioners of Our Lady of Purgatory Church. If you have knowledge of someone that has passed away and fits the following criteria:

- OLOP Parishioner
- Served in any of the US Armed Forces

Please email or contact either Olivia Smitty Cabral (508)-961-8599 oliviasmitty88@gmail.com or Lorraine David at (508)-965-8824 lorraineadavid@msn.com with the deceased member's first and last names, middle initial (if used), as well as the date of their death. In order to verify that there are no missing names from previous years, we would like to go back to 1997 as the starting year for this update.

**All names must be submitted by September 30, 2023, to have these plaques ready for Veterans Day.

SAINT JOSEPH SODALITY NEWS

Periodically we will be publishing news and coming events from the St. Joseph Sodality. The Sodality is the oldest organization in the Parish, having been founded in 1918. Through their devotion to St. Joseph, Sodality Members seek to emulate the life and faith of St. Joseph, and by doing so, hope to achieve eternal happiness as he did. The Sodality encourages you to consider becoming a member.

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.

WELCOME TO THE FLOCK OF CHRIST

Congratulations to Jonah Joseph Anthony Rahme, who was baptized into the flock of Christ last Saturday. We also congratulate his parents Joseph and Elise Rahme, Jacob and Joy his siblings, Godparents John and Grace Rahme, and his grandparents Faouzi and Diane Rahme and Mr. Genvieve. May Almighty God bless Jonah and keep him in His loving arms. Mabrook!

VOLUNTEER SIGNUP SHEETS

Volunteers are vital to this fundraiser. If you are willing and able to give of your time, before, during, after, or all the above, please give us your name and information on the signup sheets. You may also email or call Fr. Vincent at the office. I thank you in advance for all your help.

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 remarkable success. Younger and older alike, your participation will make a significant difference.

RAFFLE BASKETS NEEDED

We are adding an additional booth for this year's festival. It will be called the Avenue of Theme Baskets. We are hoping to have 30 baskets that will be raffled off at the end of the festival. Anyone who would like to donate a theme basket, please contact:

Smitty Cabral at: (508)-961-8599 oliviasmitty88@gmail.com or Lorraine David at: (508)-965-8824 lorraineadavid@msn.com.

If you do not know what to buy for the basket, we will accept donations towards a basket and we will prepare one for you. In addition to baskets, this raffle can include electronics such as TV's, ear buds for Apple or Samsung phones, etc. Thank you for your consideration.

CONFESSION

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

Food . Bar . Live Music . Saj . Hookas . Raffles . Dancing



Our Lady Of Purgatory Church

Lebanese Festival

Friday, September 8, 2023
5:00PM - 11:00PM

Live Entertainment

Mitchel Katsunas (Friday)

Rami Badr (Saturday)

With Bashir El-Khouri Band

Saturday, September 9, 2023
12:00PM - 11:00PM



Money Raffles Prizes

\$1,000 - \$500 - \$200

Drawing
Saturday, September 9, 2023
10:30PM

4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA 02745

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 29, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Ezekiel the Prophet, Feast of Saint Martha, the Sister of Lazarus). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Anne Abraham requested by Annemarie Espindola. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, July 30, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saints Abdon and Sennen). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Jose DaSilva requested by Fatima DaSilva and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Leo Farhat requested by family. May his soul rest in peace.

Saturday, August 5, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Moses the Prophet). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Rachel David and the deceased members of their family requested by Joann, Anthony, and Loraine David. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Steven Espindola requested by Annemarie Espindola. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, August 6, @ 10:30 AM, (Transfiguration of Our Lord). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Samir and Georgette Sawaya and Milad Chedid requested by Hiba and Zakhia Chdid. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for a special intention.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sister Juanita Marie, 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.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of July is offered for the living and deceased members of the Daher and David families requested by Mariam David and family.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention. 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 JULY 2023

Saturday, July 29,
Smitty David

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, July 30,

Mae Dickinson /Gaby Baroody

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 7/31-8/5/23

Monday:

Acts of the Apostles 21:1-14

Matthew 23: 13-15

Tuesday:

Acts of the Apostles 21: 15-26

Matthew 23: 16-22

Wednesday:

Acts of the Apostles 21: 27-28,30b-40a

Matthew 23: 23-26

Thursday:

Acts of the Apostles 21: 40-22:10

Luke 12: 1-5

Friday:

Acts of the Apostles 22: 17-29

Luke 12: 6-9

Saturday:

Acts of the Apostles 22:30-23:11

Luke 12: 10-12

LECTORS FOR AUGUST 2023

Saturday, August 5,
Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, August 6,

Mae Dickinson/Hiba Chdid

Saturday, August 12,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, August 13,

John Barbour/ Halim Choubah

Monday, August 14,

Matthew Thomas/ Gaby Baroody

Saturday, August 19,

Racheal Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, August 20,

Ann Dupre/Jano Baroody

Saturday, August 26,

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, August 27,

Rana Choubah / Gaby Baroody

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

WEEK OF JULY

22-23, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,274.00
Festival Sponsorship	\$ 900.00
Festival Raffle	\$ 380.00
Donations	\$ 500.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 15.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 20.00
Candles	\$ 24.00
Total	\$ 3,113.00

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.

*All are invited to come and join us
Festivities will go on come rain or shine!
Under the tents or in the open air!*

SAVE THE DATE

St. Anthony of the Desert Church
300 N. Eastern Avenue, Fall River, MA

Lebanese Mahrajan Food Festival

Fri, Aug 4th ~ 5pm to 10pm
Sat, Aug 5th ~ Noon to 11pm
Sun, Aug 6th ~ 11am to 5pm

D. J. and Live Entertainment



Alcoholic Beverages



Authentic Lebanese Food and Pastry



Hookah



Fun For The Whole Family

Dancing and so much more!

Facebook: St Anthony of the Desert Maronite Catholic Church
Website: <https://saocchurch/>
Phone: 508-978-7664

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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.

Joseph & Marie Kenyon

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