



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



April 6-7, 2024

THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

AN UNFORGETTABLE STORY OF FORGIVENESS

Four years ago, I watched a video on YouTube of a woman who was doing impressive work caring for underserved children in downtown Columbus, Ohio. She'd started a center for after-school activities, where young people could come and have a snack, do their homework, learn about Jesus Christ, and spend time with one another in a safe environment.

What a great initiative, I thought. And then I kept watching. There was a reason she was doing this work. Isn't there always a reason? But Rachel Muha's was nothing short of astounding.

In 1999, Rachel had lost her younger son, Brian, when he was violently murdered after he and his roommate were abducted from their off-campus apartment at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. Brian, a bright, caring 18-year-old from Westerville, Ohio, had his life ahead of him. He had wanted to be a doctor — to work with, you guessed it, underserved children.

But there is an even more incredible part of this story, and it's that Rachel publicly forgave her son's killers before his body had even been found. And it's that act of forgiveness that has gone on to change life after life in the 20 years since.

How do I know this? Because I got to tell her story. After watching the YouTube video (on a tip from Kevin Lowry, a member of OSV's Board of Directors), I spoke with book editors at OSV and volunteered to work with Rachel to make her story — and the work of The Brian Muha Foundation — better known. For the next three years, I spoke and visited with Rachel, talking to her about

Brian's kidnapping and what it was like to search for him (even looking in dumpsters); about dealing with grief and her decision to forgive; about the two young men who had murdered her son; about her older son, Chris, and his own heartbreak; about the terrible criminal trials that occurred and then occurred a second time; about grief, racial tensions, and the death penalty; and finally, how she has been an inspiring one-woman agent of change in her community and beyond. The result was a new book, published in November, called "Legacy of Mercy: A True Story of Murder and a Mother's Forgiveness" (OSV, \$19.95).

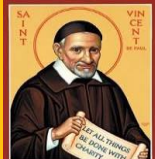
Through those pages, I do my best to introduce the reader to the woman who had first captivated me in that YouTube video — the woman who had spent her life in the service of others and, in doing so, in service to God. And who has experienced this best but the young people who she has served through the years? One of my favorite examples of the success of Rachel's work is how people who first came to the center as children are now returning to help the next generation. Daniel Houston, 22, is one of those "Racers" who is now working full-time with the day school. He told me, when I recorded him for an interview, "If Miss Rachel is hearing this: I love you, man. I appreciate everything you've done for me." His comments bring me to tears to this day.

Thanks to Rachel's tireless effort and hard work, "Legacy of Mercy" is already outdated. There are more students at the day school (complete with new uniforms!), and a gym expansion is underway. And watching over it all is a big photo of Brian, hanging on the wall

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Extend your mercy towards others, so that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping. For what hope is there for us if God should withdraw His Mercy from us?"

Saint Vincent de Paul



outside the center's office. Thanks to his mom — to her tremendous faith, her love for others, and her decision to forgive against all odds — he will not be remembered just as a boy who died. He will be remembered as a boy whose untimely and tragic death helped change the world.

<https://todayscatholic.org/an-unforgettable-story-of-forgiveness/>

IN OUR PRAYERS

Abouna Tanios Abi Ramia, Kenneth Macedo, Muriel Moline, Patricia Farhat, Ghada Karam, Beverly Parlapiano, 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.

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.

WEEKLY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



Beginning **Monday, April 8**, Eucharistic Adoration will be available every Monday evening from **5:00 PM – 9:00 PM**. This is a beautiful time to spend with Jesus Christ in prayer and reflection. If you would like to be offer an hour with Jesus each week, please contact Fr. Vincent. We will have the changing of the guards every hour between 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

I received the sad news that Semaan Semaan passed away this week in Pembroke, Massachusetts. Our deepest sympathies go out to his wife Samira, his children and grandchildren, Madonna married to Attorney Roland Hardane and their children Mira, Sophia and Yvan-Joseph, Zoya married to Mr. Tanios Habib and their children Rayan and Marc, and Paula married to Mr. Emile C. Tayeh Jr. P.E and their children Matthew, Gabrielle and Luke. May Almighty God welcome Semaan into His kingdom and may his soul rest in peace. Allah yerhammo.

SPECIAL VISIT FROM HIS EXCELLENCY MICHEL AOUN

His Excellency Michel Aoun, Bishop of Jbeil, Lebanon, will be visiting our area on **April 17, 2024**. He wishes to see everyone, especially those from his diocese. Msgr. James Root, the parishioners of St. Anthony of the Desert, along with Fr. Vincent and the parishioners of Our Lady of Purgatory, are teaming up together to host Bishop Aoun on Wednesday, April 17.

Divine Liturgy will be held at Saint Anthony of the Desert Church in Fall River, at **7:00 PM**, and a reception will be held immediately following Divine Liturgy.

I ask you all to mark your calendars and join us for this special visit by Sayedna Aoun. There will be no charge for the reception and details of the reception will be forthcoming. We welcome Sayedna Aoun and pray his visit is fruitful.

2024 EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for the 2024 Education Foundation Scholarships will be emailed this week. The Education Foundation Members have worked very hard to replenish monies needed to award our young men and women a scholarship to help in their education. I thank these members: Annemarie Espindola, Sarah Thomas Hitchings, Lorraine David, Leilah Moses Silveira, and Matthew Thomas.

Any High School Senior who will be attending college in the fall, and any Undergraduate College student are encouraged to apply for these scholarships. There will be up to 3 scholarships awarded for the 2024 school year.

These scholarships will be emailed and must be completed by and returned by Tuesday, April 30, 2024. Please follow the instructions and supply the necessary documents to be considered for these scholarships. If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the foundation members or Fr. Vincent.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of April is offered for Joseph and Alice Daher requested by Family.

MARONITE CHRISTIAN FORMATION SESSIONS

February - May 2024 at the Church Hall

Tuesdays

April: 9; 23

May: 7 last class

First Communion: May 5, 2024

SAINT JOSEPH SODALITY

Our Next Monthly Devotion will be this Sunday, **April 7, at 10:00 am**. All are welcome to join us. We will sponsor the coffee hour immediately following Divine Liturgy.

BENEFIT BREAKFAST FOR REMEMBER ME INTO YOUR KINGDOM

As you know, every month we pray for all the faithful departed in unity with members of Remember Me Into Your Kingdom. This beautiful organization is committed to praying for the souls of all the faithful departed. Our loved ones who have passed are always in need of our prayers and I am grateful to this organization for such a beautiful commitment for this cause.

We will celebrate this Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 14, at 10:30 AM. This organization will be sponsoring a breakfast immediately following Liturgy in the Church Hall. Your support is greatly appreciated. For tickets, please contact Jacques or Amal Barbour.



Christ is Truly Risen!

Please join us on the occasion of the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord.

Sunday, April 14, 2024

*Our Lady of Purgatory Maronite Catholic Church
4254 Acushent Avenue, New Bedford, MA*



**Full Lavish Breakfast will be served
Foul Mdammas, Labneh, Cheese Baladeh,
Zaatar & Meat Pies, Boiled Eggs,
Veggies, Croissants, Deli Platter, Fruits,
Desserts, Coffee, Juice and More.**

After the 10:30 am Liturgy

Donation - Adults \$20 - Children under 12 - \$15

**All proceeds to benefit the Ministry of
Friends of Remember me in yǒur Kingdom**

For Tickets

Karen Tannous Njeim - 857 222 9777

Zeina Freiha - 781 789 0432

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 6, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Marcellinus). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Marie Kenyon requested by family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Antonia Borgess requested by Daniel Tavares and family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in Purgatory. May all the souls in Purgatory rest in peace.

Sunday, April 7, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint John Baptist de la Salle). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Moses requested by Matthew and Cathy Thomas and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Kaffa Peter requested by the family (FM). May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mary David requested by Sophie Correa (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

Monday, April 8, @ 9:00 AM, (The Second Council of Nocaee, Feast of Saint Barlaam). Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent.

Tuesday, April 9, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Hermas). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Anne Abraham requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Wednesday, April 10, @ 9:00 AM, (Miracle of the Icon of Christ in Beirut, Feast of Saint Agabus). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph, Matilda, and George Attallah requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Thursday, April 11, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Antipas).

Saturday, April 13, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Zosimas). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Michele Sr. and Jr., Anna and Baldassare Magaletta requested by Joann, Anthony and Lorraine David. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Alice Daher requested by Diane and Mike LeBlanc. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, April 14, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Hermenegild the King). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Fred Thomas, Joao and Fernanda Baptista, Mema Carvelho and Edigio Baptista requested by Fernanda Thomas. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joanne Yozefek requested by family. May her soul rest in peace.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Joanne Sarkes Yozefek by 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.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 04/08-04/13/24

Monday:

1 Peter 1: 1-9
John 20: 1-10

Tuesday:

1 Peter 1: 10-16
John 20:11-18

Wednesday:

1 Peter 1: 17-21
Matthew 28: 11-15

Thursday:

1 Peter 1: 22-25
Matthew 28: 16-20

Friday:

1 Peter 2:1-10
John 2: 13-25

Saturday:

1 Peter 2: 11-17
Matthew 22: 41-46

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.

LECTORS FOR APRIL 2024

Saturday, April 6,
Racheal Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, April 7,

Rana Choubah/ Halim Choubah

Saturday, April 13,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, April 14,

John Barbour/ Joumana Chedid

Saturday, April 20,

Smitty Cabral

Intercession: Mae Dickinson

Sunday, April 21

Ann Dupre/ Gaby Baroody

Saturday, April 27,

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

Sunday, April 28,

Mae Dickinson/ Hiba Chdid

WEEK OF MARCH

30-31, 2024

Sunday Collection	\$ 4,731.00
March Online Giving	\$ 726.20
Good Friday Holy Land	\$ 298.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 66.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 40.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 15.00
Candles	\$ 93.00
Total	\$ 6,010.20

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.

SAINT THERESA MARONITE CHURCH,
BROCKTON MA

featuring

Annual HAFLE

OUR MAIN FUNDRAISER EVENT

MUSIC-DANCE-FOOD-RAFFLES

RAMI BADR

WHERE?
VENUS DE MILO
75 GRAND ARMY OF THE
REPUBLIC HWY
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WHEN?
APRIL 13, 2024
7:30 P.M.

Prime Seating \$135.00 / person
Lounge Seating \$100.00 / person
Children under 12 \$40.00 / Child

FOR TICKETS
Mrs. Mirna Issa (508) 725-4786
Mrs. Randa El-Hayek (508) 250-6306
Ms. Salma Haikal (617) 413-6319

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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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