



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



April 27-28, 2024

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

#### TABLE TALK:

#### 1 Peter 2:1-25

*"Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Heavenly Father." (Mt 5:16)* St. Peter's letter tells us that we as Catholics cannot remain as we are. There are things we must rid ourselves of to be followers of Christ.

One must rid themselves of deceit by avoiding deceiving others to achieve one's own needs---those whose motives are never pure. We must turn our wickedness, our hatred of others into just and good deeds; to love one another. We must turn away from the acts of the Pharisees and scribes---that of hypocrisy and dishonesty. We must turn away from envy, jealousy, and resentment so that our hearts are at peace, and we rejoice with. We must turn away from slander---of gossip and destruction of others. All these vices lead to destruction of the human heart. They carry with them everything that keeps us away from God and His promise to us.

St. Peter tells us that to do this we must be like infants who long for "spiritual milk." Jesus tells us that unless we are childlike, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. It is through this spiritual milk that Christians are nourished with the Word of God by which we grow until we reach salvation. We must begin with the basics just as a child begins with the basics.

Rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, insincerity, envy, and all slander; like newborn infants, long for pure spiritual milk so that through it you may grow into salvation, for you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy

priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in scripture: "Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame." Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith: "The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall." They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny.

But you are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **Once you were "no people" but now you are God's people; you "had not received mercy" but now you have received mercy.** Beloved, I urge you as aliens and sojourners to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against the soul. Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that if they speak of you as evildoers, they may observe your good works and glorify God on the day of visitation. Be subject to every human institution for the Lord's sake, whether it be to the king as supreme or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the approval of those who do good. For it is the will of God that by doing good you may silence the ignorance of foolish people. Be free, yet without using freedom as a pretext for evil, but as slaves of God. Give honor to all, love the community, fear God, honor the king. Slaves, be subject to your masters with all reverence, not only to those who are good and equitable but also to those who are perverse.

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves, and not to twist them to fit our own image. Otherwise, we love only the reflection of ourselves we find in them."*

*Thomas Merton*

**For whenever anyone bears the pain of unjust suffering because of consciousness of God, that is a grace. But what credit is there if you are patient when beaten for doing wrong? But if you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. (NAB)** How can we begin to understand this letter from St. Peter in the context of our daily lives? What is Jesus instructing us through this letter from St. Peter and how do we go about our daily lives to follow through with these instructions? These are very difficult questions to answer and even more difficult to implement in our

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.

lives. As you can see, I said “difficult” not “impossible.”

Let us think about this idea of stripping away our old selves for the sake of Jesus Christ. As you and your family discuss this letter from St. Paul, I’d like you to think about how we can begin to rid ourselves of the worldly cares and obstacles that keeps us away from God. I want you to think about ways to overcome our human limitations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century by repaying evil with evil.

- 1) What are the meanings of malice, deceit, insincerity, envy, and slander?
- 2) How have we become a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation? What does this mean to us?
- 3) In what ways can we do good works to those who speak evil or do evil against us? Why is this necessary?
- 4) How can we bear the suffering of good deeds and receive punishment for these deeds? What is the prime example of this act and what were the results of them?
- 5) How have we been healed by the wounds of Jesus Christ and how do we set an example to others by this grace given to us.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### FIRST COMMUNION CEREMONY



On **Sunday, May 5**, three of our children will receive their First Holy Communion. This special sacrament will be held at 10:30 AM Mass. Please keep all our children in your prayers as they prepare to receive Jesus for the first time. God bless all of them.

### BANNS OF MARRIAGE

This is the second 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.

### 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.

### 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.



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## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**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. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Alice Daher by Mariam David and family. May her soul 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 (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Monday, April 29, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church).** Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent.

**Tuesday, April 30, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint James, son of Zebedee).**

**Wednesday, May 1, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Jeremiah the Prophet). NO LITURGY.**

**Thursday, May 2, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Athanasius of Alexandria, Doctor of the Church).**

**Saturday, May 4, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Monica, Mother of Saint Augustine).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George J. and Mary Saba and for the soul of George Michael requested by Annemarie Espindola. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Leo Macedo requested by family (FM). May his soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, May 5, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Our Lady of Lebanon, Feast of Saint Irene).** Liturgy is being offered in honor of our First Communicants and their families. May God bless them.

## 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.

## WINE AND HOST OFFERING

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

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention by Lou and Smitty Cabral. 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, 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 04/29-05/04/24

### Monday:

Philippians 1: 1-11  
Luke 22: 28-34

### Tuesday:

Philippians 1: 12-20  
John 1:35-42

### Wednesday:

Philippians 1: 21-30  
Matthew 16: 11-20

### Thursday:

Philippians 2: 1-11  
Matthew 16:21-28

### Friday:

Philippians 2:12-18  
Matthew 18: 18-22

### Saturday:

Philippians 2: 19-30  
Matthew 17: 24-27

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Please know that confession is available before liturgies. You may also call to set up an appointment.

## MCF CLASS SCHEDULE

### MARONITE CHRISTIAN FORMATION SESSIONS

February - May 2024 at the Church Hall  
**Tuesdays:**

**April:30 First Communion Rehearsal**  
**May: 7 last class**

**First Communion: May 5, 2024**

## LECTORS FOR APRIL/MAY 2024

**Saturday, April 27,**  
Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

**Sunday, April 28,**

Mae Dickinson/ Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, May 4,**

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

**Sunday, May 5,**

TBA

**Wednesday, May 8,**

Vigil of the Ascension

Mae Dickinson/Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, May 11,**

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

**Sunday, May 12,**

Halim Choubah / Joumana Chedid

**Saturday, May 18,**

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

**Sunday, May 19,**

Mae Dickinson / Jano Baroody

**Saturday, May 25,**

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

**Sunday, May 26,**

Ann Dupre / Elie AbouKheir

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

## WEEK OF APRIL

**20-21, 2024**

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,325.00</b>
<b>Hall Rental</b>	<b>\$ 300.00</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$ 300.00</b>
<b>Sanctuary Candle</b>	<b>\$ 35.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>\$ 46.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,006.00</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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*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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