



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



April 20-21, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

FEAST OF SAINT ANSELM OF CANTERBURY

Reflection: He was an Italian, Frenchman, and Englishman; a monk, prior, abbot, archbishop, philosopher, theologian, and spiritual writer; today he is a saint, a Doctor of the Church, and commonly referred to as the “Father of Scholasticism.” Anselm was born into a noble family in the town of Aosta, located in the Italian Alps. As a youth, his devout mother set a pious example which he readily followed. When Anselm was fifteen, he wanted to enter the monastic life, but his father would not give consent. So the abbot refused his entrance. His mother had since passed, so she could not intervene. Disillusioned, Anselm’s faith wavered for the next several years. Coming to his senses, he pursued studies in France and eventually arrived at the Benedictine Abbey of Bec around the age of twenty-six. Anselm quickly became close to and a devoted student of the prior, Lanfranc. When Anselm’s father died, Anselm was in a quandary about what to do. Should he return home to receive the inheritance of his father’s estate and put it to good use? Or should he abandon it and become a monk? Lanfranc directed him to a holy bishop for spiritual advice, and Anselm decided on religious life. He returned to the Abbey of Bec and became a monk at the age of twenty-seven.

After Anselm enjoyed three blessed years of monastic life, Lanfranc, the prior, was appointed abbot of another abbey. Anselm was chosen as the prior of Bec at the age of thirty under the elderly founding abbot, Herluin. Though some of the monks disapproved of this appointment due to Anselm’s youth, his wisdom, personality, heartfelt kindness, and holiness soon won them over. He remained the prior for the fifteen years.

As prior, Anselm studied, prayed, taught, and administered the abbey remarkably well. He was such a success that the Abbey of Bec became one of the most respected institutions in all of Europe. At Bec, Anselm wrote seven of his thirteen works, including two of his most famous ones: *Monologion* and *Proslogion*. Anselm had a profound faith, fueled by a life of intense mystical prayer, and it was his prayer and faith that directed his thinking and writing. He believed that unless God first revealed Himself, our minds could never grasp Him, could never grasp Truth. One of Anselm’s greatest philosophical contributions is his ontological argument for the existence of God. In his first great work, *Monologion*, Anselm argued that we can arrive at the existence of God using deductive reasoning. For example, if we consider the idea of “good,” we are aware of varying degrees of goodness. Therefore, there must be that which is supreme goodness itself. This supreme good must also be responsible for all else that is good. God is that Goodness. He does not simply *have* goodness, He *is* Goodness. In his great work, *Proslogion*, Anselm began with the concept of *a being than which no greater can be conceived*. From that concept, he goes through logical deductions that lead him to conclude that *a being than which no greater can be conceived* necessarily exists. This argument has been one of the most discussed and contested arguments in philosophy.

Philosophy was not Anselm’s only love. He was also a profound spiritual writer, theologian, and composer of many beautiful prayers. His spiritual writings are not only theoretical, they are also personal and intimate. His deep love for God and for our Blessed Mother shines through.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Man cannot seek God, unless God himself teaches him; nor find him, unless he reveals himself. God created man in his image, that he might be mindful of him, think of him, and love him. The believer does not seek to understand, that he may believe, but he believes that he may understand: for unless he believed he would not understand.”
Saint Anselm of Canterbury



In 1078, Abbot Herluin died, and Anselm was elected his successor by the unanimous consent of the monks, a role he would valiantly fulfill for the next fifteen years. As abbot, Anselm periodically traveled on various properties that had been donated to the abbey across the English Channel. His counsel was also regularly sought out by the English king and his good friend Lanfranc, who had since been made the Archbishop of Canterbury. Anselm’s visits to Canterbury, coupled with the domineering intellectual influence of the Abbey of Bec, made him the ideal successor to Archbishop Lanfranc of Canterbury. When Lanfranc died, Anselm became the next Archbishop of Canterbury at the age of sixty. Anselm’s consecration as archbishop was at first delayed because of conflicts with King William II regarding the confiscation of church property and the

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.

king's perceived right to appoint bishops independently of the pope. King William eventually became quite ill, and, for fear of hell, he repented, and Anselm was installed. Once installed as Archbishop of Canterbury, Anselm came into conflict with King William once again and was exiled from his see. After the death of King William, the new king, King Henry, welcomed Anselm back, but Anselm soon found himself engaged in yet another dispute about the appointment of new bishops. He was once again exiled. Even in exile, God used Archbishop Anselm in powerful ways. He continued writing beautiful and profound theology, defended the nature of the Trinity at a Church council in Rome, and acted as a counselor to the pope. His times in exile also gave a lasting witness to the truths for which he was exiled. That witness not only had an impact on those in his time but also for the generations to follow. Anselm's final years were more peaceful after he and the king worked out a compromise, and he returned to his see in Canterbury.

Saint Anselm is considered a "confessor" because he suffered for his defense of the Church and the Gospel. He fiercely defended the autonomous spiritual authority of the Church and refused to participate in financial abuses between the state and church. In addition to being a confessor, Saint Anselm's writings continue to have a profound impact upon the Church. He stands out as one of the greatest theologians between Saint Augustine and Saint Thomas Aquinas. His prayers inflame hearts with deep devotion. His love for our Blessed Mother is inspiring. His theological explanation of the Trinity, grace, truth, and the Incarnation have provided a firm foundation for a deeper understanding of our faith. Above all, we can ponder Saint Anselm's deep conviction that when faith in God comes first, understanding follows. If you struggle in life in any way, follow this saint's example by placing your trust in God first, and then wait upon Him to lead you.

MCF CLASS SCHEDULE

MARONITE CHRISTIAN FORMATION SESSIONS

February - May 2024 at the Church Hall

Tuesdays: April: 23

April:30 First Communion Rehearsal

May: 7 last class

First Communion: May 5, 2024

WEEKLY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



Eucharistic Adoration will be available every Monday evening from **5:00 PM – 8:00 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 – 8:00 PM.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

This is the first Banns of Marriage for Jacob Barbour and Jillian Faria who will be married on May 10, 2024. If anyone knows of any reason that these two should not be married, speak now or forever hold your peace.

WELCOME TO THE FLOCK SOPHIE KALIFE

I am happy to announce the arrival of Sophie Kathleen Kalife, the daughter of Johnny and Danielle Kalife, who was born on Sunday, April 14. We congratulate Jonny and Danielle, Gido Jimmy Kalife, and Danielle's parents Chris and Angela Ciccolo and her brothers Chris and Nick. May Almighty God bless and protect Sophie and shower His love upon her. Congratulations! Mabrook!

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.

MYO GATHERING

We will have another MYO gathering on Saturday, May 11, at 6:00 PM in the Church Hall. All youth are highly encouraged to participate. We will have a talk, icebreakers, dinner and games for our youth.

SECOND COLLECTION

Per the directive of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, there will be a second collection this weekend. This collection is taken up for Catholic Home Missions which is used for new missions in the USA. Our Eparchy has received grants from the USCCB from this collection for several years. Thank you for your generosity.

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

The Education Foundation is sponsoring a Mother's Day Raffle. You can enjoy a \$200.00 gift certificate to M Aesthetics Spa. All the proceeds will benefit the Education Foundation Scholarship program. This will allow this foundation to continue to offer scholarships to our high school seniors and undergraduate college students to help with their education. Please support these efforts. God bless.

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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 20, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Nathanael the Hermit). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Christine David requested by family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Sara and Sean Paul McLaughlin requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, April 21, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Anselm, Doctor of the Church). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Louise Dupree requested by Family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Arnold and Laurette Mello, Anna Thomas, and Mary and Diab Hardin requested by Michael and Joan T. Mello and family. May their souls rest in peace.

Monday, April 22, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Theodore of Sykeon). Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent.

Tuesday, April 23, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint George). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the living and deceased members of Mariam David family requested by Mariam David and family. May their souls rest in peace.

Wednesday, April 24, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Saba the Commander).

Thursday, April 25, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Everett Pittsley and Saseen and Marina Thomas (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Saturday, April 27, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Simon, Brother of the Lord). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Peter and Annie Kenyon requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, April 28, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Jason, one of the 72 Disciples). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Tommy and Josie Thomas requested by Family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Anthony G. and Josephine Thomas requested by family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Arthur and Annie Thomas, and for the souls of Edward and Rose Mattar requested by family. May their souls rest in peace.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

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

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.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 04/22-04/27/24

Monday:

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10
Luke 5: 1-11

Tuesday:

1 Thessalonians 2: 1-12
Luke 8:22-25

Wednesday:

1 Thessalonians 2: 13-20
John 6: 1-15

Thursday:

1 Thessalonians 3: 1-13
John 6: 16-21

Friday:

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
John 6: 22-27

Saturday:

1 Thessalonians 5: 12-28
Matthew 14: 22-33

LECTORS FOR APRIL

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

(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 APRIL

13-14, 2024

Sunday Collection	\$ 2,004.00
Hall Rental	\$ 300.00
Advertising	\$ 300.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 20.00
Candles	\$ 39.00
Total	\$ 2,663.00

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.

Joseph & Marie Kenyon

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