



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



September 6-7, 2025

### FOURTEEN SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

#### REFLECTION ON SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL (PATRON OF POLICE OFFICERS)



Among the archangels, St. Michael is perhaps the most well-known and beloved. His very name is a proclamation of faith: *"Who is like God?"* This is not just a title, but a challenge—a reminder that no creature, no force, and no temptation can ever compare with the majesty and power of God.

St. Michael appears in Scripture as the great protector of God's people. In the Book of Revelation, he leads the heavenly armies in the battle against Satan and the fallen angels, casting them out of heaven (Revelation 12:7-9). In the Book of Daniel, he is described as the guardian of Israel, the one who stands watch over God's people. Throughout the history of the Church, devotion to St. Michael has grown because of his role as both a defender against evil and a faithful servant of God's will.

Why is he so important for us today? Because the struggle he represents is not just an ancient story, it is also the reality of our own lives. We may not see the battles of angels, but we all experience the battles of the heart: temptations, doubts, pride, fear, and the daily challenges of

remaining faithful to God in a world that often pulls us away from Him. St. Michael reminds us that this is not a battle we fight alone. He stands beside us as a protector, a warrior for our souls, and a reminder that Christ's victory has already been won.

From St. Michael we can learn three key lessons:

1. **Humility before God** – His name, *"Who is like God?"* reminds us that we are not the center, God is. Pride is the root of sin, but humility opens us to grace.
2. **Courage in the face of evil** – Michael did not remain silent when confronted with rebellion. Likewise, we are called to resist sin and injustice, even when it is difficult or unpopular.

**Confidence in God's victory** – St. Michael teaches us not to lose hope. Evil may seem strong for a time, but God's love is stronger, and His triumph is assured.

As we reflect on St. Michael's role, let us also remember that devotion to him is not just about protection, but about transformation. To ask his intercession is to commit ourselves to living with the same courage, humility, and faithfulness that he embodies.

May St. Michael the Archangel defend us in our daily battles, guard us from harm, and lead us closer to the heart of Christ, where the ultimate victory has already been won.

St. Michael the Archangel, **protector of police officers**, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"The day of the Nativity of the Mother of God is a day of universal joy, because through the Mother of God, the entire human race was renewed, and the sorrow of the first mother, Eve, was transformed into joy."*

*Saint John Damascene,  
Father and Doctor of the Church*

#### REFLECTION ON SAINT FLORIAN (PATRON OF FIREFIGHTERS)



Dear God, through the intercession of our patron saint Florian, **protector of firefighters**, we humbly ask for your almighty protection upon these brave persons. Grant them unending strength and courage in their daily assignments to save lives and preserve property from the ravages of fire. Bless them with years of faithful discharge, and when the time comes, may they stand before their tribunal of justice with a heart full of gratitude and love. Florian, pray for us, that we may be worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

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

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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. **Sponsorships need to be in on Sunday, September 7, in order to have the banners here in time for the festival.**

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

### THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Thomas and Annie Farris and the deceased members of their 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.

## 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.

**SONGS OF FAITH**  
Concert by **RAFCA FARES**  
BOSTON  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10  
7 o'clock

**Our Lady of the Annunciation Melkite Catholic Cathedral**  
7 VFW pkwy - West Roxbury - MA 02132

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Jeanes Barbour 508-725-6705  
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Zeina Frieiha 781-789-0432

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT SAINT JOSEPH MONASTERY | TOMB OF SAINT RAFQA IN LEBANON

## SECOND COLLECTION FOR CUA AND THE MARONITE SEMINARY

As per the directive of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, there will be a second collection this weekend for the Catholic University of America and the Maronite Seminary. This money helps educate our seminarians throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday September 28 2025  
11:30 am - 06:00 pm  
(Rain or Shine)

**Middle Eastern Festival**

Middle Eastern Food & Desserts  
SAJ  
Raffle Prizes  
Ice Cream  
Cotton Candy

Hookah  
Bounce House  
Cash Bar  
Pop Corn  
Face Painting

**DJ CEDRÓPHÉENIX**

**Our Lady of Mercy**  
341 June St.  
Worcester MA 01602  
<https://ourladyofmercymaronite.org/>  
**\$1 Entrance fee**

## 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

<b>Cost needed:</b>	<b>\$18,000.00</b>
<b>Donations to date:</b>	<b>\$ 4,300.00</b>
<b>Donations needed:</b>	<b>\$ 13,700.00</b>



## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**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.

**Tuesday, September 9, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Virgin Mary, Feast of the Blessed Ozanam, The Council of Chalcedon.).

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

**Wednesday, September 10, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Pulcheria the Queen).

**Thursday, September 11, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Theodora of Alexandria). **NO LITURGY.**

**Saturday, September 13, @ 4:30 PM,**  
(Feast of Saint Christopher). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Marie Kenyon requested by the family. May their soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Mary Saba requested by the family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, September 14, @ 10:30 AM,**  
(Exaltation of the Holy Cross). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Hardin Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

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.

## CONFESSION

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

## WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of September is offered for Jean D'Arc ElKhoury requested by Jacques and Amal Barbour.

## LECTORS FOR SEPTEMBER, 2025

**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, please contact Mae Dickinson).

## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 09/08-09/13/25

**Monday:**

2 Corinthians 4: 1-6

Luke 8: 16-21

**Tuesday:**

1 John 4: 7-21

Luke 15: 8-10

**Wednesday:**

1 John 5: 1-12

Luke 16: 1-8

**Thursday:**

1 John 5: 13-21

Luke 16: 9-12

**Friday:**

2 John 1: 1-13

Luke 16: 13-17

**Saturday:**

3 John 3: 1-15

Luke 17: 1-4

## WEEK OF AUGUST 30-31,

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,222.00
Festival Sponsorship	\$ 1,850.00
Pre-Sale Raffles Tickets	\$ 120.00
Donations	\$ 70.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 49.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,311.00</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 . Sq. . Raffles . Dancing . Hnaleb .*

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

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

**Live Entertainment**

*Mitchell Kalloumas*

*With Bashir El-Khoury Band*

*Tarek Abdelhameed*

**Money Raffles Prizes:**  
\$1,000 - \$500 - \$200  
Drawing  
Saturday, September 13, 2025  
10:00PM

**4254 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, MA 02745**



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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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