



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



November 18-19, 2023

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZACHARIAH



THE POWER OF SILENT PRAYER

For years I've been trying to master the art of silent prayer. Sometimes my attempts find me staring at my shoes, thinking about the work I need to be doing. Other times, when I approach prayer with an open heart, I can feel my life, attitude, and perspective changing with every second I keep my eyes closed.

Silence is difficult. It's confusing. What, exactly, is supposed to happen while sitting for long, potentially awkward periods of time? I'm still not confident about my answer, but I can share some of my experiences.

Enough Is Enough

First, every time I enter into silent prayer it takes quite a while to get situated. I'm thinking about the endless number of tasks that need to be done at my job and my apartment. Moreover, I

have special projects, blog posts, videos, and, most importantly, people I need to connect with throughout the day. My mind never shuts off, unless I put my foot down and say, *Enough is enough*. Entering into silent prayer takes work. It takes discipline and courage to cut through all the little things that distract our minds and hearts to arrive at a sacred and productive silence.

I have some good days and I have some terrible days when I attempt to enter into silent prayer. However, the more I try, the better I get.

I Am Not in Charge

When I'm at my best in silent prayer, I get an overwhelming feeling that I am not in charge. While that sounds cliché, it seems to me that this simple mindset is the remedy to my stress, heartache, and anxiety. Day to day I get tricked into believing that my daily tasks, obstacles, and struggles are bigger than they are.

Some days I even feel cheated that people don't recognize them or validate them, but my prayer puts things into the proper perspective. I get a profound sense that God is in charge and that life is mysterious. And no matter what struggles come my way, God has a way to redeem them. I like to think that I trust God, but silence helps me to live that trust.

Deeper Prayer

God isn't some "thing" we can quantify; God is mystery. Silence is one of the most profound ways to dive deeper into the mystery that is God. I've grown to appreciate this idea through St. Ignatius's Spiritual Exercises. For 30 weeks I was asked to sit in silence for one hour a day while using my imagination to contemplate the Scriptures. I was hesitant at first, but it made sense that if God worked through all things (a very basic and popular Ignatian concept), God certainly worked through my imagination.

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

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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.

It was then that I realized the true beauty of silent prayer. Every week I was given a set of Bible verses to contemplate. More than that, I was asked to imagine myself within the Bible stories. It was there that I “met” God for the first time. He revealed himself to me in a number of creative ways that made me seek God more, ways that fueled my desire to know God more deeply.

Ironically, my silent prayer was incredibly loud, interactive, and engaging. It was also emotional and intimate. The silence allowed God to speak to my heart in mysterious ways. Through those 30 weeks of the Spiritual Exercises, I interacted with God in ways that I never thought possible. We shared intimate moments and furthered our relationship. In my Scripture contemplations, Jesus treated me as one of his disciples and entrusted me with tasks to further his mission. He trusted me. He embraced me. He stuck up for me. He loved me. The silence was a sacred space for me to be with Jesus. For me, this is the power of silent prayer: it creates a deeper relationship with an infinite and mysterious God. It takes us down a path that ultimately leads to a deep friendship.

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/the-power-of-silent-prayer/>

SAINT ANTHONY OF THE DESERT CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saint Anthony of the Desert in Fall River will be having their Annual Christmas Bazaar this weekend. This will take place on Saturday, November 18, from 10AM-4PM, and on Sunday, November 19, from 10AM-4PM. Please stop by and support our brothers and sisters at 300 North Eastern Ave, Fall River, MA.



WITH MANY THANKS TO OUR BAZAAR COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS

I would like to thank the Bazaar Committee and all the volunteers and sponsors of our Annual Christmas Bazaar for a beautiful job well done. This year, our bazaar was a great success for those who attended and those who worked so hard to make it a success. The visitors enjoyed the food and the crafters very much and couldn't get enough of our delicious food.

So many hours and hard work paid off and I am proud of everyone who played a role in this event.

DEDICATION WEEKEND OF THE NEW CHURCH

As we prepare for the dedication of the new Church on December 8 – 10, here is the schedule for that weekend.

On Friday, December 8, we will celebrate Divine Liturgy at 7:00 PM, celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, with His Excellency Gregory J. Mansour. There will be a dinner banquet immediately following Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall. **There is no charge for this banquet, however, to plan accordingly for the food and seating, I am asking you to please RSVP with the number of people in your family by December 3, 2023. You may either call the office at 508-996-8934 or email your RSVP to Ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com** Donations are always welcomed for the food.

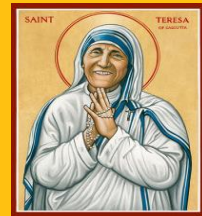
There will also be a cash bar available.

On Saturday, December 9, Divine Liturgy will be held at 4:30 PM, followed by the Children's Christmas Pageant in the Church. After the pageant, there will be food and refreshments in the Church Hall sponsored by the parents of the children. **On Sunday, December 10,** Bishop Gregory will celebrate Divine Liturgy at 10:30 AM. There will be breakfast in the Church Hall immediately following Divine Liturgy.

Please plan to celebrate with us all weekend as we host Bishop Gregory and many other visiting priests.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Then you will know that you are nothing. It is only when you realize your nothingness, your emptiness, that God can fill you with Himself. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence."
Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta



MEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saint Anthony of the Desert Church has invited all the men of Our Lady of Purgatory Church to their Men's Christmas Party. This will be held on Monday, December 18, at 7:00 PM, at the Cove Restaurant, in Fall River. Dinner will be \$50.00 per person, and they will also have a cash bar. Appetizers will begin at 7:00 PM. This will be a great opportunity for the men of the two parishes to get to know each other better. If you are interested in attending, please contact the office at 508-996-8934, or Saint Anthony of the Desert office at 508-672-4540.



LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 18, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Romanos, Feast of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Charlie Murray requested by Mariam David and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for a special intention requested by Annemarie Espindola. 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, November 19, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint Pontian). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mark Thomas requested by family. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Elie Irani requested by Daniel Barbour. May his soul rest in peace.

Saturday, November 25, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Pope Saint Clement). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of John J. David requested by family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph M. Thomas requested by family. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 26, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Peter, Patriarch of Alexandria). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Milad Chedid requested by family. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Chedid and Boulos families requested by family. May their souls rest in peace.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of November is offered for John, Malvina and Joseph David requested by Joann, Anthony and Lorraine David.

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. 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.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Michael Bruce, Magda Moosa, 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, 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.

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.

LECTORS FOR NOVEMBER 2023

Saturday, November 18,
Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, November 19,

Ann Dupre / Gaby Baroody

Saturday, November 25,
Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, November 26,

Mae Dickinson / Jano Baroody

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 11/20-11/25/23

Monday:

Romans 4: 1-12

John 8: 31-37

Tuesday:

Romans 2: 1-8

John 8: 38-40

Wednesday:

Romans 2: 9-16

John 8: 41-45

Thursday:

Romans 2: 17-29

John 8: 46-50

Friday:

Romans 3: 1-12

John 8: 51-55

Saturday:

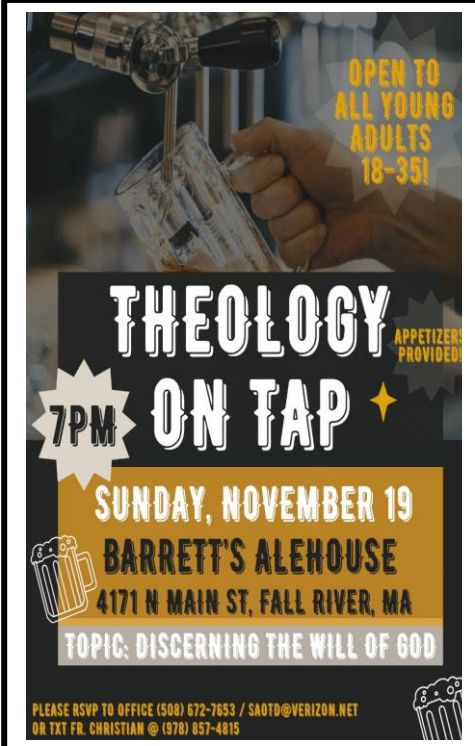
Romans 3:21-31

John 8: 56-59

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 11-12, 2023

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Sunday Collection | \$ | 932.00 |
| Donations | \$ | 550.00 |
| Bazaar Food | \$ | 491.00 |
| Bazaar Raffle | \$ | 20.00 |
| Candles | \$ | 28.00 |
| Total | \$ | 2,021.00 |

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.



OPEN TO ALL YOUNG ADULTS 18-35!

THEOLOGY ON TAP 7PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

BARRETT'S ALEHOUSE
4171 N MAIN ST, FALL RIVER, MA

TOPIC: DISCERNING THE WILL OF GOD

APPETIZERS PROVIDED

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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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