



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



February 17-18, 2024

# HEALING OF THE LEPER



### LENT A JOURNEY TO SPIRITUAL HEALING

During Ash Monday services I spoke about how Lent is a time for Spiritual Healing. A time to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice and what it means to us. This is the time to get rid of our sins that keep us from being close to God. It's the time to heal the wounds of our souls so that we may be at peace. It is a time to surrender everything to our Lord in prayer and faith, so that we regain our spiritual health and begin anew. We can all gain this spiritual renewal--the question is by what means. Most people focus on what they give up during the Season of Lent! And throughout Lent, we are reminded every day of what we gave up and perhaps moan and groan about this small sacrifice. But there is more to Lent than giving up something we love. And Jesus showed us this during His ministry, passion, death, and His resurrection. There are other ways to fast besides giving something up what we really love. These other ways can be more beneficial to you and to others. Pope Francis suggested "other ways" to fast which would lead us closer to Jesus and live the life we are asked to live. These "other ways" are sure to be more difficult at

times but rewarding beyond our imagination.

For those of us who find it difficult to forgive or to ask for forgiveness; for those who speak ill of others and dislike being spoken of badly; for those who ask Jesus for forgiveness but cannot extend forgiveness to others; I ask you to read these "other ways" and ask yourselves where these can lead you on your Spiritual Journey during Lent?

*Fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.*

*Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.*

*Fast from worries and have trust in God. Fast from complaints, contemplate simplicity.*

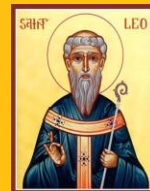
*Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness - fill your hearts with joy.*

*Fast from selfishness and be compassionate. Fast from grudges and be reconciled.*

*Fast from words and be silent and listen.* Whatever the means, now is the time to detach ourselves from the old and sinful ways. This is the time to give God gratitude for giving us the opportunity to

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"If indeed we are the temple of God and the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts...we must work with much vigilance to make the chamber of our heart not unworthy of so great a guest."*  
*St. Leo the Great*



renew ourselves spiritually. Let us not look dismal and dis-shoveled. Let us not focus on what we must give up for Lent. Rather, let us focus on the opportunity to purify ourselves, to walk with Him on His journey, and to draw us closer to Him.

God gives us this opportunity to renew ourselves, to repent and ask His forgiveness, and to see our flaws that need our attention so that we can be united with Him and each other once again. In this way, we show the world His great mercy and sacrifice that we are the benefactors of.

This is what Lent is all about. Blessed Lent to all of you.

### ADORATION &

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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.

**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.

## LENTEN FASTING OBSERVANCES

The Most Reverend Bishops Gregory Mansour and Elias Zaidan have issued the following Lenten guidelines for the Maronites of the U.S.:

- All Maronites who are physically capable are to abstain from meat on Ash Monday and all Fridays of Lent.
- Ash Monday and Great Friday of the Crucifixion are also days of fasting. Fasting in the Maronite Church involves eating and drinking nothing at all (except water and medicine) from midnight until noon. The rest of the day normal meals can be taken, but without meat. All Maronites who are physically capable are to fast on these two days.

### Personal Devotion

Clergy, religious, and laity who wish to observe the more traditional Maronite practice of fasting and abstinence are encouraged to do so. That practice is summarized in the following, taken from the Synod of Mt. Lebanon (1736):

*Every weekday of Lent (Monday through Friday) is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products (eggs, butter, milk, etc.) Fasting involves eating and drinking nothing at all (except water and medicine) from midnight until noon. The rest of the day normal meals can be taken, but without meat or dairy products. Dairy products are excluded because they are animal byproducts. Saturdays and Sundays are exempt from fasting and abstaining as are the following feast days: St. Maron-February 9, The 40 Martyrs- March 9, St. Joseph- March 19, and the Annunciation- March 25.*

## FISH FRY TICKETS ON SALE

Our first Fish Fry will be held on Friday, March 1, immediately following Adoration/Stations of the Cross. Tickets are now on sale by calling the office at 508-996-8934 or by emailing the office at [officeolop@gmail.com](mailto:officeolop@gmail.com).

Tickets are \$15.00 for the fish dinner. Please specify your preference of baked fish or fried fish.

Dinners come with French fries, Cole slaw, fresh baked or fried fish, tartar sauce, and dessert.

## 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.

## ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL

The Annual Bishop's Appeal has now begun. Every year our Parish is asked to raise \$3,500.00 to the Bishop's Appeal. This money assists in educating our Seminarians, helping the retired clergy of our Eparchy, sending funds to Lebanon, and to replenish the Eparchy's Endowment Fund.

You have been generous throughout the years in reaching our goal. I thank you in advance for your help this year. There will also be a second collection in during Lent to help us reach this goal. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

## MCF CLASS SCHEDULE MARONITE CHRISTIAN/FORMATION SESSIONS

February - May 2024 at the Church Hall

**Tuesdays:**

**February: 6; 13; 27**

**March: 5; 19**

**April: 2; 9; 23**

**May: 7 last class**

**First Penance: February 27, 2024**

**First Communion: May 5, 2024**

## 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.

## SAINT MARON HAFLI

### Income:

Ticket Income	\$ 24,000.00
Bar Income	\$ 3,256.00
Raffle Income	\$ 3,195.00
Donations	<u>\$ 3,190.00</u>
Total Income:	\$ 33,641.00

### Expenses:

Food	\$ 1,356.00
Supplies:	\$ 454.00
Entertainment	<u>\$ 3,500.00</u>
Total Expenses:	<u>\$ 5,310.00</u>

**Total Profit: \$ 28,331.00**

## WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of February is offered for Jean and Danielle Hojeily requested by Adele Hojeily.

The Chedid and the Barbour Family  
invite family and friends to join them for a 40 day memorial  
mass for the repose of the soul of  
*Margueritte Chedid*  
5:30pm on March 9, 2024  
Our Lady of Purgatory Church  
4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA  
*Liturgy followed by a Mercy Meal at the church hall*





## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, February 17, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Agapitus, Bishop of Synnada).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Marie (Peter) Barckett, Diane (Barckett) Moses and Joey Moses requested by Joe Barckett. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul Joseph M. Thomas requested by his children and grandchildren. May his soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, February 18, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint Leo the Great, Doctor of the Church).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Regis and Marthe Valois requested by Reggie Thomas and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Roy ElKhoury requested by family (1 year anniversary). May his soul rest in peace.

**Monday, February 19, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of the 500 Martyrs of Tyre).** Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent.

**Tuesday, February 20, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint James the Hermit of Cyrrhus).**

**Wednesday, February 21, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Eustathius, Patriarch of Antioch).**

**Thursday, February 22, @ 9:00 AM, (Establishment of the Chair of Saint Peter in Antioch).**

**Saturday, February 24, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Margaret the Penitent).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Betty Grenier requested by Annie Costa (FM). May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in Purgatory requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, February 25, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint Felix II). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy.** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nancy Klco requested by Ida Farhat. May her soul rest in peace.

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a Gaby and Amal Baroodly Family by Amal Baroodly. 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.

## SAINT GEORGE

### MARONITE CHURCH HAFLI

St. George Maronite Church in Cranston, RI, will be hosting their annual St. Joseph Hafli on **Saturday, March 16, at 7:00 PM.** This event will be held at: Envision Hotel Grand Ballroom located at:31 Hampshire St., Mansfield, MA 02048.

Please contact:

**Jihane Ayoub 401-714-6200, George Thomas 401-480-8812, or Michael Saker 401-323-7409.** Tickets are \$150.00 VIP and \$100.00 General. Mezza and Dinner will be served, live entertainment and dancing, and a cash bar. I hope many of you will be able to attend and support our friends from St. George Church.

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Abouna Tanios Abi Ramia, Kenneth Macedo, Muriel Moline, Patricia Farhat, Ghada Karam, Beverly Parlapiano, Anne Ramundo, Michael Bruce, Magda Moosa, Sharon Conti, David Techlin, Debbie Freedenberg, Josephine Chedid, Efrangieh Daou, Reggie Thomas, Peter Helmer, Renee Helmer, 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, Ed Da Rocha, and Edmond Salameh. If anyone is missing from this list, please contact the Church office.

### LECTORS FOR FEBRUARY

**Saturday, February 17,**

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

**Sunday, February 18,**

John Barbour / Jano Baroodly

**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

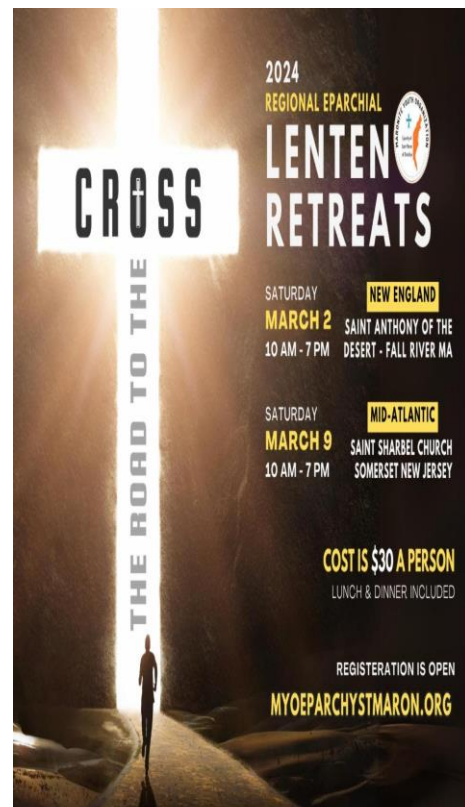
#### MEMBERS:

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.



2024  
REGIONAL EPARCHIAL  
**LENTEN  
RETREATS**

SATURDAY  
**MARCH 2** 10 AM - 7 PM  
NEW ENGLAND  
SAINT ANTHONY OF THE  
DESERT - FALL RIVER MA

SATURDAY  
**MARCH 9** 10 AM - 7 PM  
MID-ATLANTIC  
SAINT SHARBEL CHURCH  
SOMERSET NEW JERSEY

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## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 02/19-02/24/24

### Monday:

1 Thessalonians 3: 6-13

Matthew 6: 22-24

### Tuesday:

Galatians 2: 11-17

Matthew 7:1-12

### Wednesday:

Romans 3: 19-27

Matthew 12: 38-45

### Thursday:

Philippians 4: 4-10

Luke 8: 4-15

### Friday:

Romans 1:18-25

Matthew 18: 23-35

### Saturday:

Hebrews 12: 28-13:9

Mark 11: 19-25

## WEEK OF FEBRUARY

**10-11, 2024**

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,971.00</b>
<b>Feast Of Saint Maron</b>	<b>\$ 140.00</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$ 550.00</b>
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	<b>\$ 34.00</b>
<b>Sanctuary Candle</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>\$ 102.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,715.00</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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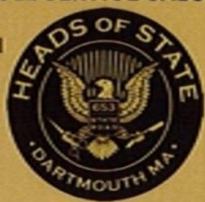
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# Counseling ASSOCIATES

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**Zakhia Chedid** 774-444-3337  
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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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