



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



May 24-25, 2025

### SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION



#### REMEMBERING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND BEYOND OM MEMORIAL DAY

During patriotic holidays, we are intentional in remembering the men and women who have fought for our freedom from the beginning.

In a special way, military chaplains carry out their duties displaying exemplary courage and faith. They reflect the love of Jesus to those around them, often in heartbreaking and difficult situations. In some cases, they even go to the point of laying down their lives for their companions.

Military chaplains are part of Military Ordinariates, a unique setup within the Catholic Church.

A military *ordinariate* is similar to a diocese, but it does not cover a geographical area like a typical diocese does. Headed by a bishop, it is responsible for the spiritual care of Catholics serving in the armed forces of a country, wherever they are assigned – be it on a military base at home or abroad, a naval ship, international peacekeeping missions, and

so on.

While most military chaplains are given basic military training, they are usually unarmed and their main goals are to keep the morale of the troops high, and to support the troops, and sometimes their loved ones, through tough times.

Military chaplains don't restrict their ministry just to Catholics but are available to whoever may need pastoral care or spiritual guidance. They often serve men and women who never go to Church but are comforted merely by the fact that there is someone praying for them as they head out the door into an armed conflict. As one military chaplain put it to me, "You see the look on their faces, and they know that someone's looking out for them. They need to know there's a sense of the sacred, even if things seem to make no sense"

Undoubtedly, a military chaplain's job can be quite challenging, as, on one hand, they are trying to facilitate worship in places where a variety of belief systems and levels of faith abound. On the other hand, they have to try to be a pillar of strength, hope, and light in situations that

defy reason. In many instances, they have to dig deep as they stand by grieving family members and comrades of fallen soldiers.

While the techniques for military combat have changed over the years, there are diaries of priests even from recent wars that speak of how they had to move through battlefields to comfort and anoint dying soldiers.

Even today, a military chaplain's role can put him in harm's way, or at the very least, make him a target of enemy

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*As we pray for those who lost their lives in conflict throughout our history, we recognize the ongoing war and violence that continues to plague humanity in many places, many forms. Today, we pray for peace, which those we honor today fought valiantly to achieve. In Your name we pray. Amen.*

**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.

combatants. During the recent Iraq War, there were reports that Iraqi insurgent snipers were encouraged to target chaplains (along with medical personnel and engineers), under the assumption that their deaths would demoralize entire units. Yet, despite the risks, military chaplains all over the world continue to carry out their duties faithfully and bravely.

**Here is a very small list of American military chaplains who went beyond their call of duty:**

What many of us may not know is that two American military chaplains, Fr. Emil Kapaun and Fr. Vincent Capodanno, are on the road to sainthood. Fr. Kapaun, an Army chaplain from Kansas, died as a prisoner of war in Korea. He is remembered for helping carry his injured companions as Chinese troops led them on a 60-mile journey to captivity.

And Fr. Capodanno, a priest from Staten Island, New York, was killed during the Vietnam War after his unit was ambushed by North Vietnamese forces. Despite his injuries, Fr. Capodanno tended to injured Marines during the battle and continued to administer last rites to the dying soldiers.

**The Bravery of the "Four Chaplains"**

Perhaps one of the most famous stories involving the heroism and love of military chaplains is that of the [Four Chaplains](#).

Methodist minister Rev. George L. Fox, Reform Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Catholic priest Fr. John P. Washington and Reformed Church in America minister Rev. Clark V. Poling died aboard the SS Dorchester during the Second World War. On Feb. 3, 1943, the ship was hit by a torpedo from a German U-boat.

These four men helped other soldiers onto lifeboats and when the ship ran out of life jackets, they gave their life jackets to those around them. As the ship sank, the chaplains joined arms, and survivors recounted hearing prayers and hymns in different languages from the chaplains, including Jewish prayers in Hebrew and Catholic prayers in Latin.

Obviously, there are far more military chaplains from all over the world, who have sacrificed a great deal to serve their brothers and sisters in Christ, some to the point of shedding their blood. Many of them have been honored in their respective countries, though sometimes their actions are known only by those whom they loved by their deeds, and by God, who sees all.

So, on this day of remembrance, when we honor men and women from the armed forces, let's also pray for military chaplains. They give up a lot to bring Jesus to those who fight in battle for our sake. May their witness inspire others to follow them in this unique calling that brings light, peace, and love into what are often dark and difficult moments.

<https://catholic-link.org/4-heroic-stories-military-chaplains/>

**MATCHING GRANT FROM  
ANTHONY ABRAHAM  
FOUNDATION**

OLOP has been given a matching grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the Anthony Abraham Foundation. Our parish must match this amount by September 1, 2025. If you would like to contribute to this grant, please earmark your check in the memo as "Matching Grant". We thank the Anthony Abraham Foundation for thinking of us and I thank you for your help in reaching this goal.

**CALLING  
ALL GRADUATES**

Please inform the office if your child(ren) are graduating from High School or College this year. We would like to acknowledge them and offer a special Liturgy in their honor. Please let me know what High School they graduated from and what college they will be attending. Congratulations to all of our graduates.

**WINE AND HOST  
OFFERING**

The altar bread and wine for the month of May is offered for Anthony and Margaret Thomas requested by family.

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

David Matos, Gayla Matos, Genevieve Tayeh, Nayeli Nassif, Maria Baptista, Ligia Baptista, Sophie Correa, Stephen DaCosta, Kenneth Macedo, Muriel Moline, Patricia Farhat, Ghada Karam, Beverly Parlapiano, Michael Bruce, Debbie Freedenberg, Efrangieh Daou, Sharon Conti, David Techlin, 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.

**PROJECTS FOR  
THE NEAR FUTURE**

In an effort to keep everyone up to date regarding plans for the OLOP, I would like to mention some items that will need our attention before summer approaches. As you know, we are still fundraising for the Capital Campaign to pay the balance of \$200,000.00 to the Fall River Diocese. This amount is due to them by the end of June 2025. We are also raising towards the \$5,000.00 matching grant that was given to us by the Anthony Abraham Foundation which is due by September 1, 2025.

We need to fix our main parking lot of the Church. Originally, we were getting quotes to replace the parking lot, however, this has proven to be more costly than what we can handle at the present time. I will be getting quotes about filling the holes and sealing the larger portion of the parking lot so that it will be safe for everyone to walk on.

Lastly, we are finishing the beautification of the Church and Parish Hall with plants and perennials, along with quotes for a lawn sprinkler system. It is my hope that by the time the festival comes in September, everything can be completed. Once I receive the quotes needed, I will publish them in the bulletin.

I truly thank all of you who have contributed to our Capital Campaign thus far. Because of you we have been able to achieve where we are right now. This has been a blessing for our parish. We are almost there brothers and sisters. Through our hard work, prayers, and God's graces, we are closer to our goal in securing the future of this beautiful community. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to Our Lady of Purgatory Church. Our Lady of Purgatory, pray for us!

**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE  
BURNS FOR....**

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention by Annemarie Espindola. 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.

**CONFESSION**

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



## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, May 24, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Simeon the Stylite, Disciple of Saint Maron).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Olivia and Harold Smith and Alfred LeBeau requested by Lou and Smitty Cabral. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Roberta Albert requested by Ida Farhat. May her soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, May 25, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saints Eleutherius and His Mother, Feast of Saint Basilla of Rome). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy.** Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in the Book of Life. May all the souls in the Book of Life rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the Soul of Abouna Boutros Nasr requested by the family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of David Dickinson requested by Mae Dickinson and family. May his soul rest in peace.

**Tuesday, May 27, @ 12:00 PM, (Feast of Saints Theodora and Didymus).** Liturgy is being offered for a special intention.

**From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration.**

**Wednesday, May 28, @ 7:00 PM, Ascension of Our Lord igil, (Feast of Saint Heliconis).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Yvonne Dorn Nelson requested by Ida Farhat. May her soul rest in peace.

**Thursday, May 29, @ 12:00 PM, The Ascension of Our Lord, (Feast of Saint Theodosia of Tyre).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Webb Smith requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

**Saturday, May 31, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Petronilla, Feast of Saint Hermias).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Marion and August Barber requested by Norma Barbour and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Marie Kenyon, Herve and Yvette LeBlanc requested by Mike and Diane Leblanc. May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, June 1, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Justin Martyr).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Abraham and Amelia Sarkes requested by the family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Mike and Christine Brunette requested by a friend. May their souls rest in peace.

## LECTORS FOR MAY/JUNE 2025

**Sunday, May 25,**  
Ann Dupre / Elie Abou Kheir

**Wednesday, May 28,**  
Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, May 31,**  
Annemarie Espindola  
Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

**Sunday, June 1,**  
Rana Choubah / Jano Baroody

**Saturday, June 7,**  
Eric Tavares  
Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

**Sunday, June 8,**  
Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, June 14,**  
Rachael Higgins  
Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

**Sunday, June 15,**  
Ann Dupre / Elie Abou Kheir

**Saturday, June 21,**  
TBA

**Sunday, June 22,**  
Cayla Barbour / Halim Choubah

**Saturday, June 28,**  
Smitty Cabral  
Intercessions: Eric Tavares

**Sunday, June 29,**  
Mae Dickinson / Gaby Baroody  
(If you are not able to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson).

## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 05/26-06/31/25

**Monday:**  
Philippians 3: 1-12  
John 11: 1-16

**Tuesday:**  
Philippians 3: 13-21  
John 11:17-31

**Wednesday:**  
Philippians 4: 1-7  
John 11: 32-46

**Thursday:**  
Acts of The Apostles 1: 1-14  
Mark 16:15-20

**Friday:**  
Philippians 4:8-14  
John 3: 12-15

**Saturday:**  
Philippians 4: 15-23  
John 14: 1-6

## WEEK OF MAY 17-18, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,048.00
Altar Wine & Host	\$ 75.00
Candles	\$ 157.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,280.00</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.**

### CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY AND RETIREMENT OF CHORBISHOP MICHAEL G. THOMAS J.C.D.



**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO DIVINE LITURGY AND A DINNER RECEPTION HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED MINISTRY AND PRIESTHOOD OF CHORBISHOP MICHAEL G. THOMAS J.C.D.**

**JUNE 21, 2025**  
**DIVINE LITURGY 4:30 PM**  
**OUR LADY OF PURGATORY CHURCH**  
**4254 ACUSHNET AVENUE**  
**NEW BEDFORD, MA 02745**

**DINNER RECEPTION 6:00 PM**  
**OUR LADY OF PURGATORY PARISH CENTER**

**PLEASE RSVP BY JUNE 15, 2025**

**CHURCH OFFICE: 508-996-8934**  
**Email: officeolop@gmail.com**



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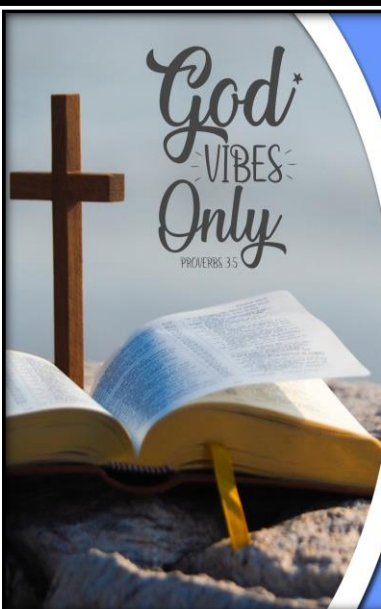
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*Joseph & Marie Kenyon*

*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.*

*Your Loving Children*

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