



# Our Lady of Purgatory



## Maronite Catholic Church

March 2-3, 2024

# PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON



### FEAST OF SAINT JOHN MARON

In the heart of our faith, where devoutness meets inspiration, stands a figure who touched countless lives through his teachings—Saint John Maron. As a figure shrouded in mystery, his life is a treasure of wisdom and faith that seeks to be discovered by believers.

Born in the mid-7th century in Sarum, Syria, John Maron had an early calling to serve God. His parents, both deeply religious people, instilled in him the virtues of fervent devotion and unconditional love for the Almighty. John's upbringing forged a foundation of faith that would later guide him in his divine mission.

**A Beacon of Hope: John Maron's Leadership** "O Saint John Maron, steadfast defender of faith, inspire us to follow your example and strengthen our spiritual resolve."

In a time of immense turmoil and challenges, John Maron emerged as a beacon of hope. His wisdom and spiritual leadership were instrumental in preserving the Christian faith during periods of intense persecution amidst political upheavals. After becoming a monk and then a priest, John Maron became a trusted advisor to the Patriarch of Antioch, navigating the faith community through trials with grace and conviction. His unwavering faith and visionary leadership set an example for all followers of Christ to emulate.

John Maron: The First Maronite Patriarch Nominated as the first Maronite Patriarch, John Maron held an essential role in the establishment and spread of the Maronite Church. As the primary religious figure, he was instrumental in nurturing the growth of the Maronite faith and community despite acute adversity. "Saint John Maron, guide us as we tread the path of faith and lead us closer to the heart of God."

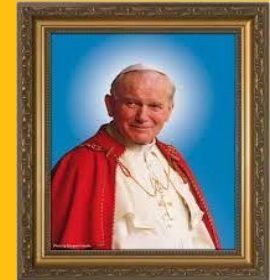
Enduring Persecution: An Inspiration of Faith John Maron's fortitude in the face of persecution stands as a testament to his unwavering faith. Despite threats to his life and attempts to uproot the Maronite Church, John Maron stood unyielding, firmly anchoring the faith community. His determination became a beacon of light for his followers, encouraging them to persevere in their faith, even against seemingly insurmountable odds. It was his courage and unwavering belief that enabled the Maronite Church to survive and flourish, inspiring countless believers across generations.

The Lasting Legacy of Saint John Maron Following his passing: The legacy of Saint John Maron continued to inspire and

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Forgiveness is above all a personal choice, a decision of the heart to go against the natural instinct to pay back evil with evil."*

**Pope Saint John Paul II**



guide the Maronite Church and the broader Christian community. Canonized by Pope Benedict XIII in 1732, his teachings continue to resonate with believers around the world. "Saint John Maron, shepherd of God's flock, guide us in our journey towards the Kingdom of Heaven." Whether illuminating the path to spiritual growth or serving as a model of steadfast commitment to one's faith, Saint John Maron's legacy has touched countless lives. His journey invites us to discover deeper layers of faith and explore how we too can become steadfast bearers of God's love and light. Each time we remember John Maron, we are reminded of his resilience in the face of adversity and his relentless pursuit of God's kingdom. Let his life story be a constant source of inspiration, urging us to reach greater heights in our spiritual journey. <https://catholicsaints.day/john-maron/>

**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)

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**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.

## A REFLECTION ON FORGIVENESS— SEASONS OF LIFE

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So, he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away.

The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer, and the youngest son in the fall.

When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen.

The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent, and twisted.

The second son said no – it was covered with green buds and full of promise.

The third son disagreed, he said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful, it was the most graceful thing he had ever seen.

The last son disagreed with all of them; he said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfilment.

The man then explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen but one season in the tree's life.

He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of who they are – and the pleasure, joy, and love that come from that life – can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up.

If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer, fulfilment of your fall.

Don't judge a life by one difficult season. Don't let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest.

## UPCOMING LENTEN EVENTS AT OLOP

**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.**

**Saturday, March 23, 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.

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

The Vocations Team for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn has printed these beautiful prayer cards for each family. Vocations take on different ways of life such as a priest, religious brother or sister, deacons, subdeacons, holy married couples, parents, and generous single people. In all these vocations does the beauty of our Catholic Faith shine and draws us closer to Christ, to know Him, love Him, and serve Him more.

We ask that you take a copy of these prayer cards home with you and pray this prayer with your family every night. We also have an icon of the Holy Family that we ask each family to take home with them for the week and pray this prayer before it. A signup sheet will be provided for each week. Our Lord listens to our prayers. May the fire and zeal for our Lord foster vocations worthy to serve Him.

## CHANGE THE CLOCKS



This is a friendly reminder to move your clocks forward at 2:00 AM, Sunday, March 10. We do not want you to miss Divine Liturgy. Blessings.

## FISH FRY TICKETS ON SALE

Our Fish Fry will be held on Friday, March 22, 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.

## MCF CLASS SCHEDULE MARONITE CHRISTIAN/FORMATION SESSIONS

February - May 2024 at the Church Hall

**Tuesdays:**

**March: 5; 19**

**April: 2; 9; 23**

**May: 7 last class**

**First Communion: May 5, 2024**

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Tuesday, March 19, we will gather for Eucharistic Adoration at 6:00 PM. This is an opportunity to spend some time with Jesus and ask for His help. Mark your calendars and please join us for this beautiful service.

## ADORATION & STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Friday, March 8, 2024**, Adoration/Stations of the Cross, **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.

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, March 2, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint John Maron).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Susan and Amy Cabral requested by Lou and Smitty Cabral. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Daoud and Rahme Youssef Saad and their deceased family members requested by Mariam David and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Coury and Zilah family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, March 3, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Katharine Drexel, Feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Bou Ramia requested by family. May his soul rest in peace.

**Monday, March 4, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Paul and His Sister, Saint Juliana).** Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent.

**Tuesday, March 5, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Albert the Great, Doctor of the Church).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Julia Maroon and her family (FM). May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Florence Dyer requested by her family (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

**Wednesday, March 6, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Conan of Isauria).**

**Thursday, March 7, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of The Seven Young Men of Ephesus).**

**Saturday, March 9, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of The Forty Martyrs).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Malvina and Joseph J. David requested by the family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Marie Kenyon requested by family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Saturday, March 9, @ 5:30 PM.** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Margueritte Chedid requested by family (40-Day Mass). May her soul rest in peace.

**(Sunday, March 10, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Auxentius).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Georgette and Samir Sawaya requested by Zakhia and Hiba Chdid. May their souls rest in peace.

## FINANCE COUNCIL

### MEMBERS:

Jimmy Kalife, Wassim Chedid, Rose Dupre, Rana Choubah, Nigel Hitchings, and Joseph Barckett.

## WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of February is offered for Samir and Georgette Sawaya requested by Zakhia and Hiba Chdid.

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Anne Ramundo by Anthoy, Joann, and Lorraine David. 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.

## 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.

## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 03/04-03/09/24

### Monday:

2 Corinthians 9: 1a,5-15

Luke 9: 37- 45

### Tuesday:

2 Corinthians 16: 15-24

Mark 8:22-26

### Wednesday:

Romans 14: 1-13

Luke 7: 1-10

### Thursday:

2 Corinthians 1: 23-2:5

Matthew 15: 29-39

### Friday:

2 Corinthians 12:21-13:5

Matthew 9: 27-35

### Saturday:

2 Corinthians 4: 11-18

Luke 6: 20-23

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Fadi Bark, Johnny Kalife, Vicki Thomas Marini, Jacques Barbour, and Smitty Cabral.

## THE GRAND OPENING OF THE SAINT SHARBEL SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER IN PITTSBURGH

**APRIL 13, 2024**

The Grand Opening of the Saint Sharbel Spiritual Life Center in Pittsburgh will take place on **Saturday, April 13, 2024!** The Center is located in the former Epiphany Center, which is the work of the late Father Adrian Van Kaam and Doctor Susan Muto. The Center was recently acquired by and is operated under the direction of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn. Doctor Anne Borik serves as Director and Subdeacon Vincent Michael as Assistant Director.

To register online for the Open House, Dedication, or to purchase tickets for the Dinner and Concert (\$50 per person), please visit [www.saintsharbelcenter.org](http://www.saintsharbelcenter.org) For more information please email: [info@saintsharbelcenter.org](mailto:info@saintsharbelcenter.org)

## LECTORS FOR MARCH 2024

**Saturday, March 2,**

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

**Sunday, March 3,**

Ann Dupre / Gaby Baroody

**Saturday, March 9,**

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

**Sunday, March 10,**

Rana Choubah / Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, March 16,**

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

**Sunday, March 17,**

Halim Choubah / Jano Baroody

**Saturday, March 23,**

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

**Sunday, March 24,**

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

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

## WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24-25, 2024

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,245.00</b>
<b>Second Collection</b>	<b>\$ 820.00</b>
<b>Sanctuary Candle</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>\$ 29.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,104.00</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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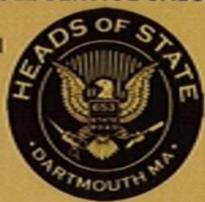
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*Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD's Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing day.*

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