



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



December 23-24, 2023

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD GENEALOGY SUNDAY



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR YOU

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: "God became man; he came to dwell among us. God is not distant: he is "Emmanuel", God-with-us. He is no stranger: he has a face, the face of Jesus." These words spoken by Pope Benedict bring the greatest gift of Jesus Christ to life. Jesus is not a distant person from over 2000 years ago; nor is He a stranger to anyone who has heard of Him or experienced Him. But just as His name states God with us---He is Emmanuel.

The Fullness of Time has come with the birth of God's only Son, Jesus Christ. God is among us to spread love, peace, and hope to the world. God is among us to reveal His Father to us, to bring us to a new birth where the sins of our ancestors are replaced with the

forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life to those who believe and follow the way of Jesus Christ. This is the birth that we had been told about from our ancestors and the prophets chosen by God.

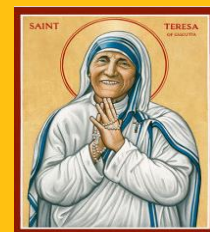
O Come let us Adore Him---for our King is born today. May the blessings of Christ's birth renew our hope, our peace, and our love among our families, friends, and strangers alike. Let this moment resonate throughout the whole year so that this feeling of joy with the birth of Jesus Christ will strengthen our faith and know that Jesus is "Emmanuel."

I pray for everyone of you that the love, joy, and peace, that Christ's birth brings us this day will be with you and your families always. Today, the greatest love story unfolds before us. Let us pass this same love of Christ to everyone. Have a blessed and joyous Christmas.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"My prayer for you is that when Christ comes to you in Christmas, He may find in you a warm home, warm love like that of a heartfelt of love, like that of a simple shepherd who was the first one chosen to see Christ."

St. Teresa of Calcutta



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 Email: officeolop@gmail.com

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

ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL



Congratulations to the newest members of the Order of Saint Sharbel Halim and Rana Choubah. They were inducted into the order by Bishop Gregory Mansour on December 10. The Order of Saint Sharbel help educate our Seminarians in Washington, DC, and to help our retired priests. Thank you both for helping the future of our Church.

THANK YOU NADIM KHALED



We say goodbye to our Seminarian, Nadim Khaled, as he completes his Christmas assignment with us at OLOP. Nadim has been a great help to me in the office as well as liturgically in the Church. As he prepares for his subdiaconate ordination, which will be held on February 10, we will assure him of our prayers. Thank you for your talents, dedication, and love for our humble parish. You are most welcome back here anytime. God bless you and your journey to the priesthood.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Divine Liturgy for New Year's Day will be held on Sunday, December 31, at 5:00 PM. This is a Holy Day of Obligation celebrating the Circumcision of Jesus and World Peace Day. Please join us as we begin our new year. Blessings to all of you.

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

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

FEAST OF EPIPHANY

The Feast of Epiphany will be held on **Friday, January 5, at 7:00 PM,** followed by coffee hour and zalabia. Water will be blessed and available to you to take home.

OFFICE HOURS DURING THE WEEK OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS

The office will be closed on Tuesday, December 26, and Wednesday, December 27. The office will re-open on Thursday, December 28.

For emergencies, please call Fr. Vincent or Deacon Jean Mattar.

SAINT MARON'S DAY HAFLI

Tickets are not on sale for our annual Saint Maron's Day Hafli which will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at our Parish Center. Come and enjoy great food, music, dancing, and more. The flyer is attached with all the information. Thank you for your support.

OUR LADY OF PURGATORY MARONITE CHURCH

ST. MARON'S HAFLI

FEB 3, 2024

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&
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7:30 PM**

**DINNER SERVED
8:30 PM**

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DANCE FLOOR SEATING: \$100 FOR ALL AGES
GENERAL SEATING: \$75
CHILDREN (12-17): \$40
CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS: NO CHARGE

FOR TICKET SALES CONTACT:
☎ CHURCH OFFICE: (508) 996-8934
☎ SOUSOU: (508) 916-1523



LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Saturday, December 30, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Anysia).

Sunday, December 31, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Zoticus). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Thomas David requested by Family. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, December 31, @ 5:00 PM, New Year's Eve Liturgy.

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.

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.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention by John and Claire Barbour. 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.

LECTORS FOR DECEMBER 2023

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

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

New Year's Eve @ 5:00 PM

Mae Dickinson/ Jano Baroody

LECTORS FOR JANUARY 2024

Saturday, January 6,
Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, January 7,

John Barbour/ Hiba Chdid

Saturday, January 13,

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

Sunday, January 14,

Mae Dickinson/ Gaby Baroody

Saturday, January 20,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, January 21,

Ann Dupre/ Jano Baroody

Saturday, January 27,

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

Sunday, January 28,

Rana Choubah/ Joumana Chedid

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 01/01-01/06/24

Monday:

Ephesians 2: 11-22

Luke 2: 21

Tuesday:

Hebrews 7: 1-10

Luke 2: 22-24

Wednesday:

Hebrews 7: 20-28

Luke 2: 25-35

Thursday:

Hebrews 6: 9-12

Luke 2: 36-40

Friday:

Romans 5:1-11

Luke 3: 1-14

Saturday:

Titus 2: 11-3:7

Luke 3: 15-22

WEEK OF DECEMBER 16-17, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 2,728.00
Dedication Donations	\$ 800.00
Dedication Ad Book	\$ 1100.00
Donations	\$ 200.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 100.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 45.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 20.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 14.00
Candles	\$ 38.00
Total	\$ 5,045.00

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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