



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



July 8-9, 2023

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

The Blessed Massabki Brothers: Francis, Abdel Moati, & Raphael



(Maronite martyrs, who offered up their lives a burning offering of love to Christ in Damascus in the year 1860).

Francis, Abdel Moati and Rafael were brothers, who lived in Damascus, Syria, in a devout Maronite family, known for its piety, wealth, nobility, and compassion towards the poor and the needy.

In the year 1860, when the Muslims in Damascus and the Druze in Mount and South Lebanon attacked and massacred the Christians, our martyrs, along with a large crowd of Christians, took refuge in the Franciscan

monastery in Damascus, after the Muslims had set the fire in the Christian neighbourhood. In the monastery, they were praying and celebrating the mysteries of Reconciliation (confession) and Eucharist for the last time.

While Francis stayed alone in the Church, kneeling down before the statue of Our Lady of Sorrow and praying, he was filled with hope. After midnight a band of armed Muslim rioters broke into the monastery. Christians were terrified and confused, some managed to run away, and others hid themselves. The rioters shouted: "where is Francis Massabki? We are after him". At that, Francis approached them audaciously, saying: "I am Francis Massabki, how can I help you?" They told him, that we have come to save you and your family, under one condition, that you become Muslims, or we will kill you all. He answered them: "We are Christians and faithful to Christ we live and die. We do not fear those who can kill the body, as the Lord Jesus said."

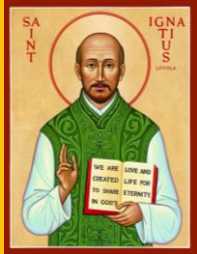
Then, he looked at his brothers and said to them: "have courage and stand firm in your faith, because the crown of victory is already ready in heaven for those who persevere till the end." At that, his two brothers confessed publicly their faith in the Lord Jesus saying: "We are Christians, and we want to live and die as Christians."

Thus, their persecutors attacked them,

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Teach us to give and not count the cost."

St. Ignatius de Loyola



beating them with their sticks, knives and axes. In this manner they were killed, preferring death over denying their faith in Christ, who crowned them as martyrs. That happened on July 10th in the year 1860. His holiness Pope Pius XI had declared them blessed on October 10th, 1926, thanks to the efforts of Bishop Bechara Al'Shemali, the Maronite Archbishop of Damascus. May their prayers be with us. Amen.

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.

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

Address: 4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA 02745

Office: 508-996-8934 | **Fax:** 774-202-0758 | **Evening Emergency Number:** 561-371-5316 | **Website:** www.ourladyofpurgatory.org

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.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 4 pm – 8 pm

Dear Parishioners and Friends of OLOP:

We are making great progress at the new Church grounds and are now preparing the Church and Church hall to be used in the near future. I need your help!

On Wednesday, July 12, from 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM, we will be clearing and cleaning the hall so that we can be organized and ready for our Mahrajan September 8 and 9. I need everyone's help with this project. Please let me know if you can help with this project. All hands are needed and welcomed. I thank you in advance for your willingness to help. Please call the Church office on 508-996-8934. God bless all of you. Fr. Vincent

"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."
St. Augustine

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.

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.

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

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 enveloped for Sodality.



Maronite Bishops of the United States of America



28 April 2023

Prot. No. 169.2/1/23

Dear Members of the Massabki Family,

As you know, Pope Francis answered positively to a written request from the Synod of Maronite Bishops to raise the status of the Massabki Brothers from Blessed to that of Saints.

It is our hope to write again, once we know more about the time and place of the canonization of the three Massabki Brothers, Francis, Abdul-Mooti, and Raphael who sacrificed their lives in Damascus on July 10, 1860 rather than renouncing their Christian faith.

This is a momentous occasion, and as relatives of the Massabkis, we want to be sure you know as much as possible about this. For that reason, we have enclosed a copy of the letter which we, and all our brother Maronite bishops, signed asking Pope Francis to declare them saints. That written request is also available on our website at www.stmaron.org and www.eparchy.org, should you want to share it with others.

This good news is so very much welcomed. These laymen, your ancestors, are an inspiration for all of us to continue our faithful witness to Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Gregory Mansour
Bishop of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn

+A.E. Zaidan
Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

GJM/jw

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Tel: (718) 237-9913 chancerystmaron@verizon.net www.stmaron.org

Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon, 1021 So. 10th Street, St. Louis, MO 63104
Tel (314) 231-1021 info@eparchy.org www.eparchy.org

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 8, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Pope Saint Procopius). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Michael J. David requested by Robert Macedo (FM). May his soul 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, July 9, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Pancras). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Karam Matta requested by family. May his soul rest in peace.

Saturday, July 15, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saints Cyriacus and Julitta, His Mother). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Anthony Cabral requested by Lou and Smitty Cabral. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Anne Abraham requested by Mariam David and family. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, July 16, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of The Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of George F. Thomas requested by family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Alfred Le Beau and for the soul of Anne Abraham requested by Jano and Philip Baroody. May their souls rest in peace.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

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.

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 with the intercession of Saint Rita 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 JULY

Saturday, July 8,

Annmarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, July 9,

John Barbour /Halim Choubah

Saturday, July 15,

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Helen and Anna Higgins

Sunday, July 16,

Rana Choubah /Gaby Baroody

Saturday, July 22,

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, July 23,

Ann Dupre / Hiba Chdid

Saturday, July 29,

Smitty David

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, July 30,

Mae Dickinson /Gaby Baroody

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

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 7/10-7/15/23

Monday:

Acts of the Apostles 14:1-7

Luke 10: 8-12

Tuesday:

Acts of the Apostles 14: 8-18

Luke 10: 13-16

Wednesday:

Acts of the Apostles 14: 19-28

Luke 10: 17-20

Thursday:

Acts of the Apostles 15: 1-12

Luke 10: 25-28

Friday:

Acts of the Apostles 15: 13-21

Luke 10: 29-37

Saturday:

Acts of the Apostles 15: 22-30

John 10: 38-42

WEEK OF JULY 1-2, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,322.00
June Online Giving	\$ 813.61
Coffee Hour	\$ 42.00
Candles	\$ 33.00
Total	\$ 2,210.61

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



Eparchy of Saint Maron

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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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