



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



September 27-28, 2025

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS



#### THE BEAUTY OF WAITING FOR THE LORD IN THE EUCHARIST

Waiting is not something we usually enjoy. In our world today, everything is instant. Food, communication, entertainment. We click and it happens. Yet, when it comes to the things of God, waiting is not wasted time. It is holy time.

Think of the Psalmist who cries out: "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word, I hope" (Psalm 130:5). Waiting prepares the heart, stretches our desire, and enlarges our capacity to receive.

Every time we wait for Mass, whether the daily Eucharist or the Sunday celebration, we are simply not passing time until something begins. We are like the wise virgins in Jesus' parable (Matthew 25), with lamps lit, hearts awake, longing for the bridegroom to arrive. The Eucharist is that wedding feast, and our waiting is the oil of our lamps.

#### WHY DO WE STRUGGLE WITH ONE HOUR AT MASS?

Here's something to ponder. Why is it that many of us, including myself, can spend hours at a restaurant with friends, enjoying food and conversation without watching the clock? Why do people spend an entire evening at a concert or a party, sometimes four or five hours straight, and never complain it's too long?

And think about this: people will even camp outside a store all night to be first in line for the newest phone or video game. They'll wait in the cold, on the sidewalk, because they believe what they're waiting for is worth it. Yet, when it comes to Mass when it comes to Christ Himself, present Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, one hour feels too long.

The difference is not in the clock but in the heart. We wait joyfully for things we love. We make time for what excites us. If our eyes of faith were open, we would realize that the Mass is the greatest banquet, the truest celebration, the deepest encounter. Heaven and earth meet

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Our Lord does not come from Heaven every day to stay in a golden ciborium; He comes to find another heaven, the heaven of our soul in which He loves to dwell."*

*Saint Therese  
of the Child Jesus*



at the altar. The angels worship with us. Christ Himself gives His life for us. What could possibly be greater?

#### A STORY: THE OLD MAN IN THE CHURCH

I remember a story of a small village where an old man was always seen sitting quietly in the church before Mass. He would arrive early, often long before anyone else. One day, a young boy asked him, "Grandpa, why do you always come so early? You just sit here alone doing nothing."

The old man smiled and said, "Child, I am not doing nothing. I am waiting for my Friend. When you wait for someone, you love, every minute is precious. I come early because I want my heart to be ready when He arrives."

That old man understood something profound: waiting is not empty, but full — full of love, full of expectation, full of presence even before the meeting begins.

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

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**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.

## THE EUCHARIST AS FULFILLMENT OF OUR WAITING

Each Mass is a meeting with Christ. But it is more than that — it is a foretaste of heaven. Every Sunday, especially, we join in the eternal liturgy where heaven and earth meet. Our waiting throughout the week builds a holy hunger, so that when Sunday arrives, we come not out of routine but out of longing.

Waiting teaches us that God's presence is not controlled by our schedule. Rather, it is an encounter of love that requires patience, humility, and readiness. Like a bride awaiting her groom, the Church waits for Christ at every Mass, and one day, at the end of time, we will wait no more for we shall see Him face to face.

### TAKEAWAY

So, my dear brothers and sisters, let us rediscover the beauty of waiting for Mass. When we arrive early, when we prepare our hearts during the week, when we pause in silence before the liturgy begins, these moments are not wasted. They are like the old man's minutes in the church: time spent waiting for a Friend.

May our waiting make us more attentive, more grateful, and more in love with the One who comes to feed us with His very Body and Blood. And may our longing for Sunday Mass remind us that we are pilgrims waiting for the eternal banquet in heaven.

## 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.

## SUNDAY ROSARY

Every Sunday Deacon Jean will lead the Rosary beginning at 9:45 am. Weather permitting, this will be prayed in Our Lady of Fatima Garden. Please come early to pray with us before we begin Divine Liturgy. Our Lady of Purgatory, pray for us!

## FESTIVAL FIGURES

**Festival Income:** \$ 49,591.48  
**Festival Sponsorships:** \$ 21,275.00  
**Festival Donations:** \$ 8,762.00  
**Total Festival Income:** \$ 79,628.48

**Festival Rentals:** \$ 12,452.00  
**Festival Entertainment:** \$ 4,650.00  
**Police/Security Detail:** \$ 2,882.40  
**Festival Expenses:** \$ 9,031.29  
**Total Expenses:** \$ 29,015.69  
**Total Profit:** \$ 50,612.79

## 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 if you plan to attend so that we can prepare accordingly. God bless you!

## 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:** \$ 5,400.00  
**Donations needed:** \$ 12,600.00

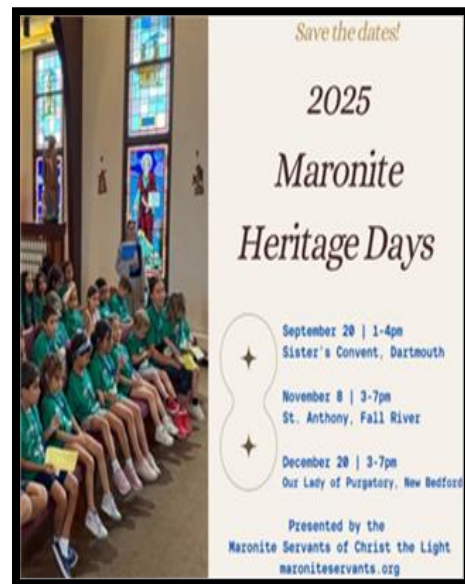
## WELCOME FATHER CHUCK VAN HEUSEN

We welcome Father Chuck to our parish as he will be celebrating Divine Liturgy while I'm away. He has offered his assistance to our parish. Thank you Fr. Chuck and we appreciate your help. Please know you are always welcome to our humble community.

**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.





Middle Eastern Food & Desserts

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



Hookah

## Middle Eastern Festival



SAJ



Bounce House



DJ CEDRÓPHOENIX



Ice Cream



Pop Corn

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<https://ourladyofmercy.maronite.org/>

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## LITURGY INTENTIONS

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

**Sunday, September 28, @ 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.

**Tuesday, September 30, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Gregory the Illuminator).

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

**Wednesday, October 1, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Doctor of the Church).

**Thursday, October 2, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Cyprian and Justina).

**Saturday, October 4, @ 4:30 PM,**  
(Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi).

**Sunday, October 5, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Paul the Simple, Feast of the Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of George Morad requested by the family (FM). May his soul rest in peace.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## CONFESSION

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

## LECTORS FOR SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER, 2025

**Saturday, September 28,**

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Mae Dickinson

**Sunday, September 29,**

Rana Choubah / Halim Choubah

**Saturday, October 4,**

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

**Sunday, October 5,**

Rana Choubah / Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, October 11,**

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

**Sunday, October 12,**

Mae Dickinson / Gaby Baroody

**Saturday, October 18,**

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

**Sunday, October 19,**

Ann Dupre / Joumana Chedid

**Saturday, October 25,**

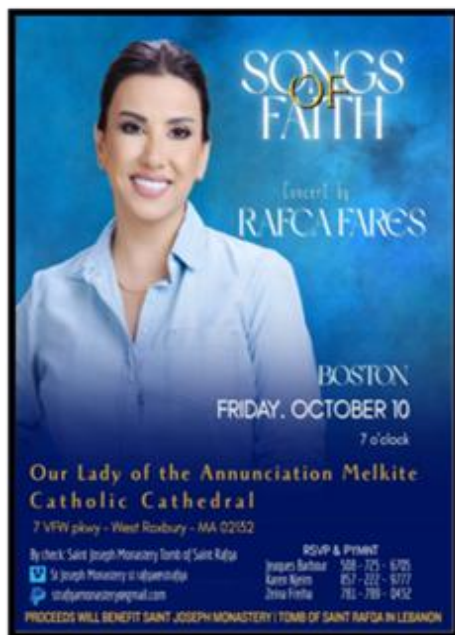
Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Mae Dickinson

**Sunday, October 26,**

Cayla Barbour / Jano Baroody

(If you are unable to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson).



## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 09/29-10/04/25

### Monday:

Book of Revelations 3: 1-6

Matthew 10: 16-22

### Tuesday:

Book of Revelations 3: 7-13

Matthew 11: 20-24

### Wednesday:

Book of Revelations 3: 14-22

Matthew 12: 29-32

### Thursday:

Book of Revelations 4: 1-11

Matthew 12: 33-37

### Friday:

Book of Revelations 5: 1-10

Matthew 12: 38-42

### Saturday:

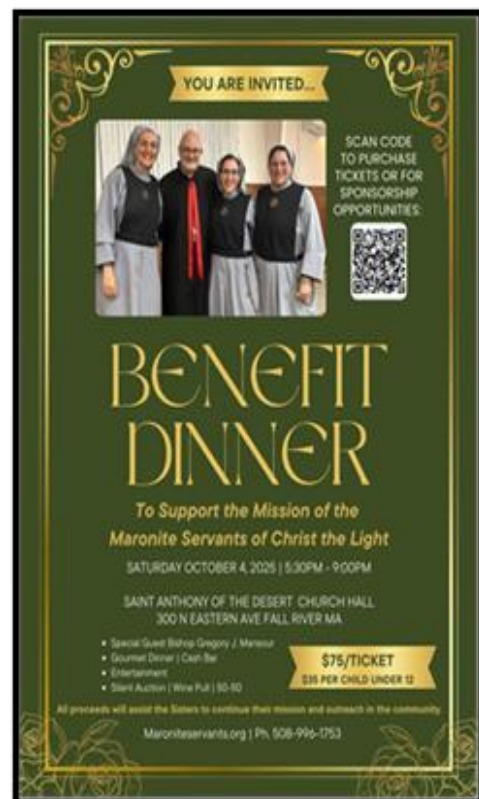
Book of Revelations 6: 9-17

Matthew 12: 43-45

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,568.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 3,075.00
Festival Sponsorship	\$ 1,100.00
Pre-Sale Raffles Tickets	\$ 40.00
Food Sale	\$ 120.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 83.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,986.00</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.**





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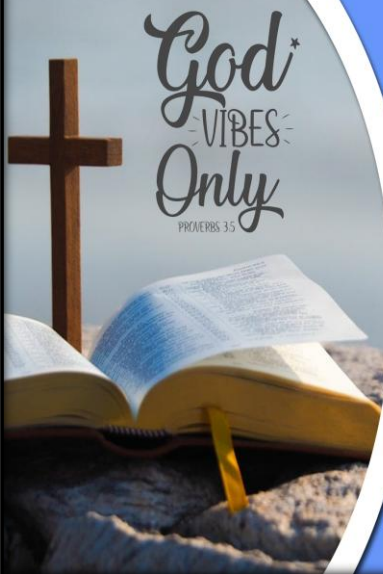
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Joseph & Marie Kenyon

*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.*

*Your Loving Children*

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