



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



October 4-5, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS

DEVOTED PASTOR, COMMITTED COMMUNITY AND THE HOLY CROSS

The Holy Cross is not just a relic of history. It is alive and visible in every act of self-giving love. When we look at the Cross, we see more than suffering, we see love poured out, a love so strong that it transforms death into life, weakness into strength, and smallness into abundance.

Sometimes, if we look carefully, we can see the mystery of the Cross reflected in people around us. They may not even realize it themselves. They do not boast, they do not pay attention to their sacrifices, but by the way they live, they embody what it means to carry the Cross with love.

The Holy Cross stands at the center of our faith not as a symbol of defeat but of transformation. When we gaze at the Cross, we are reminded that Jesus carried the weight of all humanity—our sins, our regrets, our brokenness, even the emotions that chain us to the past. On the Cross, He shows us that no wound is too deep, no history too heavy, and no sorrow too strong for God to redeem.

Often, we cling to the past, our hurts, our failures, the times we felt betrayed or misunderstood. These attachments quietly drain our spirit and prevent us from seeing the newness God is preparing ahead. But the Cross teaches us surrender just as Christ let go of everything even His last breath into the Father's hands, so must we lay down our burdens at His feet. In doing so, the Cross becomes not just a place of pain, but a doorway to freedom.

When we release our attachments through the Cross, we are no longer held captive by resentment or nostalgia. We begin to see that our wounds can become wisdom, our failures can give birth to humility, and

our sorrows can make us more compassionate. This is how the Cross transforms us from people clinging to the past into people ready to build the future.

And this is not just about us individually, it is about our Church and community. A parish or community that learns from the Cross will not waste time on divisions, old grudges, or "the way things used to be." Instead, it will embrace the mission of Christ: to become a beacon of love, service, and truth. The Cross compels us to be voices of encouragement, not complaint; voices of hope, not despair; voices that build up the Body of Christ, not tear it down.

Think of Simon of Cyrene, who helped carry the Cross. He didn't erase Christ's suffering, but he lightened the burden and walked beside Him. That is what the Cross calls us to do: not to live in the shadows of the past, but to move forward by being supportive voices—lifting one another, carrying the weight together, and walking toward the Resurrection.

LET ME TELL YOU A STORY, ONE THAT IS CLOSER TO US THAN WE THINK.

There was a parish, small and struggling, with more empty pews than filled ones. Many wondered if it had a future. But then God, in His providence, sent a shepherd who carried the Cross not as a burden, but as a gift. With patience, he gave his time. With wisdom, he taught with clarity. With generosity, he opened his heart to the sick, the poor, and the lonely. He is not afraid of long days or hidden sacrifices, he is not afraid of working long hours beside everyone else, he is not afraid to lead by example, because he understood what the Cross means: that love is most powerful when it costs us something.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy."

Saint Francis of Assisi



Slowly, that parish came alive. Families returned. Young people were inspired. The community grew not just in number but in faith. What seemed small and fragile became flourishing and strong. All of this happened not by accident, but because one person allowed the Cross to shape his ministry, giving, generous, caring, loving, deeply holy, and an example for all of us at least for me.

It reminds me of St. John Vianney, the Curé of Ars, who took a forgotten little parish in France and, through the power of the Cross, made it a place where heaven touched earth. His holiness was not in building something grand but in pouring out love, one soul at a time. That is the secret of every flourishing parish: not programs alone, not buildings alone, but a Cross-shaped heart at its center.

My brothers and sisters, this is what the Cross does, transforms small beginnings into great fruit. It turns sacrifice into abundance. And sometimes, without realizing it, we are blessed to witness this

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.

mystery not only in Calvary two thousand years ago, but here, in our own parish life today.

So let us not only thank God for the Cross of Christ but also for those hidden crosses borne with love in our midst. **Because every time someone embraces the Cross, the Church becomes more alive,** more holy, more radiant with the love of God. So, the Holy Cross helps us forget attachments to the past not by erasing memory, but by transforming memory into mission. We look at our wounds, not as prisons, but as openings for grace. And then, together, we move forward stronger, freer, and more united for the good of our Church, our community, and the future God is preparing for each one of us.

AND SO, LET US PRAY:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of the Holy Cross, the sign of love that transforms suffering into life. We thank You, too, for the shepherd You send into our midst a pastor who guide us with wisdom, who love us with generosity, and who reflect the heart of Your Son.

Bless him, guide him, protect him and send away from him all malice, sickness and harm and all the true good shepherds alike, Lord, for their hidden sacrifices. Strengthen them when they are weary. Keep them holy in mind and heart, so that they may always lead us closer to You. And may their witness inspire us all to carry our own crosses with faith and joy, knowing that every act of love offered in Your name builds up Your Church and gives glory to the Cross Through Christ our Lord.

With love and respect. Deacon Jean.

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!

SUNDAY ROSARY

Every Sunday Deacon Jean will lead Rosary 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!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Our Annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on **Saturday, November 15, and Sunday, November 16**, in the Church Hall. Mark your calendars so that you can join us for these 2 days. Great food, raffles, vendors, and performances from your children will make this event truly special.

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.

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

DELICIOUS KNAFE TRAYS

We have knafe trays for sale. Full tray with kaak and syrup are for sale for \$ 60.00. If you would like to purchase a tray, please contact the office.

NEEDED GIFTS FOR THE CARAVAN AUCTION, BASKET RAFFLES, SILENT AUCTION AND THE KID'S ZONE GAMES FOR THE CHILDREN



Items needed include:

Electronics, housewares, giftware, tools, gift cards, gift baskets, sporting event tickets, jewelry, toys, sporting goods etc. We also need small children's gifts for the game tables such as: Books, coloring books and crayons or markers, small cars and trucks, dolls, stuffed toys, puzzles models, games etc.

We need gifts of various values from \$2-\$25, \$25-\$50 and \$50 and up.

If you wish to donate but have no time to shop, you can donate the money and we will shop for you.

All help in any amount is greatly appreciated.

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.



LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Tuesday, October 7, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Sains Sarkis (Sergius) and Bacchus). **NO LITURGY.**

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

Wednesday, October 8, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Pelagia of Antioch). **NO LITURGY.**

Thursday, October 9, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint James, Brother of the Lord). **NO LITURGY.**

Saturday, October 11, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Philip the Deacon, Feast of Pope Saint John XXIII, Feast of the First Council of Nicaea). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Kenyon and Daher families requested by the family. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, October 12, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Edno). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Rocky Farhat requested by Patty Farhat. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Selma A. Joseph requested by the family (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Thomas and Josephine Sarkes 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.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of October is offered for Joe and Tillie Thomas requested by the family.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (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 OCTOBER, 2025

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

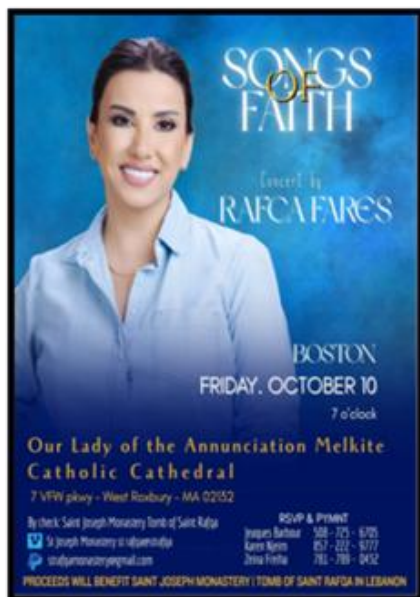
Saturday, October 25,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Mae Dickinson

Sunday, October 26,

Cayla Barbour / Jano Baroody



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 10/06-10/11/25

Monday:

Book of Revelations 7: 9-17

Matthew 24: 32- 44

Tuesday:

Book of Revelations 10: 1-11

Luke 6: 20-26

Wednesday:

Book of Revelations 11: 1-12

Luke 5: 33-39

Thursday:

Book of Revelations 12: 1-12

Luke 21: 34-38

Friday:

Book of Revelations 13:1,2b-4, 6-7,11-12, 15-18

John 5: 17-23

Saturday:

Book of Revelations 14:1-8,13

John 5: 24-30

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$	670.00
Festival Sponsorship	\$	1,500.00
Food Sale	\$	120.00
Coffee Hour	\$	36.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$	10.00
Candles	\$	189.00
Total	\$	2,525.00

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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