



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



December 2-3, 2023

### SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD VISITATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY TO ELIZABETH



#### THE HUMBLENESS OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER MARY

When St. Bede wrote his commentary on Luke's Gospel in the eighth century, this is how he pictured Mary's thoughts as she sang her hymn of praise to God: "The Lord has exalted me by a gift so great, so unheard of, that language is useless to describe it, and the depths of love in my heart can scarcely grasp it. I offer then all the powers of my soul in praise and thanksgiving. As I contemplate his greatness, which knows no limits, I joyfully surrender my whole life."

Bede's commentary highlights how receptive Mary was to the word of God. Even in her earliest youth, this virgin from Galilee was familiar with God's promises to her people and cherished them in her heart. And so, when the Angel Gabriel spoke God's word to her

personally, Mary received that word into the core of her being and opened herself to the Holy Spirit. As a result, she received not only the spoken word of God in her heart, but Jesus, the Word-made-flesh, in her womb!

The key to Mary's openness to God was her humility, her double recognition of her lowliness and the deep love with which God looked upon her. Humility for Mary was not a matter of downcast weakness, but of a strong determination to let God work in her and through her. Mary was humble because she knew that God the Almighty wanted to do "great things" (Luke 1:49) in her, not by her own power, but by the working of his power and not by her wisdom, but according to the wisdom of his plans and purposes.

Genuine humility recognizes that all of our talents and virtues and gifts come from God. It allows the Lord to strip

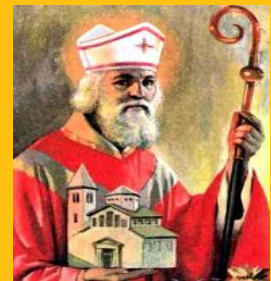
away any sense that we are the authors of our lives. It allows the Lord to empty us of self-determination so that we can live in obedience to his will and his commands. And the more we are emptied of self-love, the more we can let Jesus' light shine through us.

<https://catholicexchange.com/mary-the-model-of-humility/>

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"If someone offends you, don't tell anyone about it except your elder, and you will be peaceful. Bow to everyone, paying no attention whether they respond to your bow or not. You must humble yourself before everyone and consider yourself the worst of all. If we have not committed the sins that others have, perhaps this is because we did not have the opportunity - the situation and circumstances were different. In each person there is something good and something bad; we usually see only the vices in people and we see nothing that is good."*

*Saint Ambrose*



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.

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR TOTALS

Many thanks to the Christmas Bazaar Committee, volunteers, and sponsors for a job well done. Our Christmas Bazaar this year is the most successful bazaar ever. Your hard work and dedication made this all possible. Those who came enjoyed the food and the crafts. God bless all of you.

**Total Income:** \$20,573.54  
**Total Expense:** \$ 2,509.47  
**Net Income:** \$18,064.07

## 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](mailto: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.

## CONFESSION

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

## 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.

We will be having Monthly Devotion this Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 10:00 am followed by a brief meeting. Please join us for coffee hour after Liturgy.

**Giving Tree** - The Giving Tree is available to assist Birthright of Taunton, which is part of the Fall River Diocese which helps young mothers. Please be sure to have all gifts returned no later than Sunday, December 17. Thank you very much in advance.

## CHRISTMAS NOVENA SCHEDULE

**Friday, December 15,**  
Christmas Novena begins at  
7:00 PM

**Saturday, December 16,**  
Christmas Novena following  
4:30 PM Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 17,**  
Christmas Novena following  
10:30 AM Divine Liturgy

**Monday, December 18,**  
Christmas Novena begins at  
7:00 PM

**Tuesday, December 19,**  
Christmas Novena begins at  
7:00 PM

**Wednesday, December 20,**  
Christmas Novena begins at  
7:00 PM

**Thursday, December 21,**  
Christmas Novena begins at  
7:00 PM

**Friday, December 22,**  
Christmas Novena begins at  
7:00 PM

**Saturday, December 23,**  
Christmas Novena following  
4:30 PM Divine Liturgy

## WITH SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy to Smitty and Lou Cabral and family for the passing of Smitty's brother-in-law Glen Geggatt who passed away on November 22. May Almighty God comfort his family and may his soul rest in peace. Allah yerhammo.

## 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.

## WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of December is offered for Estephan Diab requested by Jacques and Amal Barbour.

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**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.

**Friday, December 8, @ 7:00 PM, (Feast of The Immaculate Conception).** Liturgy is being offered for the Parishioners of Our Lady of Purgatory, living and deceased.

**Saturday, December 9, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Pope Saint Francis of Paola).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Daniel P. David, Gerry Sheerin and their deceased family members requested by Mariam David and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Saeed, Mantaha and Steve Morad and Claire Branco requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, December 10, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint Miltiades).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Estephan Diab requested by Jacques and Amal Barbour. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Ann Farhat requested by family. May her soul rest in peace.

## 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.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Beverly Parlapiano, 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.

## LECTORS FOR DECEMBER 2023

**Saturday, December 2,**

Annemarie Espindola  
Intercessions: Eric Tavares

**Sunday, December 3,**

John Barbour / Halim Choubah

**Friday, December 8,**

Ann Dupre/ Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, December 9,**

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

**Sunday, December 10,**

Matthew Thomas/ Gaby Baroody

**Saturday, December 16**

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

**Sunday, December 17**

Ann Dupre / Jano Baroody

**Saturday, December 23**

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

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

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention by Rose David. 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.

## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 12/4-12/9/23

### Monday:

Ephesians 1: 15-23

Luke 1: 46-56

### Tuesday:

Ephesians 2: 1-10

Luke 10: 38-42

### Wednesday:

Ephesians 2: 11-16

Luke 19: 1-10

### Thursday:

Ephesians 2: 17-22

John 4: 39-42

### Friday:

Hebrews 7:11-17

Luke 11: 27-32

### Saturday:

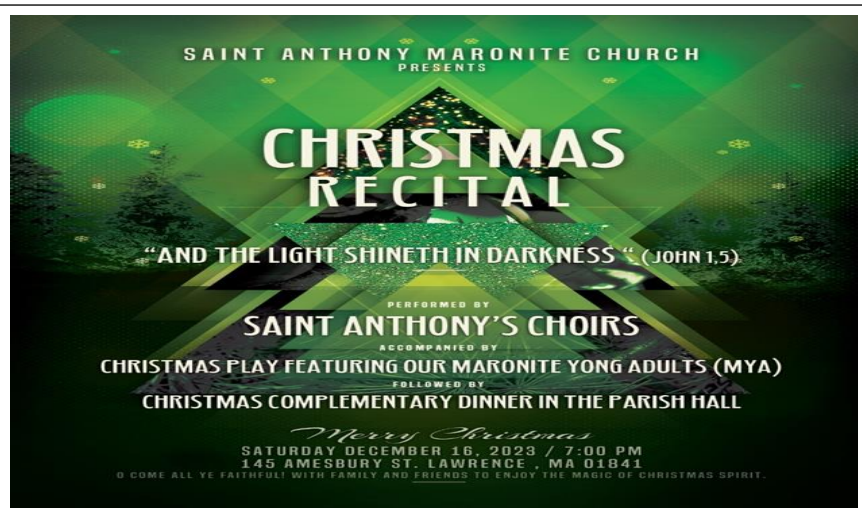
Ephesians 4:1-7

Luke 5: 27-32

## WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25-26, 2023

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,503.00</b>
<b>Bazaar Donations</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
<b>Lebanese Market</b>	<b>\$ 286.00</b>
<b>Sanctuary Candle</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>\$ 28.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,927.00</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.**



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# Counseling ASSOCIATES

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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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