



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



May 31- June 1, 2025

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

HONORABLE JUSTICE AGGREY FROM KENYA WHO IS NOT A CATHOLIC HAS THIS TO SAY ABOUT THE SELECTION OF POPE LEO XIV

There is a kind of wisdom that is not loud. It does not seek attention. It does not scream to be seen. It simply exists, quietly, deeply and eternally. This is the wisdom of the Catholic Church, a body that has outlived empires, survived schisms, endured scandals and yet remains standing, steady and sacred. The Catholic Church is not a trend. It is not a social wave. It is an institution that walks with time but listens to eternity.

While the world busied itself with predictions, drawing up lists of notable Cardinals, analyzing political alignments and floating theories about who would be the next Pope, the College of Cardinals chose a different path. They ignored the noise. They turned away from the spotlight. They went into the sacred and returned with a name the world never imagined. Pope Leo the Fourteenth. A name that had not been whispered in the corridors of speculation. A man unknown to the headlines. A choice that silenced every analyst and reset the compass of divine selection.

This is not a coincidence. It is a confirmation of the divine order.

What the Vatican did was not just elect a new Pope. They made a statement to the world. They reminded humanity that God does not follow trends. He sets them. That true leadership is not always found in the obvious. That sometimes, the one who carries the mantle is not the one the world expects, but the one heaven approves. This is the mystery of divine succession, wrapped in silence, clothed in prayers

and sealed in sacred deliberation.

I am not a Catholic. But with every passing day, I see clearly why this institution continues to command reverence. It is not because its members are flawless. It is not because its leaders are immune to error. It is because, despite the human imperfection that exists within it, the Catholic Church remains rooted in sacred order, structured governance and spiritual discipline. It is an institution that has mastered continuity. Its longevity is not sustained by convenience but by consecration.

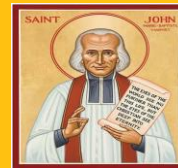
No church is perfect. No human institution is without fault. The Catholic Church is no exception. Within it are men and women of varying degrees of holiness, sincerity and struggle. But amidst all of this, there remains a deeply spiritual core, a centre that holds, a system that works, a rhythm that does not break. There are those within its walls who serve God in spirit and in truth, quietly, humbly, fervently. Their devotion is not a performance. Their faith is not a fashion. It is a life.

What happened in the election of Pope Leo the Fourteenth is not just a political or ecclesiastical event. It is a mirror to the rest of the Christian world. It exposes by comparison the chaos that reigns in many modern church settings, particularly in the Pentecostal space. In some of these assemblies, power struggles have inherited like property. Elections are manipulated like business deals. The pulpit has become a platform for performance, not a place of transformation. The altar has become a showground, not a sanctuary.

Even among so-called brethren, love has grown cold. Loyalty is transactional. Brotherhood is hollow. It is a tragedy that

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*The saints did not become saints
without many a sacrifice and
many a struggle.
Saint John Vianney*



many Pentecostal churches cannot even imagine holding such a transparent, spiritual and selfless process of succession. Helping one's fellow minister is seen as a threat. The idea of unity in leadership has been replaced with competition and suspicion. The sacred is being sacrificed on the altar of success. But today, the Catholic Church has reminded us of something we have forgotten. That the kingdom of God is not noise but order. Not display but discipline. Not popularity but purity. It has reminded us that when God is allowed to speak, He will often choose the one no one expected. replaced prayer, and ambition has drowned anointing. Leadership is He will raise the man who is hidden. He will lift the one who has been in the secret place.

The election of Pope Leo the Fourteenth is a lesson to the Church and to the world. It is a call to return to structure, to sacredness, to spirit-led decision-making. It is proof that an institution can be old, yet not obsolete. Ancient, yet not irrelevant. Traditional, yet not stagnant. It is wisdom in action. Traditional, yet not stagnant. It is wisdom in action.

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.

Traditional, yet not stagnant. It is wisdom in action.

This is the wisdom of the eternal Church. This is the mystery of divine order. This is the power of the sacred. And in a world drowning in confusion, it shines like a light that cannot be hidden.

Let every ear that hears it listen. Let every eye that sees it learn. Let every heart that understands it return to the ancient path that leads to life.

Truly, God cannot be manipulated like our many African elections!! God's God forever!

Hon. Justice Aggrey

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!

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.

MANY THANKS TO THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION MEMBERS

A big thank you to the Education Foundation Members, Annemarie Espindola, Leilah Moses Silveira, Sarah Thomas Hitchings, Lorraine David, and Matthew Thomas. These members fundraised so that three of our own could receive a \$750.00 scholarship for their college education.

We also thank Mae Dickinson, because of her affection for the Education Foundation, contributed her talents and time to help raise money for this worthy cause. She offered her time and talents to support this foundation and for that we thank you Mae.

Best wishes to our recipients Joseph Chedid, Natalya Sarkis, and Emmanuel Chedid, as you continue your education.

MYA

NEW DATE

BBQ

GATHERING & MASS

4:30 PM LITURGY
5:30 PM BBQ & SOCIAL

07/11/2025

OUR LADY OF PURGATORY
CHURCH NEW BEDFORD MA

RSVP to Abouma Vince @ 508-956-8534 by July 6.



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.

MARONITE YOUTH
ORGANIZATION

The \$10 Car Wash
Fundraiser

An event to support the Youth of our parish to
attend the National MYO Workshop.



Saturday May 30 | 2:30-5:30pm
Sunday May 31 | 11:30-1:30pm

Need your cars washed? Get it done all while
supporting a great cause! Just drive your car to Our
Lady of Purgatory Church, and we'll do the rest!
4254 Acushnet Ave New Bedford MA

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Tuesday, June 3, @ 12:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Awtel). NO LITURGY.
From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration.

Wednesday, June 4, @ 12:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Erasmus). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the members of the Daher family requested by the Family. May their souls rest in peace (FM)

Thursday, June 5, @ 12:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Conon and His Son Conon). Liturgy is being offered in Thanksgiving to Our Mother Mary requested by Mariam David and family.

Saturday, June 7, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Susanna the Judean). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of MaryLou Viveiros requested by Joann David. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Susan, Amy and Butch Cabral requested by Lou and Smitty Cabral. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, June 8, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Justin Martyr). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Rose Mattar requested by Deacon Jean and Martha Mattar and family. May her soul rest in peace.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Abraham and Amelia Sarkes by the 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.

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

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of June is offered for Abraham and Amelia Sarkes requested by the 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.

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 MAY/JUNE

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

WEEK OF MAY 24-25, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,089.00
Desert	\$ 20.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 13.00
Total	\$ 1,122.00

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.



CHRISTOPHE CHEDID
Business Owner



100 State Rd
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Instagram: Chedidcuts



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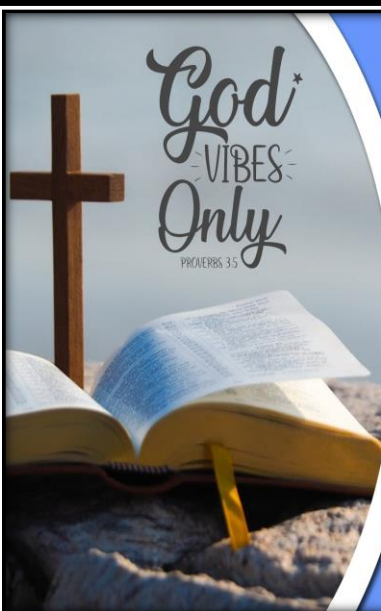
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