



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



August 9-10, 2025

TENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

The Transfiguration of Our Lord – A Glimpse of Glory and the Call to Transformation

In the Gospel account of the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–9; Mark 9:2–10; Luke 9:28–36), Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a high mountain. There, before their eyes, He is transfigured—His face shining like the sun and His clothes dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appear beside Him, and a voice from the cloud declares, “This is my beloved Son; listen to Him.”

This moment is far more than a dramatic revelation of Christ’s divinity. It is a turning point in the journey of discipleship. As Jesus begins to walk toward His Passion, He first allows His closest friends to see His glory—not to escape the suffering to come, but to strengthen them for it. The mountaintop is not the destination; it is the vision that sustains the climb down into the valley of the cross.

The appearance of Moses and Elijah represents the Law and the Prophets, affirming that Jesus is the fulfillment of all salvation history. The cloud and the divine voice echo God’s presence at Mount Sinai. This is a theophany—a divine manifestation—reminding us that Jesus is not just a teacher or prophet but the very Son of God.

The Transfiguration also speaks to us. We, too, are called to be transfigured—not with shining faces, but with changed hearts. Saint Paul tells us, “*And we all, with unveiled faces, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image*” (2 Corinthians 3:18). As we gaze upon the glory of Christ—especially

in prayer, Scripture, and the Eucharist—we are changed from within.

Yet the disciples’ first response was fear and confusion. Peter, overwhelmed, wants to build tents and stay on the mountain. But the voice interrupts: “*Listen to Him.*” The command is clear: stop clinging to comfort, and follow Christ through the coming suffering, into resurrection life.

In our own lives, we may have moments of clarity, peace, or spiritual “highs.” But the true mark of faith is not staying in those moments—it is taking their light into the darkness of our daily struggles, our doubts, and the crosses we carry. The Transfiguration assures us that beyond every Good Friday lies an Easter morning, and that God’s glory is not distant—it is revealed, even now, in the face of Christ and in the quiet transformation of every heart that listens to Him.

Reflection Questions for the Week:

- When have I experienced moments of God’s glory—however brief or subtle?
- Do I listen to Jesus even when His path leads through discomfort or suffering?
- In what ways is God calling me to be transfigured—to reflect Christ more fully?

Lord Jesus, on the holy mountain, you revealed Your glory to Your disciples, shining with light brighter than the sun. In that moment, you showed us that You are truly the Son of God and gave us hope in the glory that awaits all who follow You. Help us to listen to You, to hear Your voice in the quiet of our hearts, in the words of Scripture, and in the life of the

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"They say that we are too poor, but can a heart which possesses the infinite God be truly called poor?"
Saint Clare of Assisi



Church. When we face trials or carry heavy crosses, remind us that You Walk with us, and that Your light is stronger than any darkness. Transform us, Lord, not just in moments of prayer, but in our daily lives that we may reflect Your love, Your peace, and Your truth to others.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY – EID ALSAYDEE

We will celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary on Thursday, August 14, at 7:00 PM. Weather permitting, we will celebrate this Divine Liturgy outside in the Saint Sharbel Shrine. There will be dinner immediately following Divine Liturgy. The Social Committee is organizing this dinner which will be “bring a dish to pass.” Please see Deacon Jean, Amal Baroody or Amal Barbour if you would like to bring a dish to pass. Drinks and Coffee will be provided.

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.

ANNUAL SUMMER FESTIVAL UPDATE

Our annual Summer Festival will be held on Friday, September 12 and Saturday, September 13. This two-day festival is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Volunteers are vital to the success of this festival.

Our first meeting will be held on Saturday, August 16, immediately following 4:30 Divine Liturgy and on Sunday, August 17, immediately following 10:30 Divine Liturgy. The second meeting will be held on Wednesday August 27, at 6:30 PM, in the church hall.

It is important that you attend these meetings as we will go over the new set up and new service plans. This will make things run more smoothly and efficiently.

Sponsorships and raffle tickets have been sent out. I am asking everyone for help in promoting our sponsorships to friends and businesses. These sponsorships are tax deductible, and I will provide a letter for tax purposes.

As always, I thank you for your help, dedication, and zeal for OLOP. Every year our festival grows larger than the year before. This is a testament to the quality of our food, hospitality, and genuine kindness to everyone who supports us. God bless you, Our Lady of Purgatory, and God bless America

FESTIVAL BASKET RAFFLE DONATIONS

Once again, we will be having our Basket Raffle at the festival this year. This has been a great success for us and every year, because of you, our basket selection increases. If you can donate any theme baskets this year, please let Smitty Cabral or Lorraine David know. If you are unable to make one but would like to donate to have one made, we can do this as well. Once again, thank you for your generosity.

LUMINARIES FOR MARY

The St. Joseph Sodality will be offering Luminaries for the Blessed Virgin Mary for \$10 each. These can be purchased from any of the board members, or by calling the office. These Luminaries will be displayed during the Eid Saide Divine Liturgy, around the St. Sharbel Shrine. You can purchase them in Honor or in Memory of a Loved one. A list of all Luminaries will also be published.

SAVE THE DATES FESTIVAL PREP DAYS

**August 21: Kibbie day
starting @ 10:30 AM.**

**August 28: Grape leave day
starting @ 10:30 AM.**

**September 4: Maamoul day
Starting @ 10:30 AM**

NEEDS LIST FOR FESTIVAL

Every year you have been most generous at helping OLOP with donations for the festival. This year, if anyone can help us in with the following items, we would really appreciate that. Thank you in advance for your help.

10 Cases Bottled Water

10 Cases Coke

4 Cases Coke Zero

4 Cases Sprite

3 Cases Orange Crush

3 Cases Ginger ale

3 Gallons Orange Juice

3 Large Cranberry Juice

6 Bottles Tonic Water

6 Bottles Club Soda

MATCHING GRANT FROM ANTHONY ABRAHAM FOUNDATION

Many thanks to all who have contributed towards this matching grant. We are getting much closer towards our goal. God bless this community.

Total Grant: \$10,000.00

Total Matching: \$10,000.00

Match Needed: \$ 0,000.00

MANY THANKS TO THE ABOUKHEIR FAMILY

I would like to thank Elie and Misha Aboukheir and their family for the generous donation of our lawn sprinkler system. The system was installed Monday and Tuesday. This will be such a great help in keeping our landscape and lawn looking beautiful. May God bless you and your family always.

MATCHING DONATION FOR SPRINKLERS



OLOP has received a donation for the installation of the sprinkler system for the Church grounds contingent on a matching donation for the repair of the parking lot. As you know, the parking lot needs repair, and we have received 3 quotes for repairing the parking lot. The cost will be \$18,000.00 for the repairs. I am very grateful for the donation of the sprinkler system which will beautify the church grounds. If anyone is able and willing to help with the parking lot and make it safe for everyone, please contact Fr. Vincent. As always, I thank you for your dedication and help in making our home complete. Blessings always.

MATCHING DONATION FOR PARKING LOT

Cost needed: \$18,000.00

Donations to date: \$ 1,200.00

Donations needed: \$ 16,800.00

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 9, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Matthias). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Steven Espindola requested by Annemarie Espindola. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for a special intention requested by Annemarie Espindola. May your intention be answered.

Sunday, August 10, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Lawrence). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Mary Thomas, Joseph Thomas and Joseph Peter (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Tuesday, August 12, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Shaina).

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

Wednesday, August 13, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Hippolytus of Rome, Feast of the Blessed Michael McGivney).

Thursday, August 14, @ 7:00 PM, (Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Vigil, Feast of Micah the Prophet). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Charbel Baroody requested by Philip and Jano Baroody. May his soul rest in peace.

Saturday, August 16, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Roch). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Alphonso and Mabel Gabelo and Nassar and Mariam Joseph requested by the family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, August 17, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Myron of Cyzicus). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Mary Thomas Takla, and Joseph Peter requested by family. May their souls rest in peace.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of August is offered for Charbel Baroody requested by Philip and Jano Baroody.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Joe Nader by Joann Longden. 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.

SUNDAY ROSARY



Beginning on August 3, 2025, Deacon Jean will lead the rosary on each Sunday beginning at 9:45 am. Weather permitting, this will be prayed in Our Lady of Fatima. Please come early to pray with us before we begin Divine Liturgy. Our Lady of Purgatory, pray for us!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Douglas Messier, Daniel Tavares, Beverly Landreth, Dawn Marie Hogan, Michael Morad, 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.

LECTORS FOR AUGUST, 2025

Saturday, August 9,

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, August 10,

Ann Dupre / Hiba Chdid

Thursday, August 14,

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

Saturday, August 16,

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

Sunday, August 17,

Cayla Barbour / Elie Abou Kheir

Saturday, August 23,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, August 24,

Mae Dickinson / Gaby Baroody

Saturday, August 30,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

Sunday: August 31,

Rana Choubah / Jano Baroody

(If you are unable to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson).

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 08/11-08/16/25

Monday:

Acts of the Apostles 18: 18-28

Luke 11: 33-36

Tuesday:

Acts of the Apostles 19: 1-10

Luke 11: 37-41

Wednesday:

Acts of the Apostles 19: 11-22

Luke 11: 42-46

Thursday:

Acts of the Apostles 19: 23-29, 35-40

Luke 11: 47-51

Friday:

Acts of the Apostles 20: 6-16

Luke 11: 52-54

Saturday:

Acts of the Apostles 20: 17-24, 28, 32, 35

Matthew 23: 1-12

WEEK OF AUGUST 02-03, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$	1224.00
Festival Sponsorship	\$	1450.00
Pre-Sale Raffles Tickets	\$	250.00
Donations	\$	90.00
Coffee Hour	\$	199.00
Candles	\$	20.00
Total	\$	3,233.00

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.

Saint Therese
MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

LEBANESE FESTIVAL

AUGUST 22-24
FRI 5-11 PM SAT 12-11 PM SUN 12-5 PM

DELICIOUS HOMEMADE LEBANESE FOOD & SAJ
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VIRTUOSO: Mido Kalfounas
DJ: Gabriel Massih

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