



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



October 11-12, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS



Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, Saint Teresa of Calcutta often prayed: *“Use me as an instrument of Your peace.”* She knew she was not the hand that writes, but only the pencil God holds. And what a beautiful pencil she became sketching the mercy of God into the lives of the poorest of the poor.

Let us reflect today on something so ordinary, yet full of wisdom: **a pencil.** A pencil teaches us three lessons for life in this **Season of the Holy Cross.**

The Pencil Needs Direction. A pencil cannot write by itself. It must be guided by a hand. Mother Teresa herself witnessed this truth in the streets of Calcutta. One day, a journalist asked her how she could possibly think she was changing the world by picking up just one dying person at a time. She answered: *“I am a little pencil in the hand of God, who is writing a love letter to the world.”* She did not direct her life according to human success or recognition. She let God guide her hand. And the Cross reminds us of this truth — we must surrender to the divine hand, for it is God who writes the masterpiece of love, not us.

The Pencil Must Be Sharpened. When a pencil grows dull, it must be sharpened. Sharpening is painful because something is cut away. In our lives, the Holy Cross is this sharpening. Trials, sacrifices, and humiliations are the moments when God sharpens us. St. Teresa endured this. Few people know that for decades she lived in what she called a “dark night,” feeling an inner silence where God seemed absent. Yet she did not stop serving, loving, and smiling. That suffering was her sharpening, which made her words and actions cut deeply into the hearts of all who met her.

Just as the pencil’s point grows clearer through sharpening, so suffering, embraced through the Cross, makes our witness clearer.

The Pencil Needs an Eraser. Every pencil carries an eraser, because mistakes are certain. So too, every Christian carries the mercy of the Cross. Our sins can be erased through repentance and forgiveness. God never abandons us to our scribbles and stains. He gives us a way to start fresh.

Here we can recall a simple story: A child once wrote an essay in pencil and made many mistakes. When the teacher returned the paper, the child was embarrassed. But the teacher said gently: *“Do not be ashamed of mistakes just be sure to use your eraser.”* In our spiritual lives, the Cross is our eraser. No matter how many mistakes we make, we can always return to God, and He will wipe the slate clean.

My brothers and sisters, in this Season of the Holy Cross, the Lord invites us to become like that pencil: simple, humble, and useful only when placed in His hand. Let Him **guide our direction.** Allow Him to **sharpen us through sacrifice.** Trust His Cross to **erase our sins.**

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

I plead with you- never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged, Be not afraid.

Jean Paul II



Saint Teresa prayed: *“Use me as an instrument of Your peace.”* If we allow God to take us into His hand, He will write a story of love and salvation through our lives.



I am like a little pencil in God's hand... He does the writing. The pencil has nothing to do with it.

-Mother Teresa

“Lord, I am only a pencil in Your hand. Write through me. Sharpen me through Your Cross. Erase my sins in Your mercy. Use me as Your instrument of peace.” Lord Jesus, take my life into Your hand as a pencil of Your love. Guide my steps and write Your story through me. Sharpen me through the Cross when I grow dull and erase my sins with Your mercy. Like Saint Teresa of Calcutta, make me an instrument of Your peace to speak kindness, to write compassion, and to draw Your Cross upon the world.

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 |

Office Email: officeolop@gmail.com

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

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:	\$ 6,400.00
Donations needed:	\$ 11,600.00

DELICIOUS KNAFE TRAYS

We have knafe 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.

THE MAKING OF CHRISTMAS JOIN US ON THE RED CARPET!

Please join us on Saturday, November 22, 2025 at 6:00 PM as the OLOP Parish Center will be transformed into a Dinner Theater for a special screening of "The Making of Christmas", the new film by Jim Hamon featuring our children who participated in the 2021 OLOP Christmas Pageant. The Making of Christmas is a warm, witty, and poignant exploration of the Christmas story, reflecting on what it means for Jesus to be born not only in a manger but also in our hearts. While the film is being shown all over New England, this will be the only Greater New Bedford Screening. Jim Hamon will also be joining us to make the evening even more special. A buffet dinner will be served and then the movie will be shown. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at officeolop@gmail.com or (508) 996-8934.

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!

CALLING ALL CHILDREN - THE 2025 OLOP CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!

Calling all children between the ages of 2 and 16 years old! It's time to start preparing for the 2025 OLOP Christmas Pageant. We'll begin practices for the 2025 OLOP Christmas Pageant on Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 11:45 in the Church. Practices will last approximately 1 hour and so it's a great opportunity for the children to have some fun while Mom & Dad are having a cup of coffee and some tasty treats at the Coffee Hour. This year's Christmas Pageant will be presented on Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Church followed by a reception in the Parish Center. The Children will also be singing at the OLOP Christmas/Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 15, 2025. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at officeolop@gmail.com or (508) 996-8934.

COME & SEE RETREAT WEEKEND FOR YOUNG ADULT WOMEN, DARTMOUTH MA

Is Jesus calling you to *Come and See*? Are you seeking to grow in your love for Christ and to learn more about the gift of religious life? The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light located in Dartmouth MA, invite single young adult women (ages 18-39) to prayerfully consider joining them for a **Come & See Retreat Weekend, October 31 - November 2, 2025**. The weekend is designed to give young adult women a glimpse into their prayer and communal life and to enjoy fellowship with other young adult women seeking to go deeper in their relationship with Christ our Light. If you have any questions or are interested in exploring the gift of religious life, please contact Vocation Director, Sister Therese Maria, vocations@maroniteservants.org.



LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Tuesday, October 14, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Isaiah the Monk). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Shirley David requested by the family (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

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

Wednesday, October 15, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Teresa of Avila, Doctor of the Church).

Thursday, October 16, @ 12:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Longinus the Centurion). Liturgy is being offered in honor of all our men and women from the Police Department, Fire Department, First Responders, and Armed Forces. May God bless and protect them.

Saturday, October 18, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Luke the Evangelist). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Michael J. David requested by the family (FM). May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, October 19, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Aaron of Antioch, Feast of Saints John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues, and Companions). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Margueritte Chedid requested by the family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Boutros Bou Ramia requested by the family. May his soul rest in peace.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Daniel Tavares by Mae Dickinson. 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.



The Office of Vocations of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon and the Eparchy of Saint Maron will be holding a discernment weekend from **Friday October 31st to Sunday November 2nd at the Maronite Seminary, in Washington DC.** If you know of anyone discerning a vocation to priesthood, or would like to know more, please let him fill out the form found in this following link:

<https://forms.gle/vS767wXLcavCcsDH9>

They will be able to experience a weekend in the life of a seminarian by joining us for Liturgy, Adoration, meals, prayers and hanging out. This weekend is a great opportunity for them to come and see what a weekend in the life of a seminarian is like!

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (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 October is offered for Joe and Tillie Thomas requested by the family.

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.



LECTORS FOR OCTOBER, 2025

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

WEEK OF OCTOBER 04-05, 2025

Sunday Collection \$ 954.00

September Online Giving \$ 1,087.95

Bazaar Raffle Tickets \$ 150.00

Total \$ 2,191.95

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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