



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



August 16-17, 2025

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

August 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is one of the most beautiful and hope-filled celebrations in our Catholic faith. On this solemnity, we honor the moment when Mary, at the end of her earthly life, was taken body and soul into heaven. The Church teaches that this singular privilege was granted to her because of her unique role in salvation history as the Mother of God, her sinless life, and her perfect union with the will of God.

Mary's Assumption is not just about her—it is also about us. Her being assumed into heaven is a sign of what awaits all the faithful. She is the first among us to fully share in the resurrection promised by Christ. Where she has gone, we hope to follow. In her, we see our future glory made present. Her Assumption is not merely a personal triumph, but a triumph for all humanity, a victory of grace over death.

This feast is deeply scriptural in spirit, even if the event is not explicitly described in the Bible. It is a dogma of the Catholic Church, defined by Pope Pius XII in 1950, based on tradition and theological reasoning, with some scriptural passages cited as supporting evidence. The roots of the Assumption lie in passages like Revelation 12, where the woman clothed with the sun appears in glory, and in the deep reverence the early Church had for Mary. She who bore Christ in her womb, who remained faithful at the foot of the cross, who was present at Pentecost with the Apostles, would not be left to corruption in the grave. The Assumption is the natural and

divine consequence of her immaculate life and perfect discipleship.

For us today, Mary's Assumption challenges us to reflect on how we live in light of eternity. Do we live as people of hope? Do we seek holiness in our daily lives? Mary teaches us that a life lived in humility, service, and faithfulness to God will never go unrewarded. Her "yes" to God opened the way to salvation for all of us, and her eternal glory shows what awaits those who say "yes" to God every day.

One way for us to say yes is to pray the Rosary daily. **The Church's Endorsement –**

The Rosary developed over centuries, beginning in the Middle Ages, and was promoted strongly by saints like **St. Dominic** (early 13th century), who according to tradition received the Rosary from Mary in a vision to help fight heresy and lead souls to Christ. Later popes officially endorsed the Rosary as a powerful prayer for the faithful.

Mary's Own Requests in Apparitions – In several approved apparitions, the Blessed Virgin Mary personally asked us to pray the Rosary. The most famous examples are:

Fatima, Portugal (1917) – Mary appeared to three shepherd children and said: *"Pray the Rosary every day, in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war."*

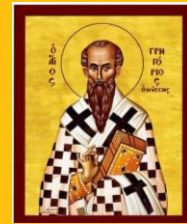
Lourdes, France (1858) – While she didn't give long instructions about the Rosary, Mary appeared holding one and prayed it with St. Bernadette.

Other apparitions (like Akita, Japan; Medjugorje) also repeat this call to daily Rosary prayer.

The Reason for the Request- Mary's request is not because the Rosary is "for

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"No one reaches the kingdom
of Heaven except by humility"*
St Augustine



her" in the sense of worship but because it is a Christ-centered prayer that meditates on the life of Jesus through her eyes. Mary always leads us to her Son, and she knows the Rosary is a powerful spiritual weapon for conversion, peace, and protection.

Let us look on Mary not as a distant figure, but as a loving mother and guide who walks with us. Let us entrust our struggles, our prayers, and our hopes to her intercession. And may we live with our eyes fixed on heaven, longing not for earthly crowns, but for the eternal joy of being with God, as Mary is now.

"Mary, assumed into heaven, pray for us."

MANY THANKS TO THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Thank you to the Social Committee for organizing the beautiful dinner for the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother. It was a wonderful feast day with all of you gathered to pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We pray, through the intercession of Our Lady of Purgatory, that our Lord continues to bless this beautiful community.

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.

SAVE THE DATES FESTIVAL PREP DAYS

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

**August 27: general meeting
Starting @ 6:30 PM**

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

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

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!

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 of 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 of Tonic Water**
- 6 Bottles Club Soda**

BANNS OF MARRIAGE"

I publish the first Banns of Marriage between Kevin Aboukheir and Samantha Flaven. If any of you know cause or just impediment why these two people should not be joined in Holy Matrimony, you are to declare it.

Our Lady Of Purgatory Church

Lebanese Festival

Food, Bar, Live Music, Saji, Raffles, Dancing, Hookah.

Friday, September 12, 2025
5:00PM - 11:00PM

Saturday, September 13, 2025
12:00PM - 11:00PM

Live Entertainment

Mitchel Katsounas
With Bashir El-Khoury Band

Tarek Abdelhach

Money Raffles Prizes
\$1,000 - \$500 - \$200
Drawing
Saturday, September 13, 2025
10:30PM

NO OUTSIDE FOOD, DRINK OR HOOKAH

4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA 02745

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:	<u>\$ 4,300.00</u>
Donations needed:	\$ 13,700.00

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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, Joseph Thomas, and Joseph Peter requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Alphonso and Mabel Gabelo (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Tuesday, August 19, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Luke of Baalbek).

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

Wednesday, August 20, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Bernard, Doctor of the Church).

Thursday, August 21, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Samuel the Prophet).

Saturday, August 23, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Isaac of Nineveh). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Thomas David requested by Mariam David and family. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, August 24, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Eutyches of Sebastia). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Mike and Christine Brunette requested by a friend. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Ghaukas Kalfayan requested by Fowzi and Carol Assaf and family. May his soul 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 Charbel Baroody by Philip and Jano 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.

CONFESSION

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

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 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

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 08/18 -08/23/25

Monday:

Acts of the Apostles 23: 12-22

Luke 12: 13-21

Tuesday:

Acts of the Apostles 23: 23-35

Luke 12: 22-31

Wednesday:

Acts of the Apostles 24:1-2a,5-6b, 9-13,17-21

Luke 12: 32-34

Thursday:

Acts of the Apostles 24: 27-25:12

Luke 12: 35-40

Friday:

Acts of the Apostles 25: 13-14a,22-27

Luke 12: 42- 48

Saturday:

Acts of the Apostles 26: 1-2a,6-10, 12-19

Luke 12: 49-53

WEEK OF AUGUST 09-10, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 990.00
Parking Lot Donation	\$ 3,100.00
June Online Giving	\$ 1,783.71
July Online Giving	\$ 1,313.39
Festival Sponsorship	\$ 2,575.00
Pre-Sale Raffles Tickets	\$ 600.00
Festival Donations	\$ 100.00
Donations	\$ 100.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 40.00
Lebanese Market	\$ 15.00
Total	\$ 10,617.10

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.



Lebanese Mahrajan Annual Festival

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

08/29 08/30 08/31

5 PM - 1 AM 5 PM - 2 AM 12 PM - 12 AM

Featuring Live Entertainment, Folkloric Dance, Homemade Lebanese Cuisine and Pastries, Kid's Activities, Lebanese Arts & Crafts, Raffles, Souvenirs

St. Anthony Maronite Church
145 Amesbury St. Lawrence, MA 01841

StAnthonyLawrence.com



Saint Theresa
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
PLUS: GAMES, RAFFLES, BAR, HOOKAH, & LIVE MUSIC

STAR SINGER George Deed
VIRTUOSO Mitha Kallany
DJ Gabriel Mayh

SATURDAY ALL WEEKEND

FREE ADMISSION
FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
OPEN RAIN OR SHINE

ST. THERESA CHURCH LOT
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