



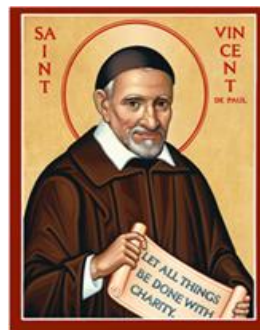
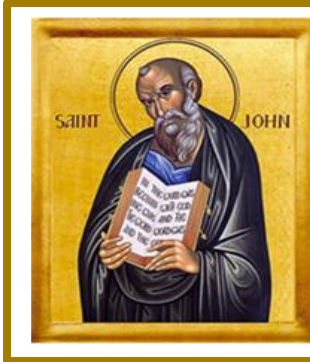
# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



September 20-21, 2025

### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS



#### FEAST OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

**Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Vincent de Paul** — two saints separated by centuries but united in one Gospel of love: **Two Saints, Two Eras, One Lord!**  
**St John: Who he was:** John was one of the Twelve Apostles, the “beloved disciple” who rested on Jesus’ chest at the Last Supper. He stood at the foot of the Cross with Mary and was entrusted with her care. He later wrote the Gospel of John, three letters, and the Book of Revelation.

**What we celebrate:** The Church celebrates his feast on December 27, during the Christmas season, because he bore witness to the mystery of the Incarnation: “*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us*” (John 1:14). He is the evangelist of love, light, and intimacy with God.

**Key focus:** John teaches us that discipleship is rooted in love and deep union with Christ.

**Saint Vincent:** Who he was: Born in 1581 in France, Vincent became a priest who devoted his life to the poor, the sick, and the marginalized. He founded the Congregation of the Mission

(Vincentians) and co-founded the daughters of Charity with St. Louise de Marillac.

**What we celebrate:** The Church honors him on September 27. He is the patron saint of charitable works, hospitals, prisoners, and the poor.

**Key focus:** Vincent reminds us of that love of God is inseparable from love of neighbor, especially the most vulnerable. His legacy lives on in the worldwide Society of St. Vincent de Paul, dedicated to serving the poor.

This week we celebrate two great saints of the Church: **Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Vincent de Paul.**

Saint John walked beside Jesus, leaned on His heart at the Last Supper, and stood beneath the Cross with Mary. He is the “beloved disciple,” the witness of divine intimacy, the evangelist who wrote: “*God is love*” (1 John 4:8).

Saint Vincent lived sixteen centuries later in France, a world full of poverty, war, and injustice. He did not write a Gospel, but he “wrote” Christ’s love in action—feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and organizing care for orphans, widows, and the sick.

Though their lives look very different, both saints reveal the same truth: the heart of Christianity is **love made real.**

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“The most powerful weapon to conquer the devil is humility. For, as he does not know at all how to employ it, neither does he know how to defend himself from it.”*

*Saint Vincent de Paul*

#### **Saint John: Love as Contemplation**

John teaches us to *see* Christ. In his Gospel, he invites us to gaze on Jesus as the eternal Word made flesh, the Lamb of God, the true Light. John reminds us that faith begins with intimacy—with resting close to the heart of Christ, with knowing we are beloved. This is the contemplative dimension of faith: prayer, silence, and union with God.

#### **Saint Vincent: Love as Action**

Vincent teaches us to *serve* Christ. He saw Christ alive in the poor, saying: “*The poor are our masters, and we are unworthy to render them our small services.*” For Vincent, love was never abstract, bread for the hungry, medicine for the sick, comfort for the prisoner, and justice for the forgotten. This is the active dimension of faith: service, sacrifice, and works of mercy.

#### **What The two Saints hold in Common?**

At first glance, John the mystic and Vincent the servant may seem different. But together, they show us the full shape of Christian life:

**Love of God and love of neighbor.** John teaches us to receive divine love; Vincent teaches us to give it away.

**Contemplation and action.** John leaned on Christ’s heart; Vincent touched Christ’s wounds in the poor. **Witness to**

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

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

**Christ.** John witnessed with his words; Vincent witnessed with his deeds.

Their lives together echo Jesus' command at the Last Supper: *"As I have loved you, so you also should love one another"* (John 13:34).

**The Challenge for Us** brothers and sisters is their feast invites us to ask: Do I make time to rest on Christ's heart like John, through prayer, Scripture, and the sacraments? Do I recognize Christ in the suffering like Vincent, through compassion, service, and mercy?

Faith cannot remain only in the heart or only in the hands—it must be both. True discipleship is love that flows from contemplation into action.

Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Vincent de Paul remind us that the Gospel is not simply a book to be read or a charity to be done—it is a way of life, shaped by love.

May John teach us to remain close to the heart of Christ, and may Vincent teach us to serve that heart in the poor. And may we, like them, become living witnesses that *God is love*—a love that prays, a love that serves, a love that transforms the world.

### 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><u>\$ 5,400.00</u></b>
<b>Donations needed:</b>	<b>\$ 12,600.00</b>

### JOB WELL DONE VOLUNTEERS

I am so proud and thankful to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make our festival a great success. Every year we seem to shine brighter than before. Everyone who attended was treated like royalty and was so grateful for your kindness and the great food they were offered. And I thank you for your love and zeal for this community. May God continue to bless you and this parish. Mabrook!

### MANY THANKS



A heartfelt thank you to Norma Jean Barbour and family for their generous donation of our sandwich station and double door refrigerator that was donated to us for our festival and events at the Church Hall. This was a great help to the volunteers of the festival. May the soul of Mansour rest in peace and may God bless you and your family.

### FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER AND MEETING

We will have an appreciation dinner and meeting for all our festival volunteers on Friday, October 24, at 6:30 PM, in the Church Hall. This will give us an opportunity to thank each of you and to discuss what went well and what didn't work well. Please, RSVP is you plan to attend so that we can prepare accordingly. God bless you!

### BLUE MASS AND DINNER

Our Lady of Purgatory Church is sponsoring our First Annual Blue Mass and Dinner on Thursday, October 16, 2025. This special Mass and dinner are to honor our men and women from the Police Department, Fire Department, First Responders, and Armed Forces. Our Parish will prepare food along with local restaurants for this event. We pray for all of our First Responders and thank them for service to our community.

### WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

It is with sadness that I announce the passing of Daniel Tavares who passed away on Sunday, September 14. We extend our deepest sympathy to his devoted wife Helena Tavares, his son Eric and his daughter Lenora and her family. May Almighty God welcome Dan into His kingdom and may his soul rest in peace. Allah yerhammo.

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### 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.



### 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!



## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**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.

**Tuesday, September 23, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Jonah the Prophet). NO LITURGY.**

**From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration. NO ADORATION.**

**Wednesday, September 24, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Thecla, the First Woman Martyr). NO LITURGY.**

**Thursday, September 25, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Paphnutius the Confessor). NO LITURGY.**

**Saturday, September 27, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul).**

**Sunday, September 21, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Chariton). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy.** Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in the Book of Life. May all the souls in the Book of Life rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Peter and Raja Saba Bou Eassey requested by the family (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.

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

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

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 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).

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,512.00
Holy Cross Feast	\$ 75.00
Parking Lot Donation	\$ 1,000.00
Festival Sponsorship	\$ 3,950.00
Pre-Sale Raffles Tickets	\$ 230.00
Food Donations	\$ 450.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,217.00</b>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY BY SENDING IN YOUR /EKKLY COLLECTIONS VIA MAIL. THIS AS BEEN VERY HELPFUL FOR THE HURCH. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR AMILY.**



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