



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



February 3-4, 2024

### SUNDAY OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED



#### IS CONFESSION REALLY NECESSARY?

As we approach the season of Lent, this is a time when we should examine our relationship with God and each other. It is a time to begin to walk the road with Jesus as He begins our journey with Him. This journey into Lent should renew our strong faith and to bring us closer to God by our words, deeds, and actions.

The first line of the first chapter from the Catechism of the Catholic Church begins like this: **“The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for.”** Read this over a few times and let these words resonate in your hearts and minds because this is the reason for our existence.

The desire for God is written in the human heart from our birth and this desire constantly grows with the holy sacraments and our understanding of who God is. The birth of Jesus Christ begins this understanding, and it is enhanced and

strengthened as we begin to see and hear the teachings of Jesus Christ and ultimately witnessing His passion, death, and resurrection.

One of the seven pillars of Catholic Spirituality is confession (reconciliation). Confession is a holy sacrament that Jesus gave to His disciples so that each person would have the opportunity to draw closer to God. When we sin, we break this relationship with God. Each of us knows when we have done something wrong that goes against the teachings of Jesus. How do we know this? When this happens, we feel guilty or bad about what we may have said or done. We know that we have done something that goes against His command. This feeling that our relationship with God has been severed causes us to move away from His love. That is why Jesus gave us this holy sacrament of confession. That is why Jesus said to St. Peter, “Whatever you bound on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” This power of forgiveness of sins moves our human heart closer to God and makes us examine our conscience so that we will ultimately

do what is right and fitting in the sight of God.

Confession is key in our relationship with God. Jesus’ ministry begins with John the Baptist announcing “Repent, prepare the way of the Lord.” And this message continued when Jesus began his ministry with the words “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” The meaning of the word “repent” means “to turn back to God.” The best way that we can accomplish this “turning back to Him” is through confession. None of us can walk through this world without repenting no matter how hard we try. So, we rely on the mercy of God and the sacrament of penance or reconciliation. We rely on this gift of turning to God and asking for His mercy.

As many of you know, when Jesus began His ministry, he went to those who were in need. You will recall when Jesus ate at the table with St. Matthew and his friends who were tax collectors and disliked by

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“Live so as not to fear death. For those who live well in the world, death is not frightening but sweet and precious.”*

*St. Rose of Viterbo*



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

**Address:** 4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA 02745

**Office:** 508-996-8934 | **Fax:** 774-202-0758 | **Evening Emergency Number:** 561-371-5316 | **Website:** [www.ourladyofpurgatory.org](http://www.ourladyofpurgatory.org)

**Email:** [ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com) | **Facebook Page:** Our Lady of Purgatory Catholic Church - Maronite Rite |

**Office Email:** [officeolop@gmail.com](mailto:officeolop@gmail.com)

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

many. Everyone who passed by or found out that he was dining with them was saying why would He sit there with all those sinners? St. Mark reminds us that Jesus didn't come to save the healthy; He came to save the sick. It is through the Church that Jesus instituted and the sacraments He passed on to His apostles that each of us are capable of change and growth. This is the mystery of the Church. The Church holds us in our weakness, strengthens us in our sickness, and nurtures us back to health, bringing us closer to God.

Evil and Satan are very real brothers and sisters. They affect us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. They affect our relationships with our families, friends, work, and even our health. Jesus conquered Satan by His passion and resurrection, sacrificing His life for the ransom of many, for the forgiveness of sins, and for eternal life. If you truly want peace in your life, repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Jesus wants us to bring our troubles and our sins and place them in His loving arms. Trust in His mercy; trust in His love for us.

### WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We received the sad news that Marguerite Chedid, the mother of Jean and Joumana Chedid, John and Claire (Chedid) Barbour, and Antoine and Marie Chedid, passed away in Lebanon. I, along with the entire community of OLOP, extend our deepest sympathy to Margo's family here and in Lebanon. May Almighty God welcome Margo into His kingdom and may her soul rest in peace.

### UPCOMING LENTEN EVENTS AT OLOP

**Friday, March 1**, Fish Fry following Stations of the Cross/Adoration of the Cross at 7:30 PM.

**Friday, March 22**, Fish Fry following Stations of the Cross/Adoration of the Cross at 7:30 PM.

**Tickets will be sold in advance for the fish fry dinner.**

**Sunday, March 24**, MYO Palm Sunday Bake Sale

**Friday, March 29, GOOD FRIDAY MERCY MEAL:** After the burial of Jesus on Good Friday, we will have a potluck Mercy Meal in the church hall. Everyone is encouraged to bring a meatless dish to pass. Dinner will follow the Good Friday service.

### THE COMING OF SAINT CHARBEL SHRINE



Through the kindness and generosity of Elie and Misha Aboukheir, we will be welcoming in the spring Saint Charbel Shrine at Our Lady of Purgatory. They have commissioned an artist in Lebanon to begin the sculpture and plans have begun here to prepare the grounds for our new spiritual prayer space.

This beautiful addition to our parish home will give everyone the opportunity for individual prayer as well as communal prayer through the intercession of our beloved Saint Charbel. I, along with the parishioners of OLOP, would like to thank Elie and Misha for their generous donation. May Almighty God bless you and your family always.

### 2023 TAX LETTERS

As we begin the new year, all of you are preparing for your tax returns for 2023. If you would like a copy of your contributions to the Church, please contact the office via email or calling the office. For those who used envelopes or wrote checks, these reports are in our system and a printout will be available upon request. Thank you all for your support and dedication to the Church.

### ASH MONDAY SERVICES/ADORATION & STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Our Lent begins on Monday, **February 12**, just a few weeks away. Our Ash Monday services will be held on **Monday, February 12, at 11:00 AM and at 7:00 PM.** Ashes will be distributed during these times.

Beginning **Friday, February 16**, and every Friday up to Good Friday, we will have Adoration/Stations of the Cross. These services will be offered on **Fridays at 12:00 Noon in English and at 7:00 PM in English and Arabic.** I hope you will join us.

### OLOP CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



Our Capital Campaign is still underway. I am happy to inform you that we are over halfway to our goal. We are continuing the Capital Campaign through June. I thank all of you who have contributed thus far. May God continue to bless Our Lady of Purgatory Church.

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Patricia Farhat, 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.

### THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention by Hiba Chdid. 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, February 3, @ 4:30 PM,**  
(Feast of Saint Simeon the Elder and Saint Anna the Prophetess). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of David David requested by family (FM). May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Rose David requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, February 4, @ 10:30 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Isidore of Pelusium). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Louise Dupre requested by family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Charbel Baroody requested by Charles Baroody. May his soul rest in peace.

**Monday, February 5, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Agatha). Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent.

**Tuesday, February 6, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Proclus, Bishop of Smyrna).

**Wednesday, February 7, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Pope Saint Anterus I).

**Thursday, February 8, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Maron, Feast of Zachariah the Prophet).

**Saturday, February 10, @ 4:30 PM,**  
(Feast of Saint Apollonia). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Marie Kenyon requested by Michael and Diane LeBlanc. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Peter and Raja Bou Essay requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, February 11, @ 10:30 AM,**  
(Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Feast of Saint Charalampus).

## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 02/5-02/10/24

### Monday:

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18  
Luke 12: 1-7

### Tuesday:

2 Thessalonians 1: 1-12  
Luke 12: 8-12

### Wednesday:

2 Thessalonians 2: 1-12  
Luke 12: 13-21

### Thursday:

2 Thessalonians 2: 13-3:5  
Luke 12: 22-32

### Friday:

2 Timothy 3:10-17  
John 12: 23-30

### Saturday:

1 Corinthians 15: 51-58  
Luke 12: 49-59

## MYO LENTEN GATHERING

We are looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday, February 10. As promised, we will have a Pasta Dinner for you as well as a great talk and lots of fun. Please RSVP to Fr. Vincent so that we may prepare accordingly. God bless you always.

## LECTORS FOR FEBRUARY 2024

### Sunday, February 4,

Rana Choubah / Halim Choubah

### Thursday, February 8,

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

### Saturday, February 10,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

### Sunday, February 11,

Ann Dupre / Gaby Baroody

### Monday, February 12,

11:00 AM: Smitty Cabral / Hiba Chdid

7:00 PM: TBA

### Saturday, February 17,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

### Sunday, February 18,

John Barbour / Jano Baroody

### Saturday, February 24,

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

### Sunday, February 25,

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

(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.

## WEEK OF JANUARY 27-28, 2024

Sunday Collection	\$	2,423.00
Donations	\$	1,000.00
Candles	\$	31.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,454.00</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.



BARBERSHOP x LOUNGE

# CHEDID Cuts

EST. 2022




**ROUTE 18**  
GAS & SERVICE

Complete Automotive Repair  
Foreign / Domestic  
State Inspection Station

**Eli Nassif**  
508-998-3445  
Fax 508-998-9549  
4227 Acushnet Ave.  
New Bedford, MA 02745



**We Sell Diesel Fuel**

**CHRISTOPHE CHEDID**  
Business Owner



100 State Rd  
Dartmouth, MA 02747

774.255.0099  
@ : Chedidcuts



SCAN ME

CAPTURE YOUR SPECIAL MOMENTS WITH OUR PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY SERVICES




**PARTIES PRODUCTION**  
WE PROVIDE

- PHOTOGRAPHY
- VIDEOGRAPHY
- LIGHTING
- SOUND

FASHION - MODEL / WEDDING  
EVENT / PRODUCT / FAMILY AND  
MANY MORE OCCASION

+1 (774) 400-7320  
www.partiesproduction.com

**CYCLONE CLEANING & RESTORATION SERVICES**

- ◆ Carpets & Upholstery
- ◆ Commercial/Residential Cleaning
- ◆ Smoke/Water Damage
- ◆ Washing/Waxing/Stripping Floors

Call the company you've counted on for years - CALL CYCLONE!

Anthony David • (508) 995-8816  
833 Mount Pleasant St. • New Bedford, MA 02745  
www.CycloneCleaning.com

# M & S Excavation

**Milad Maalouf**  
Licensed



LAND CLEARING • SITE WORK  
ROADS • SEPTIC SYSTEMS

134 Old Westport Road  
N. Dartmouth, MA 02747

508-971-0067  
Fax 508-991-5631

# Counseling ASSOCIATES

152 Dean Street, Taunton, MA  
508-837-0790


FULL SERVICE SALON

**Wassim Chedid** 401-837-0664  
Tuesday & Thurs 1-6pm  
Saturday 1-5pm



**Zakhia Chedid** 774-444-3337  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1-6pm

WWW.HEADSOFSATESALON.COM  
North Dartmouth, MA  
653 State Road (Route 6) • 508-999-0177



*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**

# SALON PERSIA

308 THAYER STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI

**Wassim Chedid** 401-837-0664  
Tuesday & Saturday 9-12:30pm  
Wednesday & Friday 9-6pm

**Zakhia Chedid** 774-444-3337  
Monday & Friday 9-12:30pm  
Tuesday & Thursday 9-6pm  
Saturday 9-4pm

401-831-9536 • WWW.SALONPERSIA.COM

OVER 75 YEARS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE CRAFTSMANSHIP



**DUPRE** INC.

BLOCK • BRICK • GLASS BLOCK  
BLUESTONE • FIELDSTONE • COBBLESTONE

Cutting and Core Drill • Driveways  
Steel Fabrication and Installation  
Handicap Access

**508-993-8088**  
369 Nash Rd. • New Bedford

www.duprecontractors.com