



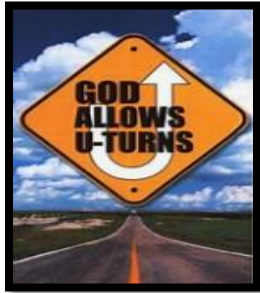
Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



October 18-19, 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS



Brothers and sisters in Christ, have you ever asked yourself if God allows U-turns?

Life often feels like a long road trip. Some days we know exactly where we're headed; other days we get distracted, take the wrong exit, or find ourselves lost on back roads. And if we're honest, there are moments in our spiritual journey when we drift far away from God through sin, neglect, or even indifference. But here is the Good News: **God allows U-turns.** In fact, God *welcomes* them. The heart of the Gospel is that no matter how far we wander, the way back to Him is always open.

Think of the *Parable of the Prodigal Son*. That young man thought he ruined his life. He wasted everything, broke his father's trust, and ended up in misery. But when he "came to his senses, he made a U-turn and went home. And the father didn't scold him or slam the door he ran to him, embraced him, and threw a feast. That's what God does for us every time we turn around.

Even Saint Peter needed a U-turn. He denied Jesus three times out of fear. Yet after the Resurrection, Christ asked him three times: "Do you love me?" Each answer was a chance to turn his failure into love. That U-turn didn't disqualify him—it transformed him into the leader of the Church.

A STORY OF A U-TURN

I once heard of a man driving on the highway who ignored the GPS instructions. He thought he knew better, but soon he found himself far from his destination. Frustrated, he expected the GPS to say, "You blew it! No more help for you." But instead, the voice simply said: "*Recalculating... make a U-turn at the next exit.*"

Isn't that how God works? We expect condemnation, but He simply says: "*Recalculating. Come back to me. Take the next U-turn.*"

Another story about a father teaching his son how to ride a bike. At first, he was so confident and pedaling fast, looking around, even letting go of the handlebars for a second. But of course, within moments, he drifted off the path, tipped over, and scraped his knee.

With tears in his eyes, he looked up at the father as if to say, "*Am I done? Did I fail?*" But instead of scolding him, the father picked him up, dusted him off, and said: "*No, buddy, we just turn around and try again.*"

And it struck the father that this is exactly how God looks at us. He doesn't shake His head in disappointment when we fall or go off course. He bends down, lifts us up, and whispers: "*Come on, let's turn around and try again.*"

Dear faithful, our faith journey isn't about never making a wrong turn. It's about trusting that **God's mercy is stronger than our mistakes.** Every confession is a U-turn. Every act of repentance is a U-turn. Every prayer whispered from a broken heart is a U-turn.

And here's the most amazing part: God doesn't just allow U-turns; He rejoices in them. Jesus tells us that heaven

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Let nothing Disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, Though all things pass, God does not change. Patience wins all things. But he lacks nothing who possesses God; For God alone suffices.
Teresa of Avila



itself throws a celebration when even one sinner returns.

So today, if you feel far away from God, if you've taken some wrong roads in life, don't despair. The way back is always open. Take the U-turn. And you'll discover that God has been waiting at home all along, ready to embrace you. The road of faith isn't about perfection, it's about direction. And no matter how many wrong turns we've made, as long as we keep turning back to God, we'll always reach our true destination: eternal life with Him. **"With God, it's never too late to make a U-turn—because His mercy is always waiting at the next exit."**

SECOND COLLECTION

As per the directive of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, there will be a second collection this weekend. This collection is for World Mission Sunday which helps missions around the world the continue to spread the word of Christ. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Address: 4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA 02745

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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.

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!

WELCOME TO THE FLOCK OF CHRIST

Congratulations to Lucia Anne Barbour who received Baptism and Confirmation last weekend. We congratulate her parents Joshua and Rafka Barbour, her sister Therese, Godparents Jacob Barbour and Susan Hage, her grandparents Jacques and Amal Barbour and Pierre and Sousou Hage, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, and family members.

May Almighty God bless Lucia all her days and keep her in His loving arms. Mabrook!

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.

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.

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 copy 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.

BAZAAR PREP DAYS

We will be preparing food for the Christmas Bazaar on the following days:

**October 23: Kibbie day
starting @ 10:30 AM.**

**October 30: Grape leaves day
Starting @ 10:30 AM**

**November 6, Maamool day
Starting @ 10:30 AM**

If anyone can come and help with these, it would be greatly appreciated. Please join us for as long as you can. Thank 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:	\$ 6,500.00
Donations needed:	\$ 11,500.00

KIBBEE PRE-ORDER

Baked Kibbee presale is now available. **The kibbee trays are \$35.00 each. All presale orders for kibbee must be in the office by Tuesday, October 21**, so that we can prepare accordingly. You may order by using the order forms or contact **the Church office at: officeolop@gmail.com** or (508) 996-8934.

Friends of Remember Me In Your Kingdom
Would like you to join us as we celebrate
Our 13th Year Anniversary

When: November 1, 2025
Where: St. Theresa Maronite Catholic Church
343 N. Main Street, Brockton, MA

10:30 AM - Welcome & Registration
11:00 AM - Opening Prayer & Welcoming Remarks
11:30 AM - "Praying for Souls of the Faithful Departed"
By: Fr. Vincent Farhat followed by small group discussion
12:30 PM - Eucharistic Adoration and Confession
1:30 PM - Lunch will be provided.
2:30 PM - "An Understanding of Eternal life"
By: Fr. Christian Hbaier followed by small group discussion.
3:30 PM - Closing Prayer
4:00 PM - Memorial Mass for Our Deceased



Remember Me In Your Kingdom was started in Lebanon, with a mission to pray for the Faithful Departed. 13 years ago, people started to gather and pray for the Faithful Departed in the Boston Area. Since then there are 9 churches that hold monthly memorial masses in Remember Me In Your Kingdom Memory. There are no fees to become a member, if you would like to join please see contact information below.

Friends of Remember Me In Your Kingdom is recognized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as nonprofit group (IRS nonprofit pending)

There is no admission fee for this event, however pre registration is appreciated for space and food planning. We fundraise twice a year to help defray cost of events, donations are always accepted. For more information you may contact Zeina 781.789.0432—Karen 508.222.9777

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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 Atty. George M. Thomas requested by Reggie Thomas and family. May his soul rest in peace.

Tuesday, October 21, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Hilarion of Tabatha). **From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration.**

Wednesday, October 22, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint John Paul II).

Thursday, October 23, @ 9:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Ignatius, Patriarch of Constantinople).

Saturday, October 25, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Chrysanthus and His Wife Daria). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Daniel Tavares requested by the family (40-Day Mass). May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Saba requested by Annemarie Espindola. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, October 26, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Demetrius). **Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy.** Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in the Book of Life. May all the soul in the Book of Life rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joe, Tillie and Bobby Thomas requested by the family. May their souls rest in peace.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention by Lou and Smitty Cabral. 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.

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.

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.



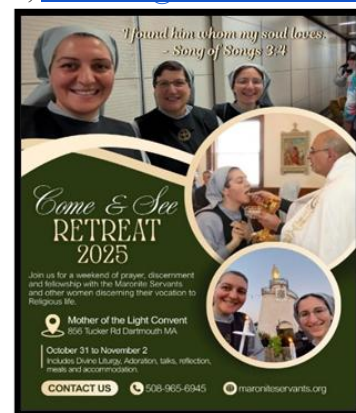
The Office of Vocations of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon and the Eparchy of Saint Maron will be holding a discernment weekend from **Friday October 31st to Sunday November 2nd at the Maronite Seminary, in Washington DC.** If you know of anyone discerning a vocation to priesthood, or would like to 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!

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.



LECTORS FOR OCTOBER

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,

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,025.00
Wine and Host	\$ 75.00
Festival Food Sale	\$ 340.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 25.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 10.00
Bazaar Raffle Tickets	\$ 180.00
Total	\$ 1,655.00

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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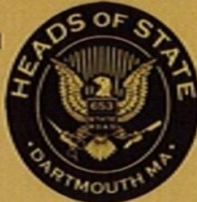


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