



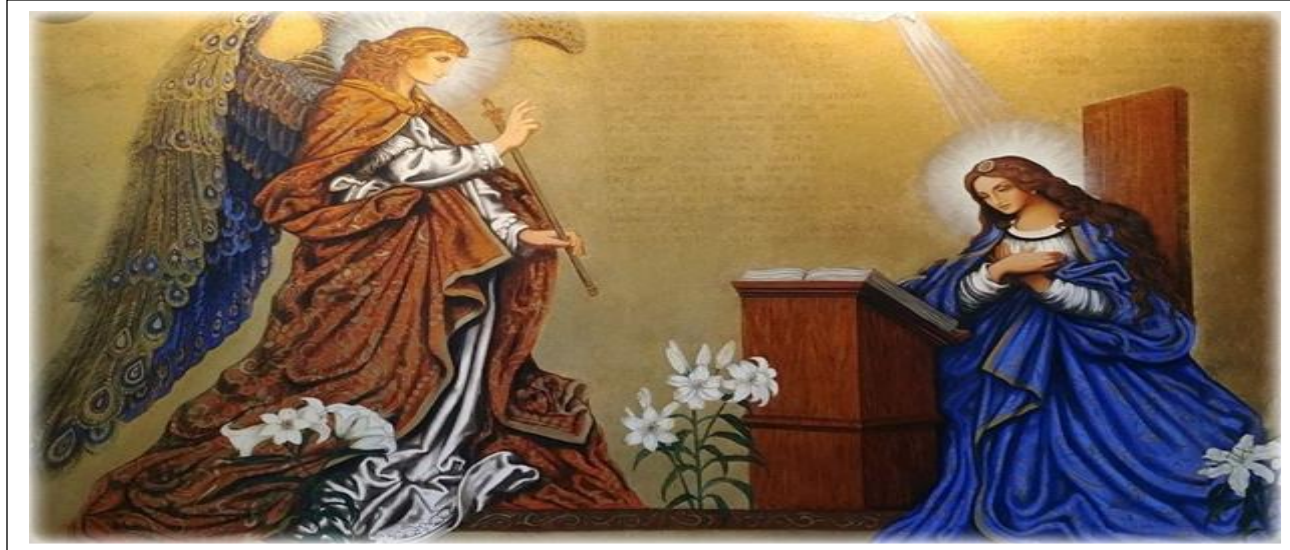
Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



November 25-26, 2023

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE VIRGIN MARY



LET IT BE DONE ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." This is the last sentence of the gospel reading today, but it is still a very good place to begin to think about Mary's life and the angel Gabriel's visit to see her. God did not choose Mary to be the mother of His son on the spur of the moment. He knew all about Mary, about her faith, her attitudes, personality, upbringing, and way of life. God knew Mary so well, that He knew she would say "yes" to be the mother of His son. Mary had loved God her entire life and He already knew she would sacrifice her life to serve Him and to love His Son. Her entire life was one of service to Him.

If God were to ask something of you, would you be prepared to say "yes" as well? What if God asked you to do something for Him that other people

might not understand, and might even question your motives or believe your actions were sinful? Would you be ok with allowing others to misinterpret your actions?

Mary was ok with saying yes to God because she trusted Him. God wanted her to do something and although she couldn't see "how this could be", she trusted that God would make happen what He said He would. It didn't matter how things appeared to others, or even herself at that moment. Mary simply trusted that God would provide the means to accomplish His will. She had complete trust in Him and sure enough, God worked out all the problems that cropped up and provided the means to take care of His Son.

We can't see our way through the clutter of our lives sometimes, but Mary didn't even think like this. She never even tried to figure out everything ahead of time. She simply obeyed God and trusted the rest would fall into place, and

it did.

Mary had absolutely no need to be in control of things because she had confidence that God knew better than her, what the future would bring and how to handle the problems that would inevitably crop up.

There is so much to study and understand about today's gospel reading. Mankind has analyzed these passages in the bible for over 2,000 years from every conceivable perspective. But, today, the one perspective that would be good for all of us to think about is Mary's complete trust in God. She completely, absolutely, without question, trusted God with her entire life. Mary didn't fret over this detail, or that detail, or how things would turn out or try to control the outcome. She simply trusted God that things would turn out according to His will and it did.

What we might be able to learn from Mary today is to realize that we are not

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.

the ones in control of our lives. God is. We can't control other people's lives either because they also belong to God. Mary had such a beautiful freedom of spirit, a spirit of obedience and of service, and complete trust in God. She is the most perfect of all women, and we are far from being perfect people. However, Mary guides us and teaches us how to grow closer to God and to her Son, simply by how she lived her life.

Today, let us imitate Mary's grace filled life, by trusting God completely with our own lives. What freedom of spirit Mary had, to turn her entire life over to God and trust Him to do with it as He saw fit.

<https://www.acatholic.org/may-it-be-done-to-me-according-to-your-word>

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 OurLadypurgatory@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.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



I hope all of you had a blessed and happy Thanksgiving. May we always be grateful for the gifts God gives us. God bless you and your families.

MANY THANKS ON A SUCCESSFUL BAZAAR

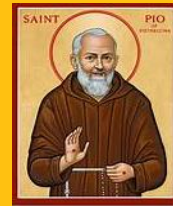
So many hours and hard work paid off for the Christmas Bazaar Committee and Parishioners of OLOP. On behalf of the entire community, I thank those who worked so hard in making this year's bazaar such a wonderful weekend. There are too many names to mention but we know who you are. Those who visited enjoyed the food and the crafts and those who worked it enjoyed the many faces of smiles and good cheers. May future years bring us together to continue this annual tradition and to show the outside community what makes us so special and unique. God bless all of you.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Always stay close to this Heavenly Mother, because she is the sea to be crossed to reach the shores of Eternal Splendor.”

*Saint Padre Pio,
1887-1968 AD*



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.



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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Saturday, December 2, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Habakkuk the Prophet). Liturgy is being offered for Mariam David and family and all the living and deceased members of her family requested by Mariam David and family. 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, December 3, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Francis Xavier). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Moses P. and Annie Moses (FM). May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of David P. and Yvonne Silvia requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

LECTORS FOR NOVEMBER 2023

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).

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 November is offered for John, Malvina and Joseph David requested by Joann, Anthony and Lorraine David.

LECTORS FOR THE DEDICATION WEEKEND

Friday, December 8,

Ann Dupre/ Hiba Chdid
Intercessions: TBA

Saturday, December 9,
Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, December 10,

Matthew Thomas/ Gaby Baroody
Intercessions: TBA

IN OUR PRAYERS

Anne Ramundo, 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.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 11/27-12/2/23

Monday:

Galatians 3: 1-6

Luke 11: 27-32

Tuesday:

Galatians 3: 7-14

Matthew 11: 25-30

Wednesday:

Galatians 3: 23-29

Matthew 13: 54-58

Thursday:

Galatians 4: 1-7

Matthew 12: 46-50

Friday:

Galatians 4: 8-12

John 6: 40-44

Saturday:

Galatians 4:13-20

Luke 10: 21-24

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18-19, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,056.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 200.00
Bazaar Food	\$ 265.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 20.00
Candles	\$ 45.00
Total	\$ 1,566.00

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.

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Business Owner



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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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