



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



August 23-24, 2025

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

FAITH THAT WON'T LET GO

Faith is trusting in God's goodness and promises, even when we cannot see the outcome. It's not only believing in our hearts—it's living as though God's word is true, especially when the path is uncertain.

Gospel of Saint Matthew 15:21–28, the Canaanite woman shows us this kind of faith. She cries out to Jesus for her daughter's healing. At first, there is silence. Then, even when told His mission is to Israel, she kneels before Him and continues to plead. Her trust is so deep that she refuses to let go. And Jesus answers her, "Woman, great is your faith!"

Faith is not passive. It moves our feet, strengthens our voices, and keeps us praying when answers seem far away. During the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, a Christian woman named Corrie ten Boom and her family hid Jewish neighbors in their home, knowing they could be arrested—or worse. When asked why she risked her life, she said, "Faith is a bridge you cannot see all the way across, but you step on it because you know it will hold." Her trust in God moved her to act courageously, just as the Canaanite woman's faith moved her to keep asking.

Like them, we are called to a faith that won't let go—a faith that prays, serves, and loves persistently, trusting that the One we lean on will never fail us.

Saint Eutyches, commemorated in the Orthodox tradition on **August 24**, was a devoted disciple of both Saints John the

Theologian and Paul. Recognized as a bishop for his apostolic labors, he was described as "full of the grace of the Holy Spirit." Ultimately, he suffered a brutal martyrdom: enduring starvation, beatings with iron rods, being thrown into fire, and even wild beasts. Tradition records that when a lion was released upon him, it praised the Creator in a human voice. Eutyches' life ended by beheading in his hometown in the early second century.

Saint Eutyches' story presents a profound picture of faith in action: **Rooted in Apostolic Teaching** He stood firm in the faith passed down from the Apostles John and Paul—faith he lived out even in the face of persecution.

Overcoming Terror with Devotion.

His encounters—beatings, hunger, fire, and beasts—did not sway him. Instead, his faith seemed to grow, manifesting in the miraculous moment when the lion honored God as he approached. **A Witness Even unto Death** His willingness to endure execution rather than renounce Christ reflects a faith so deeply formed it could not be compromised.

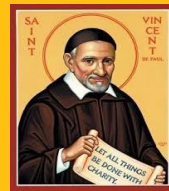
Saint Eutyches of **Sebastia** exemplifies a faith that endures—not because trials are absent, but because one clings to God even amid the fiercest storms.

He learned directly from the Apostles: **faith rooted in Christ builds courage when all falls apart.**

Let his example inspire us this week: may our faith be nourished in the Word, unwavering in suffering, and compelling in its witness to others—even when no one else seems to notice.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Extend your mercy towards others, so that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping. For what hope is there for us if God should withdraw His Mercy from us?"
Saint Vincent de Paul



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.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

I publish the second 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.

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.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday August 27, at 6:30 PM, in the church hall.

It is important that you attend this meeting 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.

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

SAVE THE DATES FESTIVAL PREP DAYS

**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**

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.



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.



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 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.

Tuesday, August 26, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint Zephyrinus). From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration.

Wednesday, August 27, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Biyameen (Poemen) the Hermit).

Thursday, August 28, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Moses the Ethiopian, Feast of Saint Augustine, Doctor of the Church).

Saturday, August 30, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of the Blessed Estephan Ne'mee).

Sunday, August 31, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Zakhia (Nicholas), Feast of Saint Aegidius (Giles), Feast of Saint Abda). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy. Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in the Book of Life. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Isaac and Kaffa Abraham requested by the family. May their souls rest in peace.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention by Lou and Smitty Cabral. 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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (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 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 08/25-08/30/25

Monday:

Acts of the Apostles 27: 1-4,8a,14-15,18-21a,22-26

Luke 12: 54-59

Tuesday:

Acts of the Apostles 27: 27;33-37,39-44

Luke 13: 1-5

Wednesday:

Acts of the Apostles 28: 1-10

Luke 13: 6-9

Thursday:

Acts of the Apostles 28: 11-15

Luke 13: 10-17

Friday:

Acts of the Apostles 28: 16-22

Luke 13: 18-21

Saturday:

Acts of the Apostles 28: 23-31

Luke 13: 22-30

WEEK OF AUGUST 16-17, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,839.00
Assumption Feast	\$ 380.00
Festival Sponsorship	\$ 2,050.00
Pre-Sale Raffles Tickets	\$ 200.00
Donations	\$ 400.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 10.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 26.00
Candles	\$ 26.00
Total	\$ 4,931.00

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.



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