



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



January 13-14, 2024

# SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

## FEAST OF SAINT MACARIUS OF EGYPT



Macarius of Egypt (c. 300 – 391) was a Christian monk and grazer hermit. He is also known as Macarius the Elder or Macarius the Great.

Macarius was born in Lower Egypt. A late tradition places his birthplace in the village of Shabsheer (Shanshour), Roman Egypt around 300 AD. He tended cattle as a boy. As a young man, with a strong call to solitude, he constructed near his home a small cell where he prayed continually and wove mats. At some point before his pursuit of asceticism, Macarius made his living smuggling saltpeter in the vicinity of Nitria, a vocation which taught him how to survive in and travel across the wastes in that area.

Macarius is known for his wisdom. His friends and close kin used to call him *Paidarion Geron* which meant the

"old young man", i.e. "the young man with the elders' wisdom."

At the wish of his parents Macarius entered into marriage but was soon widowed. Shortly after, his parents died as well. Macarius subsequently distributed all his money among the poor and needy. He found a teacher in an experienced Elder, who lived in the desert not far from the village. The Elder accepted the youth, guided him in the spiritual science of watchfulness, fasting and prayer, and taught him the handicraft of weaving baskets.

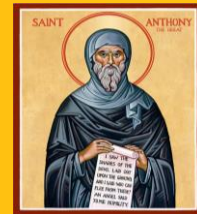
A while later, a pregnant woman accused him of having defiled her. Macarius did not attempt to defend himself and accepted the accusation in silence. However, when the woman's delivery drew near, her labor became exceedingly difficult. She did not manage to give birth until she confessed Macarius's innocence. A multitude of people then came asking for his forgiveness, but he fled to the Nitrian Desert to escape all mundane glory.

As a hermit, Macarius spent seven years living on only pulse and raw herbs. He spent the following three years consuming four or five ounces of bread a day and only one vessel of oil a year. While at the desert, he visited Anthony the Great and learned from him the laws and rules of monasticism. When he returned to the Scetic Desert at the age of forty, he became a priest. The fame of his sanctity drew many followers. The community, which took up its residence in the desert, was of the semi-eremital type. The monks were not bound by any fixed rule; their cells were close together, and they met for Divine worship only on Saturdays or Sundays. He presided over this

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"If a man loves God with all his heart, all his thoughts, all his will, and all his strength, he will gain the fear of God; the fear will produce tears, tears will produce strength; by the perfection of this the soul will bear all kinds of fruits."*

*Saint Anthony the Great*



monastic community for the rest of his life.

For a brief period of time, Macarius was banished to an island in the Nile by the Emperor Valens, along with Macarius of Alexandria, during a dispute over the doctrine of the Nicene Creed. Both men were victims of religious persecution by the followers of then Bishop Lucius of Alexandria. During their time on the island, the daughter of a pagan priest had become ill. The people of the island believed that she was possessed by an evil spirit. Both saints prayed over the daughter, which in turn had saved her. The pagan people of the island were so impressed and grateful that they stopped their worship of the pagan gods and built a church. When word of this got back to the Emperor Valens and Bishop Lucius of Alexandria, they quickly allowed both men to return home. At their return on

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.

13 Paremhat, they were met by a multitude of monks of the Nitrian Desert, numbered fifty thousand, among whom were Pishoy and John the Dwarf.

Macarius died in the year 391. After his death, the natives of his village of Shabsheer stole the body and built a great church for him in their village. Pope Michael V of Alexandria brought the relics of Saint Macarius back to the Nitrian Desert on 19 Mesori. Today, the body of Macarius is found in his monastery, the Monastery of Saint Macarius the Great in Scetes, Egypt.

Legacy Macarius is a saint in the Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches.

In the Methodist Churches, Macarius is regarded highly for writing on the topic of entire sanctification.

Macarius of Egypt founded a monastery that bears his name, the Monastery of Saint Macarius the Great, which has been continuously inhabited by monks since its foundation in the fourth century. St. Macarius' face used to be enlightened with grace in an amazing way to the extent that many fathers testified that his face used to glow in the dark; and thus appeared his name as "the glowing lantern". This description was transferred to his monastery, and thus it was called "the glowing lantern of the wilderness" or "the glowing monastery", which meant the place of high wisdom and constant prayer. Today it belongs to the Coptic Orthodox Church.

The entirety of the Nitrian Desert is sometimes called *the Desert of Macarius*, for he was the pioneer monk in the region. The ruins of numerous monasteries in this region support the local tradition that the cloisters of Macarius were equal in number to the days of the year.

Saint Macarius The Great, Camposanto, Trionfo Della Morte Macarius the Great, one of the Egyptian desert recluses and a disciple of Anthony the Great, is depicted on the right edge of the Triumph of Death fresco in Pisa. A group of leisurely aristocrats and their animals occupy the central part of the fresco. These rich young men and women riding horses, surrounded by their decorative hunting dogs have gone on a pleasant journey. Suddenly, their path, somewhere deep in the woods, is barred by three open sarcophagi with bodies in different degrees of decomposition. Everybody in

the scene, including the men, women and even the animals are horrified by this terrible and palpable presence of death. The unsupportable stench hits their noses. The abhorrent scene dismays them. Only Macarius the Great, made wise and powerful by his faith, stands above them all. The mystic teaches the youngsters a lesson about life and death by reading from the scroll. The Florentine sculptor Benvenuto Cellini was inspired by this depiction of Macarius in his painted portrait.

[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=4385](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=4385)

### WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We received the sad news that Joseph Barber of Norwood, MA, passed away this week. Joseph is the brother-in-law of Tony (Elaine) Barbour and Hyatt Thomas. Our condolences go out to Joseph's wife Najet, their children, grandchildren, and family members. May Almighty God welcome Joseph into His kingdom and may his soul rest in peace. Allah yerhammo.

### SAINT MARON'S DAY HAFLI

Tickets are 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.

### DAILY LITURGIES TO BEGIN JANUARY 22

Daily Liturgies will begin on Monday, January 22. The schedule will be as follows:

**Monday, 9:00 AM,**

to be said the Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light Convent.

**Tuesday, 9:00 AM,**

Our Lady of Purgatory Church

**Wednesday, 9:00 AM,**

Our Lady of Purgatory Church

**Thursday, 9:00 AM,**

Our Lady of Purgatory Church

**Friday NO LITUGY**

I hope this schedule will be convenient for you to attend. There may be some days that I will have to cancel Liturgy due to meetings or illness. I will email the parish when this occurs.

### WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of January is offered for Mansour Barbour requested by Norma Jean Barbour and family.

**OUR LADY OF PURGATORY MARONITE CHURCH**

**ST. MARON'S HAFLI**

**FEB 3, 2024**

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**CASH BAR & MEZZA 7:30 PM**

**DINNER SERVED 8:30 PM**

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CHILDREN (12-17): \$40  
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SOUSOU: (508) 916-1523

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, January 13, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Jacob of Nisibis).** Liturgy is being offered for the living and deceased members of Mariam David family requested by Mariam David and family. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nancy David requested by family (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, January 14, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of John and Theresa Samia requested by family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Nacklie and Marie Nessralla requested by family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mansour Barbour requested by Norma Jean Barbour and Family. May his soul rest in peace.

**Saturday, January 20, @ 4:30 PM. (Feast of Saint Euthymius the Great).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Janice O'Mara requested by Rick and Rose Marie Twomey. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Mary Saba requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in Purgatory requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May they rest in peace.

**Sunday, January 21, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Sebastian).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Walter and Janet Lalor requested by Jim Thomas and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Nader requested by Joann Longdon. May his soul rest in peace.

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for the living and deceased members of Mariam David family by Mariam David and family. 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.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Ghada Karam, Beverly Parlapiano, Anne Ramundo, Michael Bruce, Magda Moosa, Alice Daher, 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 01/15-01/20/24

### Monday:

2 Corinthians 1: 1-11  
John 1: 43-51

### Tuesday:

2 Corinthians 1: 12-24  
Luke 5: 1-11

### Wednesday:

2 Corinthians 2: 1-11  
Matthew 4: 18-25

### Thursday:

2 Corinthians 2: 12-17  
Matthew 9: 9-13

### Friday:

2 Corinthians 12:17-13:4  
Matthew 9: 35-38

### Saturday:

2 Corinthians 13: 5-13  
Matthew 10: 1-6

## 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.

## 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.

## MYO EPIPHANY PARTY

Calling all MYO and parents! To kick off the new year, we will be having a special evening for the MYO of OLOP. All youth aged 12-18 are invited to come for dinner, discussion, and games on Saturday, January 13. Our gatherings are going to be geared to you and the things that you may be going through. I encourage you to come and see what is in store for the MYO in the future. Mark your calendars and join us.



## LECTORS FOR JANUARY 2024

**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).

## WEEK OF JANUARY 6-7, 2024

Sunday Collection	\$ 2,790.00
Holy Days Collections	\$ 265.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 20.00
Coffee Hours	\$ 45.00
Candles	\$ 52.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,172.00</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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*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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