



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



September 9-10, 2023

# SEASON OF THE HOLY CROSS



## FEAST OF THE EXALTAION OF THE HOLY CROSS

If Jesus would never have given His life on a cross for the salvation of the world, then a cross would never have been seen in “exaltation.” A cross, in and of itself, is an instrument of death, a horrific and violent death. It’s also an instrument of humiliation and torture. Yet, today, the Cross is seen as a holy and blessed object. We hang crosses in our homes, wear them around our neck, keep them in our pocket on the end of the rosary, and spend time in prayer before them. The Cross is now an exalted image by which we turn to God in prayer and surrender. But that is only the case because it was on a cross that we were saved and brought to eternal life. If you step back and consider the amazing truth that one of the worst instruments of torture and death is now seen as one of the holiest of images on earth, it should be awe inspiring. Comprehending this fact should lead us to the realization that God can do anything and everything. God can use the worst and transform it into the best. He can use death to bring forth life.

Though our celebration today, the “Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross,” is first and foremost a feast by which we give glory to the Father for what He did in the Person of His divine Son, it is also a feast by which we must humbly understand that God can “exalt” every cross we endure in life and bring forth much grace through them.

What is your heaviest cross? What is the source of your greatest suffering? Most likely, as you call this to mind, it is painful to you. Most often, our crosses and sufferings are things we seek to rid ourselves of. We easily point to crosses in life and blame them for a lack of happiness. We can easily think that if only this or that were to change or be removed, then our life would be better. So what is that cross in your life?

The truth is that whatever your heaviest cross is, there is extraordinary potential for that cross to become an actual source of grace in your life and in the world.

But this is only possible if you embrace that cross in faith and hope so that our

Lord can unite it to His and so that your crosses can also share in the exaltation of Christ’s Cross. Though this is a profoundly deep mystery of faith, it is also a profoundly deep truth of our faith.

Reflect, today, upon your own crosses. As you do, try not to see them as a burden. Instead, realize the potential within those crosses. Prayerfully look at your crosses as invitations to share in Christ’s Cross. Say “Yes” to your crosses. Choose them freely. Unite them to Christ’s Cross. As you do, have hope that God’s glory will come forth in your life and in the world through your free embrace of them. Know that these “burdens” will be transformed and become a source of exaltation in your life by the transforming power of God.

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.”**

**John 3:16** <https://catholicdailyreflections.com/2021/09/13/the-transforming-power-of-the-cross/>

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

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**Email:** [ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## ARABIC CLASSES TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

I am happy to inform our community that we will begin Arabic classes for beginners in October. This class will include writing, reading, and speaking the Arabic language. These classes will be split into two groups: one for children and one for adults. Attached is the registration form long with information about days and times.

### OLOP ARABIC CLASS REGISTRATION FORMS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Level:

Adult 18 and Older

Youth Under 18 Years Old: \_\_\_\_\_

Classes will be held once a week for adults and for the youth. Classes will be held on the following days:

Adult classes will be held on **Tuesdays from 6:30-7:45 PM.**

Youth classes will be held on **Thursdays from 6:30-7:45 PM.**

We are looking forward to beginning the classes in October. The starting date will be announced soon. Thank you for your support.

(Arabic classes are open to all parishioners. To help with the cost of materials and books, there will be a \$50.00 registration fee for the year. If this is a hardship for anyone, please contact Fr. Vincent privately. I do not want this to be a hinderance for anyone who would like to learn Arabic.)

If you are interested in taking these classes, please fill out the registration forms and return them back to the Church office. contact the church office via email at [ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com) or drop them in the collection basket. Thank you.

## SECOND COLLECTION FOR CUA AND THE MARONITE SEMINARY

As per the directive of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, there will be a second collection this weekend for the Catholic University of America and the Maronite Seminary. This money helps educate our seminarians throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity.

### 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](mailto:oliviasmitty88@gmail.com) or Lorraine David at (508)-965-8824 [lorraineadavid@msn.com](mailto: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.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"In difficult moments, I will fix my gaze upon the silent Heart of Jesus stretched on the Cross, and from the exploding flames of His merciful Heart, will flow down upon me power and strength to keep fighting."*

St. Faustina



## 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.

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention requested by a parishioner. 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.

**ANNUAL LEBANESE FESTIVAL**  
featuring

**Mitchell Kalatsunas**  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

**Andre Ibrahim**  
Saturday

**DJ Gabriel Massih**  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

**SAINT THERESA MARONITE CHURCH**  
343 N Main Street  
Brockton, MA

Friday, Sep 22, 5:00 P.M. to Midnight  
Saturday, Sep 23, 12:00 Noon to 01:00 A.M.  
Sunday, Sep 24, 12:00 Noon to 5:00 P.M.

Extra Parking available at the Angelo School at 472 N Main Street and at the old AMR Ambulance Center adjacent to our Parking Lot

**ADMISSION FREE**

No outside Food, Drinks or Hookah allowed

Baskets Auction

RAFFLE!

BAR

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, September 9, @ 4:30 PM,** (Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Virgin Mary). Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in Purgatory requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May they rest in peace.

**Sunday, September 10, @ 10:30 AM,** Exaltation of the Holy Cross. (Feast of Saint Pulcheria the Queen). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Penny Farhat requested by Family. May her soul rest in peace.

**Wednesday, September 13, @ 7:00 PM,** (Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross).

**Saturday, September 16, @ 4:30 PM,** (Feast of Saint Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage). Liturgy is being offered for the soul Sandy Potoak requested by Joann David. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Marie Kenyon requested by family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, September 17, @ 10:30 AM,** (Feast of Saint Sophia and her 3 Daughters). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Hardin Family Society. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Peter and Raja Saba Bou Eassy (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Magda Moosa, Charles Murray, Alice Daher, 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 September is offered for Jean D'Arc ElKhoury requested by Jacques and Amal Barbour.

## 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.

## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 9/11-9/16/23

### Monday:

James 3: 13-18

Luke 18: 15-17

### Tuesday:

James 4: 1-10

Luke 18: 18-23

### Wednesday:

James 4: 11-17

Luke 18: 24-30

### Thursday:

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

John 12: 20-32

### Friday:

2 Peter 1: 1-11

John 3: 11-21

### Saturday:

2 Peter 1: 12-21

John 8: 21-30

## LECTORS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

**Saturday, September 9,**  
Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

**Sunday, September 10,**

John Barbour / Halim Choubah

**Saturday, September 16,**

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

**Sunday, September 17,**

Ann Dupre / Gaby Baroody

**Saturday, September 23,**

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

**Sunday, September 24,**

Rana Choubah / Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, September 30,**

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

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

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 2-3, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$	1,939.00
Festival Sponsorship	\$	1,000.00
Festival Raffle	\$	40.00
Altar Host & Wine	\$	100.00
Memorial donation	\$	300.00
Capital Campaign	\$	500.00
Festival Food	\$	30.00
Coffee Hour	\$	43.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$	10.00
Candles	\$	34.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,996.00</b>

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.

**Annual Lebanese Festival** Rain or Shine!

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Middle Eastern Cuisine

Live Entertainment

Friday & Saturday

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

St. George Maronite Catholic Church  
1493 Cranston Street, Cranston RI  
Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>: 3<sup>pm</sup>-12<sup>am</sup>  
Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>: 12<sup>pm</sup>-12<sup>am</sup>  
Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>: 11:30<sup>am</sup>-7<sup>pm</sup>

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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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