



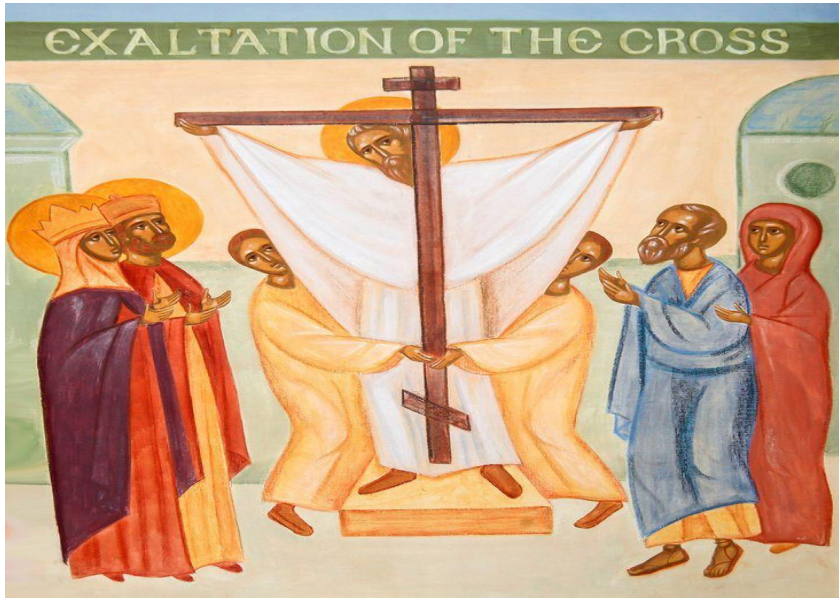
Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



September 13-14, 2025

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



The **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**—a day the Church sets aside not just to venerate a wooden instrument of death, but to gaze upon the mystery it holds:

The Paradox of the Cross the Cross is, on the surface, a scandal and a contradiction. In the Roman world it was the most humiliating form of execution—a symbol of defeat, shame, and terror. Yet in Christ, the Cross is lifted and “exalted” as the throne of victory, the bridge between heaven and earth.

What humanity intended for destruction, God transformed into redemption. The wood of death became the tree of life. This paradox is the very heart of our faith: God’s glory is revealed not in power and dominance, but in surrender, vulnerability, and love.

The Cross as Revelation of God’s Love when we look at the Cross, we don’t simply see pain; we see love poured out “to the end” (John 13:1).

The Cross tells us that God does not

remain distant from human suffering. He enters it, bears it, and transforms it. Every wound we carry—of rejection, loss, betrayal, fear—has already been carried on those beams.

The Cross, then, is not only an event in history but a constant assurance: *“Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus”* (Romans 8:39).

The Cross in Our Daily Life to Exalt the Cross is not merely to honor a relic or symbol; it is to embrace its meaning in our lives.

Each person’s “cross” might be illness, family struggles, loneliness, or hidden sacrifices.

To carry the cross is not to seek suffering but to accept that love requires self-gift, perseverance, and sometimes loss.

When borne with Christ, our crosses are no longer crushing weights but paths to resurrection. The Cross is never the end of the story—it always points to Easter morning.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Look upon your crosses as stepping stones to the eternal life of happiness.”
St. Mary MacKillop



The Cross and Transformation of the Cross changes the way we see the world: Power is redefined strength is shown in weakness.

Victory is redefined life comes through death.

Success is redefined—not in what we achieve, but in how deeply we love.

The world teaches us to run from anything crooked, broken, or weak. But the Cross tells us that God enters precisely there. If we exalt the Cross, we begin to see the broken places in ourselves and others not as obstacles, but as openings for God’s grace.

A Personal Reflection

Whenever we trace the sign of the Cross, we are claiming both our identity and our hope. We mark ourselves with the greatest love story in history. Personally, one of the deepest challenges is to remember this in moments of fear or failure. The Cross whispers: *“Your worth is not measured by success, but by the One who gave His life for you.”*

I sometimes think of the Cross as a compass: it points upward (to God), downward (to our humility and

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 |

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

rootedness), and outward (to our brothers and sisters). To live under the Cross is to orient our lives in all three directions. Brothers and sisters, each time we make the Sign of the Cross, we claim this mystery for ourselves: we belong to Christ who has conquered through love. The Cross is our compass—pointing us upward to God, grounding us in humility, and stretching us outward in service to others.

So today, let us not only gaze upon the Cross, but *live* it: in our patience, our forgiveness, our compassion, our daily sacrifices. For in the Cross, we find not death, but life—*eternal life in Him who loved us to the end*.

In short: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross is a feast that teaches us the mystery of God's upside-down wisdom: that glory is hidden in suffering, that life springs from death, and that love transforms everything it touches.

"We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world."

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.

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.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for the deceased members of the Chedid 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLYWEDS

Congratulations to Kevin and Samantha Aboukheir who were married on September 6, 2025. We also congratulate Elie and Misha Aboukheir, Eddie and Jennifer Aboukheir, and Samantha's family on the joyous occasion. May Almighty God bless the newlyweds with many happy and blessed years. 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!

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

Middle Eastern Festival



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

Middle Eastern Food & Desserts

SAJ

Raffle Prizes

Ice Cream

Cotton Candy

Hookah

Bounce House

Cash Bar

Pop Corn

Face Painting

2025-2026 CCD REGISTRATION

Registration forms for the 2025-2026 CCD classes have been emailed to all parishioners. Please register your children for Maronite Heritage Days and for First Communion classes. Registration forms are also available in the office. Please contact Hiba Chdid or Fr. Vincent for these forms. I look forward to another wonderful year.



Save the dates!

2025 Maronite Heritage Days

September 20 | 1-4pm
Sister's Convent, Dartmouth

November 8 | 3-7pm
St. Anthony, Fall River

December 20 | 3-7pm
Our Lady of Purgatory, New Bedford

Presented by the
Maronite Servants of Christ the Light
maroniteservants.org

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>\$ 4,400.00</u>
Donations needed:	\$ 13,600.00

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 13, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Christopher). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Tom Gabriel requested by the Gabriel family. May their souls rest in peace. 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 (FM).

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.

Tuesday, September 16, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage).

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

Wednesday, September 17, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Sophia and Her 3 Daughters).

Thursday, September 18, @ 9:00 AM, (The Flight of the Lord Jesus to Egypt).

Saturday, September 20, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Eustatius and His Wife and Children). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Sandy Potoak requested by Joann David. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Donald Piva requested by Rose Dupre and family. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, September 21, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Quadratus, Bishop of the Church). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Jean D'Arc ElKhoury requested by the family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of the deceased members of the Thomas family requested by Mrs. George J. Thomas (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

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.

LECTORS FOR SEPTEMBER, 2025

Saturday, September 13,
Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

Sunday, September 14,
Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

Saturday, September 20,
Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

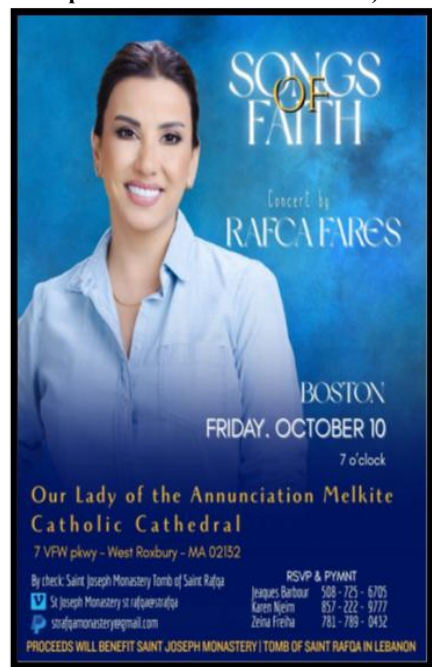
Sunday, September 21,
Cayla Barbour / Elie Abou Kheir

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 09/15-09/20/25

Monday:

2 Peter 1: 1-11

John 3: 11-21

Tuesday:

2 Peter 1: 12-21

John 8: 21-30

Wednesday:

2 Peter 3: 1-9

John 12: 31-36

Thursday:

2 Peter 3: 10-18

Mark 8: 31-38

Friday:

Jude 1-7

John 18: 33-38

Saturday:

Jude 17-25

Luke 23: 36-43

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 06-07, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 916.00
August Online Giving	\$ 774.33
Second Collection	\$ 92.00
Parking Lot Donation	\$ 100.00
Festival Sponsorship	\$ 2,250.00
Pre-Sale Raffles Tickets	\$ 310.00
Food Donations	\$ 100.00
Candles	\$ 182.00
Total	\$ 4,724.33

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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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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