



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

December 14-15, 2024

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD REVELATION TO JOSEPH

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Purgatory Church:

As we gathered with our families for Thanksgiving, we, as the Parish Family of Our Lady of Purgatory, have much to be thankful for as well. Through the Grace of God, we have completed the renovations of the Rectory and Church at our new home on 4254 Acushnet Avenue, we have sold the former Rectory and Center and soon will close on the sale of the former Church and one of the parking lots. We have a beautiful shrine to St. Sharbel. We have hosted our most successful Festival, Bazaar and Hafli, and just as importantly, we continue to find new ways to gather in prayer in the Church and in fellowship in the Parish Center. Yes, our Lord has blessed the dedication and hard work of our parishioners; and for this we should give thanks.

Throughout the history of our Parish, we have been blessed with the generosity of our Parishioners and Friends. When we began this latest phase of our Journey of Faith, we set a goal of raising \$650,000.00 through a Capital Campaign which together with the sale proceeds of our property in the Acushnet Heights section of New Bedford and a loan from the Knights of Columbus would fund the costs of acquisition and renovation of our new home, and relocation of our Parish Treasures. After the sale of the former Church on Franklin Street we will only owe the Diocese of Fall River \$240,000.00 of the original \$1.6 million purchase price for the new property. We continue to make monthly payments on our modest loan from the Knights of Columbus.

Through the kindness of our Parishioners

& Friends we have raised \$390,000.00 of our Capital Campaign goal of \$650,000.00. If we can raise the remaining \$260,000.00 before the end of 2024, we will be able to pay off the balance we owe to the Diocese of Fall River. This will allow the Diocese of Fall River to waive approximately \$80,000.00 of accrued interest, resulting in an interest free loan. As you consider your end of year charitable gifting, please consider contributing to the OLOP Capital Campaign.

For more information on how you can support our Capital Campaign, or if you would like to make a Memorial Gift, please call the Rectory at (508) 996-8934 or email us at:

ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com

I hope you and yours have a very Blessed Season of the Birth of Our Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Rev. Vincent W. Farhat
Pastor



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Inspired by the Gospel, the Fathers of the Church from the earliest centuries stressed that just as St. Joseph took loving care of Mary and gladly dedicated himself to Jesus Christ’s upbringing, he likewise watches over and protects Christ’s Mystical Body, that is, the Church, of which the Virgin Mary is the exemplar and model.”

St. John Paul II



2025 OLOP DINING BOOK

Dining Books are now on sale just in time for Christmas. These are great gifts for family and friends. These books contain 5 dinners that are planned over the next few months. They are:

Ham and Bean Supper, Saturday, January 18, beginning at 5:30 PM

Shawarma Sunday, February 23, beginning at 11:30 AM

Lenten Fish Fry, Friday, March 7, beginning at 5:00 PM

Lenten Fish Fry, Friday, March 21, beginning at 5:00 PM

Saj Sunday, April 27, beginning at 11:30 AM

A \$70.00 value all yours for \$60.00. If you would like to purchase these books, please contact the office at 508-996-8934 or email the office at officeolop@gmail.com

Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon

Address: 4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA 02745

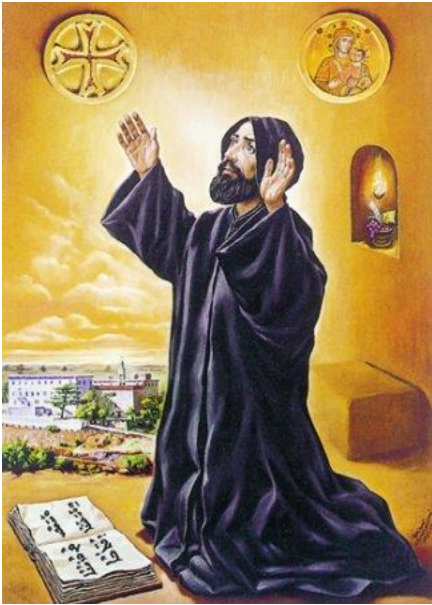
Office: 508-996-8934 | Fax: 774-202-0758 | Evening Emergency Number: 561-371-5316 | Website: www.ourladyofpurgatory.org

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.

FEAST OF SAINT NEMATALLAH EI-HARDINI



"Nimatullah Youssef Kassab Al-Hardini" was born in the Emirate of Mount Lebanon, in 1808. He was the son of George Kassab and Marium Raad. His mother was the daughter of a Maronite priest. As a boy, he attended a religious school, studying under the monks of the Lebanese Maronite Order at the Monastery of St. Anthony, in Houb. He completed his studies there in 1822. In 1828, he entered the monastery of St. Anthony in Qozhaya. He took the name, "Nimatullah," which means "God's grace."

Nimatullah spent long hours in prayer, often staying awake all night to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. He made his vows in 1830 and was sent to the Monastery of Saints Cyprian and Justinian to study for ordination. He was then sent to teach at the order's seminary and became the director of the seminarians. However, he was reluctant to accept positions of leadership due to his humility. Once, when offered a post as Superior General of his order, he declined saying, "Better death than to be appointed Superior General."

Throughout his career, he was observed to be strict with himself and his own observance of the rules. However, he was remarkably lenient with the other monks. In fact, he was reprimanded for showing so much leniency. He remarked that his first concern should be to do no harm or trouble his brothers.

There were two civil wars in the region, during 1840 and 1845. These were

occasions of great suffering for Nimatullah and the people. One of his biological brothers, who had also entered the monastery and become a monk, advised him to become a hermit as well. But Nimatullah dismissed this suggestion, explaining that the true challenge of being a monk involved communal life.

Nimatullah was well-known for his spirituality and is said to have performed many miracles. On one occasion, he ordered his students to move away from a wall, because he had a premonition that the wall was going to collapse. The wall subsequently fell, but thanks to his vision, the students were kept safe. He miraculously cured an altar boy who was deathly ill, and when his monastery's donation box was nearly empty, he prayed and soon it was found to be overflowing with food.

In the late fall of 1858, Nimatullah fell ill with a high fever while teaching. He remained in bed for two weeks, holding tightly an icon of the Blessed Virgin, and entrusting his soul to her. He died on December 14, 1858. In 1864, his tomb was opened for reburial and his body was discovered incorrupt. His body was venerated by the public until 1827, when he was finally reburied in a chapel.

His case for canonization was opened on September 7, 1978, and he was declared venerable. In 1997, a miracle was attributed to him. Pope John Paul II beatified him on May 10, 1998. He later canonized Nimatullah on Sunday, May 16, 2004. The Maronite Church celebrates his feast day on December 14.

He is the patron saint of Beirut, Lebanon.

OLOP CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

We will have our 1st Annual Christmas Brunch this Sunday, December 15, after 10:30 Divine Liturgy. There will be an array of Lebanese and American food items for all of you to enjoy.

SAVE THE DATE

SAINT MARON'S DAY HAFLI

will be held on **Saturday, February 1**, at OLOP Church Hall. Of course you can expect great food, live entertainment, cash bar, and desserts. Tickets are \$75.00 and Dance Floor Tickets are \$100.00. Please mark your calendars and join us for the great annual event. Tickets are now on sale December 21, 2024. Please contact Sousou Maalouf or the Church Office.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Beginning December 15, we will begin our Christmas Novena. The schedule is posted below. I hope to see you for this beautiful prayer service.

Sunday, December 15,

Novena will begin at 10:00 AM

Monday, December 16,

Divine liturgy begins at 6:30 PM,

Novena will begin at 7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 17,

Divine liturgy begins at 6:30 PM,

Novena will begin at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, December 18,

Divine liturgy begins at 6:30 PM,

Novena will begin at 7:00 PM

Thursday, December 19,

Divine liturgy begins at 6:30 PM,

Novena will begin at 7:00 PM

Friday, December 20,

Divine liturgy begins at 6:30 PM,

Novena will begin at 7:00 PM

Saturday, December 21,

Divine liturgy begins at 4:30 PM,

Novena will begin at 5:30 PM

Sunday, December 22,

Divine liturgy begins at 10:30 AM,

Novena will begin at 11:30 AM

Monday, December 23,

Divine liturgy begins at 6:30 PM,

Novena will begin at 7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DIVINE

LITURGIES

Christmas Eve Vigil,

Tuesday, December 24,

Divine Liturgy will begin at 5:00 PM

Christmas Morning,

Wednesday, December 25,

Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:30 AM

Our Lady of Purgatory Church
**Saint Maron's Feast
Day Hafl**

Saturday, February 1, 2025
at
OLOP Church Hall
4254 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, MA, 02745



Live Entertainment by
Rami Badr
&
Bochir Khoury Band

Dance Floor Seating: \$100.00 (All Ages)
General Seating: \$75.00
Children (8-17): \$40.00
Children (under 8yrs.): No Charge

Cash Bar & Mezza
@ 7:00 PM
Dinner Served
@ 8:00 PM

For Ticket Sales Contact:
Church Office: (508) 996-8934
Sousou Maalouf: (508) 916-1523

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 14, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Nemtallah El-Hardini). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Ann Farhat requested by the family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Kevin and Nancy McCarthy requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Elias Arnaout requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, December 15, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Eleutherius and His Mother). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Estephan Diab requested by Jacques and Amal Barbour. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George, Tillie and Mark Moses requested by Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Monday, December 16, @ 6:30 PM, (Feast of Haggai the Prophet).

Tuesday, December 17, @ 6:30 PM, (Feast of the Three Young Men: Ananias, Azarias, and Misael). Liturgy is being offered for the living and deceased members of the David, Daher, Farris and Abi Ramia Families requested by Mariam David and family.

Wednesday, December 18, @ 6:30 PM, (Feast of Daniel the Prophet). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of John, Malvina, and Joseph David and the deceased members of their families requested by Mariam David and family. May their souls rest in peace.

Thursday, December 19, @ 6:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Athenodorus).

Friday, December 20, @ 6:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Ignatius of Antioch).

Saturday, December 21, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Julian). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nazira (Mary N.) Saba requested by Annemarie Espindola. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Dave and Mary Sullivan requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, December 22, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Anastasia). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Fred Thomas, Joao, Fernanda and Edigio Baptista, Mena Carvalho requested by Fernanda Thomas. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Margueritte Chedid requested by Bashir and Christine ElKhoury. May her soul rest in peace.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of December is offered in memory of Estephan Diab by Jacques and Amal Barbour.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for our daughter Bertha by Gaby and Amal Baroody. 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.

LECTORS FOR DECEMBER, 2024

Saturday, December 14,
Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

Sunday, December 15,

Mae Dickinson / Jano Baroody

Saturday, December 21,

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna and Helen Higgins

Sunday, December 22,

John Barbour / Joumana Chedid

Tuesday, December 24,

Matthew Thomas / Hiba Chdid

Wednesday, December 25,

Mae Dickinson / TBA

Saturday, December 28,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, December 29,

Rana Choubah / Halim Choubah

Tuesday, December 31,

Annemarie Espindola / Gaby Baroody

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

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sophie Correa, Stephen DaCosta, Kenneth Macedo, Muriel Moline, Patricia Farhat, Ghada Karam, Beverly Parlapiano, Michael Bruce, Debbie Freedenberg, Efrangieh Daou, Sharon Conti, David Techlin, Reggie Thomas, Peter Helmer, Renee Helmer, Octavia David, Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Theresa John, Angela Scorza-Anderson, 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.

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 DECEMBER 7-8, 2024

Sunday Collection	\$	1,460.00
Donations	\$	150.00
Lebanese Market	\$	84.00
Angel Program	\$	300.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	203.00
Coffee Hour	\$	33.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$	30.00
Candles	\$	80.00
Total	\$	2,340.00

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.



FUN
FAITH
FELLOWSHIP

JANUARY
17TH
7-9pm

MYA KICKOFF EVENT 2025!

Calling all Young Adults ages 18 to 39
to come join us at Our Lady of Purgatory Church Hall,
4254 Achusnet Ave New Bedford for an interactive
discussion and dinner with Fr. Vince as we brainstorm for
future events. To join the MYA or RSVP please contact
Fr. Vince at 508-956-8324.

BARBERSHOP x LOUNGE

CHEDID Cuts

EST. 2022



CHRISTOPHE CHEDID
Business Owner



100 State Rd
Dartmouth, MA 02747

774.255.0099
Instagram: Chedidcuts



SCAN ME

M & S Excavation



Milad Maalouf
Licensed

LAND CLEARING • SITE WORK
ROADS • SEPTIC SYSTEMS

134 Old Westport Road
N. Dartmouth, MA 02747

508-971-0067
Fax 508-991-5631




CYCLONE CLEANING & RESTORATION SERVICES

- ◆ Carpets & Upholstery
- ◆ Commercial/Residential Cleaning
- ◆ Smoke/Water Damage
- ◆ Washing/Waxing/Stripping Floors

Call the company you've counted on for years - CALL CYCLONE!

Anthony David • (508) 995-8816
833 Mount Pleasant St. • New Bedford, MA 02745
www.CycloneCleaning.com

FULL SERVICE SALON



Wassim Chedid
401-837-0664
Tuesday & Thurs 1-6pm
Saturday 1-5pm

Zakhia Chedid
774-444-3337
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1-6pm

WWW.HEADSOFSTATESALON.COM
North Dartmouth, MA
653 State Road (Route 6) • 508-999-0177

SALON PERSIA

308 THAYER STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI

Wassim Chedid 401-837-0664
Tuesday & Saturday 9-12:30pm
Wednesday & Friday 9-6pm

Zakhia Chedid 774-444-3337
Monday & Friday 9-12:30pm
Tuesday & Thursday 9-6pm
Saturday 9-4pm

401-831-9536 • WWW.SALONPERSIA.COM



ROUTE 18

GAS & SERVICE

Complete Automotive Repair
Foreign / Domestic
State Inspection Station

Eli Nassif
508-998-3445
Fax 508-998-9549
4227 Acushnet Ave.
New Bedford, MA 02745



We Sell Diesel Fuel

Counseling ASSOCIATES

152 Dean Street, Taunton, MA
508-837-0790



God's VIBES Only
PROVERBS 35

For all your jewelry needs



A & A Jewelers

Your Trusted Jeweler for over 28 years

508-992-5320
Located: 279 State Rd. Dartmouth, MA 02747
www.aajewelersinc.com




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

OVER 75 YEARS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE CRAFTSMANSHIP



DUPRE

BLOCK • BRICK • GLASS BLOCK
BLUESTONE • FIELDSTONE • COBBLESTONE

Cutting and Core Drill • Driveways
Steel Fabrication and Installation
Handicap Access

508-993-8088
369 Nash Rd. • New Bedford

www.duprecontractors.com