



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



August 30-31, 2025

### THIRTEEN SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

#### HOW CAN WE LOVE JESUS THE WAY HE LOVED US? "AS I HAVE LOVED YOU" (John 13:34)

Jesus's love is the most powerful reality in all of Scripture. It is not a distant or vague affection—it is personal, sacrificial, and unconditional. His love is seen not only in His words but most deeply in His actions: reaching out to the marginalized, forgiving sinners, washing the feet of His disciples, and above all, laying down His life on the Cross.

Saint Paul reminds us that "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Jesus didn't wait for us to be perfect. He came into our brokenness and loved us fully. This is **agape** love that gives everything without asking for anything in return.

But Jesus does not stop there. He gives us a command: "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). It is not merely a suggestion; it is our Christian identity. We are called to love with the same mercy, patience, and humility He shows us.

Loving like Jesus is not always easy—but we are not alone. The Holy Spirit, given to us in baptism, enables us to live this love daily. Whether in our homes, communities, or even among strangers, every act of service, forgiveness, and compassion reflects Christ's love at work within us.

This week, take time to dwell in His love—through prayer, Scripture, and the Eucharist—and ask the Lord: "Teach me to love as You love."

Every sincere follower of Christ eventually faces: "How can I love like Jesus if I'm sinful, weak, and often fail?" The answer lies not in our strength, but in God's grace working

within us. We Cannot Love Like Jesus on Our Own for Scripture is clear: "Apart from Me, you can do nothing." — *John 15:5* On our own, we are limited. We are wounded by sin, prone to selfishness, quick to judge, and slow to forgive. But that's precisely why we **need Jesus**. He never asked us to do this alone. **Jesus First Loves Us, Then Transforms Us:** "We love because He first loved us." — *1 John 4:19* Before we can love like Jesus, we must **receive** His love. He doesn't wait for us to be perfect; He meets us in our weakness. When we allow His love into our hearts—through prayer, the sacraments, and the Word—He **heals, cleanses, and changes** us. It's not about becoming strong on our own. It's about surrendering so that His strength can work through our weakness. "My **grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**" — *2 Corinthians 12:9*

**The Holy Spirit Makes It Possible** "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." — *Romans 5:5*

At baptism and confirmation, we receive the Holy Spirit—the very love of God. This Spirit gives us: **The power to forgive** when we've been deeply hurt, **the patience** to endure suffering, **The compassion** to serve others without pride, **The courage** to love enemies and stand for truth. Loving like Jesus is **supernatural**, but the Spirit equips us with **supernatural help**.

**Love Grows in Small, Daily Choices** We love like Jesus not just in grand gestures, but in daily sacrifices: Holding our tongue when tempted to lash out, listening patiently to someone difficult, helping someone who can't repay us, praying for

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore, seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand."*

*St. Augustine of Hippo*



someone who has wronged us, and love grows when we allow Jesus to shape our hearts in **ordinary moments**.

**Even When We Fail, His Mercy Lifts Us** We will fall short. Often. But Jesus doesn't give up on us. He calls us to repent and gives us new grace each day. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning." - *Lamentations 3:22-23* Each failure is not the end—it's a chance to begin again, with Him.

**In Summary: How can we love like Jesus, though we are weak and sinful?** We can't—*unless*: We receive His love first, we rely on the Holy Spirit, we walk daily in humility, we allow His mercy to pick us up repeatedly for Jesus doesn't call the perfect. He perfects the ones He calls, and He is patient with us as we learn to love like Him.

**SAVE THE DATES**  
**FESTIVAL PREP DAYS**  
**September 4: Maamoul day**  
**Starting @ 10:30 AM**

Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon

Address: 4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA 02745

Office: 508-996-8934 | Fax: 774-202-0758 | Evening Emergency Number: 561-371-5316 | Website: [www.ourladyofpurgatory.org](http://www.ourladyofpurgatory.org)

Email: [ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com) | Facebook Page: Our Lady of Purgatory Catholic Church - Maronite Rite |

Office Email: [officeolop@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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.

### MEAT DONATION FOR FESTIVAL

We have priced the meat and chicken expense for the festival at \$1,800.00. Between the tents and the meat, these are the most expensive items for the festival. If anyone would like to donate the meat for the festival, please contact Fr. Vincent. And I say this from my heart, thank you to all of you for your support in making this festival a great success.

### 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.

- 2 Cases Coke
- 4 Cases Coke Zero
- 2 Cases Sprite
- 2 Cases Orange Crush
- 3 Cases Ginger ale
- 3 Gallons Orange Juice
- 3 Large Cranberry Juice
- 6 Bottles of Tonic Water
- 6 Bottles Club Soda

### 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.

## 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.

### SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION

Given the extraordinary nature of this crisis, the USCCB has asked us to consider taking up a special collection to provide humanitarian relief and pastoral support for our affected brothers and sisters in Gaza, Syria, Lebanon and the Holy Land. The donated funds will be sent to CNEWA and CRS. Both organizations have well-established partnerships with the Catholic Church in the region which allow them to respond quickly and efficiently.

The situation across the Middle East cries out for the assistance of the Catholic community of the United States. Please take up this collection and send it to us as soon as possible so we may send the funds to CNEWA and to CRS.

## BANNS OF MARRIAGE

I publish the third 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.

### WELCOME BABY OLIVER JOHN BARBOUR

We welcome Oliver John Barbour to the world and congratulate his parents Jonathon and Ally Barbour, and his sisters Adina and Camille. We also congratulate grandparents John and Clair Barbour, great-grandparents Tony and Elaine Barbour, and Oliver's aunts and uncles. May Almighty God hold Oliver in His loving arms and protect him always. Mabrook!

### 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.

### 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 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.  
**Tuesday, September 2, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Mammias the Great).  
**From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration.**  
**Wednesday, September 3, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Theodore the Great).  
**Thursday, September 4, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Babylas, Patriarch of Antioch).  
**Saturday, September 6, @ 4:30 PM,**  
(Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel).  
**Sunday, September 7, @ 10:30 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Sozon). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of James Hirst requested by his wife Linda Hirst. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Alice Daher and the deceased members of their family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

## 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.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention by Claire Barbour. 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.

## LECTORS FOR AUGUST/September, 2025

**Saturday, August 30,**  
Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

**Sunday: August 31,**

Rana Choubah / Jano Baroody

**Saturday, September 6,**

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

**Sunday, September 7,**

Ann Dupre / Gaby Baroody

**Saturday, September 13,**

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

**Sunday, September 14,**

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, September 20,**

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

**Sunday, September 21,**

Cayla Barbour / Elie Abou Kheir

**Saturday, September 28,**

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions : Mae Dickinson

**Sunday, September 29,**

Rana Choubah / Halim Choubah

(If you are unable to read on your given day,



**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

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## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 09/01-09/06/25

**Monday:**

1 John 1: 1-10

Luke 13: 31-35

**Tuesday:**

1 John 2: 1-11

Luke 14: 1-6

**Wednesday:**

1 John 2: 12-20

Luke 14: 7-11

**Thursday:**

1 John 2: 21-29

Luke 14: 12-15

**Friday:**

1 John 3: 1-10

Luke 14: 16-24

**Saturday:**

1 John 3: 11-22

Luke 14: 25-35

## WEEK OF AUGUST 23-24, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,155.00
Festival Sponsorship	\$ 2,800.00
Pre-Sale Raffles Tickets	\$ 335.00
Festival Food Pre-Sale	\$ 35.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 35.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,360.00</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.**



**Our Lady Of Purgatory Church**

**Lebanese Festival!**

Food, Bar, Live Music, Sej, Raffles, Dancing, Hnoleh

Friday, September 12, 2025 5:00PM - 9:00PM

Saturday, September 13, 2025 12:00PM - 9:00PM

**Live Entertainment**

Mitchel Kallounas

With Basim El-Khury Band

Tarek Abdelhadi

Money Raffles Prices: \$1,000 - \$500 - \$200

Drawing: Saturday September 13, 2025 10:00PM

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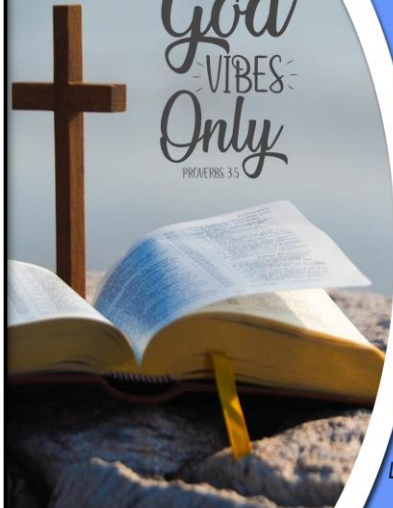
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*Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD's Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing day.*

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