



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



December 16-17, 2023

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD REVELATION TO JOSEPH



A BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING

Our new journey of faith really began this past weekend as we dedicated our new home with Bishop Gregory Mansour on the Feast of The Immaculate Conception. And what a weekend it was. Bishop Gregory, along with 20 visiting priests, deacons, subdeacon, and religious, came for the occasion of the Dedication of Our Lady of Purgatory Church. The Church was filled with parishioners, friends, and my family members, marking this milestone in the life of our Church.

A reception was held in the Parish Center with 300 people in attendance. Chorbishop Joseph Kaddo gave the Invocation and Msgr. James Root gave the Benediction. James Kalife gave a talk on behalf of the Parish and Finance Councils and Jacques Barbour on behalf of the Saint Joseph Sodality. Remarks and thanks were given by Fr. Vincent Farhat and Bishop Gregory Mansour. We thank Bishop Gregory and all the clergy and religious for attending this

special weekend. A special thank you to my dear friends Fr. Tony Massad from Youngstown, Ohio, and Fr. George Hajj from Cincinnati, Ohio, who traveled here to be with us.

We were also blessed with the presence of Norma Jean Abraham from Miami, Florida, representing her father's foundation, the Anthony Abraham Foundation. This foundation helps organizations throughout the world and those in need. We are most grateful for her support and encouragement of Our Lady of Purgatory Church.

This journey is just beginning, and the work will never end. But we have made great progress thus far. I pray that this weekend has ignited our commitment and zeal for this Church. In the words of Jimmy Kalife, "All this is very nice, but without ALL of us being present, it's just a piece of land with buildings on it. So please, we ask you all to jump in with both feet. Let's make it happen. Let's be family." Thank you all for the beautiful weekend. Mabrook!!!



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Silence is the language God speaks and everything else is a bad translation."
Father Thomas Keating*

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

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.



BANQUET DINNER THANKS

On behalf of this entire community, I want to thank all of you who helped cook, clean, set up, and break down for the beautiful banquet dinner we had on Friday. Your hard work and dedication to this Church is heartwarming. Thank you to Hyatt Thomas for sponsoring this dinner for the Church. Your generosity was appreciated by all who attended.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT A GREAT SUCCESS

The Children's Christmas Pageant was a huge success and enjoyed by all who attended. The children remind us of the true meaning of Christmas as was conveyed by their hard work with the Christmas Story. Congratulations to all the children and the alumni of past Christmas Pageants who joined in chorus with our youngsters.

A special thank you to Matthew Thomas who rehearsed with these children for several weeks, to Vicki Thomas Marini who assisted her father, and Jacques Barbour who prepared the costumes for the children. We also thank Bashir El Khoury and Jacob Barbour who accompanied the children on the piano. The family members of the children prepared a reception after the pageant. Thank you all for your kindness and hospitality. This great team effort was enjoyed by everyone. Here's to another great year in the record books.

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Many thanks to the Parish Council who prepared a beautiful Sunday Brunch after Divine Liturgy. The beautiful spread was enjoyed by everyone. We show our love for one another by feeding people. You certainly showed your love by feeding so many on Sunday. Thank you all and God bless you and your families.



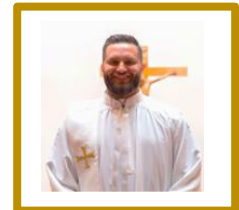
PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMORIES

A great big thank you to Bruce David and Beth David for capturing last weekend's festivities. Because of your gift, Our Lady of Purgatory will be able to keep these beautiful photographs in their archives for many generations to enjoy. God bless you and your families.

SAINT JOSEPH SODALITY

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.

WELCOME SEMINARIAN NADIM KHALED



I am happy to announce that Seminarian Nadim Khaled is assigned to our parish for Christmas while he is on break from Catholic University of America. He will be helping us throughout the Season of the Glorious Birth of our Lord. We welcome Nadim back home to New Bedford and we are very grateful for his help and talents. Welcome Nadim.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 16, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Haggai the Prophet). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Michele, and Anna David Mageletta and for Mike Mageletta requested by Mariam David and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Marc Moses requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, December 17, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of The 3 Young Men: Ananias, Azarias, and Misael). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Fred Thomas, Joao and Fernanda Baptista, Mena Carvalho and Edigio Baptista requested by Fernanda Thomas. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Charbel Baroody requested by Charles Baroody. May his soul rest in peace.

Saturday, December 23, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Eugenia). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nazira Saba requested by Annemarie Espindola. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, December 24, @ 10:30 AM, Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Charbel Baroody requested by Charles Baroody. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, December 24, @ 5:00 PM, Vigil of the Glorious Birth.

Monday, December 25, @ 10:30 AM, The Glorious Birth of Our Lord.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24,
Christmas Vigil is at 5:00 PM
Monday, December 25,
Christmas Liturgy is at 10:30 AM

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

LECTORS FOR DECEMBER

Saturday, December 16,
Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, December 17,
Ann Dupre / Jano Baroody

Saturday, December 23,
Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, December 24, @10:30 AM:
Rana Choubah/ Halim Choubah

Christmas Eve @ 5:00 PM
Annemarie Espindola/ Hiba Chdid

Monday, December 25,
TBA

Saturday, December 30,
Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna and Helen Higgins
Sunday, December 31, @ 10:30

TBA

New Year's Eve @ 5:00 PM
Mae Dickinson/ Jano Baroody

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

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.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Gaby and Amal Baroody family by Amal Baroody. 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 12/18-12/23/23

Monday:

Romans 10: 14-21

John 7: 1-10

Tuesday:

Romans 11: 1-12

John 7: 11-18

Wednesday:

Romans 11: 13-24

John 7: 25-30

Thursday:

Romans 11: 25-36

John 7: 31-36

Friday:

Romans 12:1-8

John 7: 37-44

Saturday:

Romans 12: 9-21

John 7: 45-53

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

WEEK OF DECEMBER 9-10, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 5,395.00
Dedication Donations	\$ 3,225.00
Dedication Ad Book	\$ 650.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 130.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 10.00
Candles	\$ 30.00
Total	\$ 9,440.00

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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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 **Your Loving Children**

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