



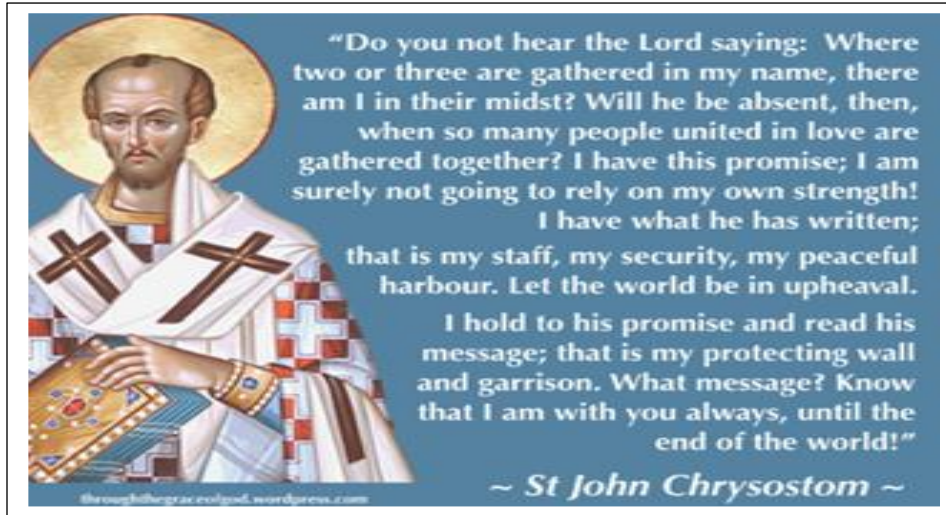
Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



November 8-9, 2025

RENEWAL OF THE CHURCH



On **November 9th**, the Maronite Church celebrates the **renewal of the Church**, which marks the **beginning of the Maronite liturgical year**. It's not simply the dedication of a physical building; it's a spiritual renewal for each of us and a call to renew **our hearts, our homes, and our communities** as living temples of God.

The feast of the Dedication of the Church has deep meaning on multiple levels:

The Church Building: The physical church is the **house of God**, the place where heaven touches earth. When it is dedicated, it is set apart from ordinary use and consecrated entirely to divine worship. Its altar represents Christ Himself, and its walls become a visible reminder that God dwells among His people.

Just as the ancient Israelites dedicated the Temple of Jerusalem with great solemnity, we dedicate our churches because they are places of encounter — where we are baptized, forgiven, nourished, married, and sent forth.

The Mystical Church: Beyond the building, the "Church" is also the **Body of**

Christ, all the faithful united to Him. This feast reminds us that we, too, are part of that sacred structure. Saint Paul says: "You are God's building... Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:9,16)

Thus, this celebration invites us to renew our **personal and communal consecration** to make our lives worthy dwelling places for God's presence.

The Beginning of the Liturgical Year

The Maronite Church begins its liturgical year with this feast because everything — Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost — flows from and returns to this central mystery: **God dwells among His people**. We start the year by asking: *Is my life a true church for God? Do I live in a way that invites His presence?*

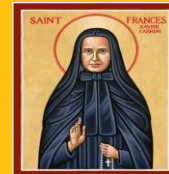
How We Can Dedicate and renew ourselves:

a. Dedicate and renew ourselves to God
Cleanse the temple of our heart. Through prayer, confession, and silence, allow Christ to enter and purify what has grown cluttered or cold.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I will go anywhere and do anything in order to communicate the love of Jesus to those who do not know Him or have forgotten Him."

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini



Set aside time daily for worship. Just as a church is reserved for prayer, so must our hearts have sacred moments reserved for God alone.

Offer our gifts and struggles. Every talent, every suffering can become incense on the altar of your soul.

b. Dedicate and renew ourselves to the Church:

Be an active stone in the building. The Church is not only clergy; each believer is a living stone. Serve in your parish, support its mission, and pray for your priests.

Live unity and peace. Division cracks the walls of the Church. Forgiveness and charity strengthen them.

c. Dedicate Ourselves and renewal to Our Family:

Make your home a domestic church. Pray together, bless your children, celebrate the sacraments, and fill your home with words and gestures of love.

Be the priest of your household. Offer your time, sacrifices, and patience as a daily act of worship to God.

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.

Teach by example. Let faith be visible in your choices, humility, and service.

d. Dedicate Ourselves and renewal to our Neighbors:

Be the visible Church outside the walls. Bring compassion where there is suffering, light where there is darkness.

See Christ in others. Every person you meet is a sacred image of God.

Build community. When we reach out, forgive, and serve, we expand the living Church of Christ in the world.

A Closing Reflection: Imagine our heart as a small sanctuary. Each day, Christ approaches and knocks, asking, "May I dwell here?" On this feast, the Maronite Church calls us to open the doors, to renew our "yes," and to let the Lord once again consecrate us. The dedication of the church is, in truth, the **dedication of each soul** and that by our words, love, and service, the world might see not just buildings of stone, but temples of the Holy Spirit alive with divine fire.

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to George and Marie (David) Borges for the passing of George's brother Stephen Borges. We ask Almighty God to comfort his wife Lolly, their children, and all his siblings. May his soul rest in peace. Allah yerhammo.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Our Church will be sponsoring an annual Thanksgiving Food Drive to help families in need in our community. I ask you all to bring **non-Perishable** food or **canned goods** items such as gravy cans, sweet potatoes cans, corn and vegetable cans, mashed potatoes boxes, stuffing boxes, cranberry sauce, pies and frozen turkeys. Your kindness and generosity have helped many families in the past, and I thank each of you once again in these efforts. Please have all items here no later than **Sunday, November 23**, as this will be the day to deliver the food to the needy. God bless you and God bless Our Lady of Purgatory Parish.

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.

2025 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.

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

Items needed include: Electronics, giftware, tools, housewares, 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.

BAZAAR NEEDS LIST

- 4 Cases Coke
- 3 Cases Coke Zero
- 2 Cases Orange Soda
- 2 Cases Sprite

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.

CONGRATULATIONS MISS TAUNTON 2026



Congratulations to Sophia Thomas who was crowned 2026 Miss Taunton. I know she will represent Taunton and this community with faith and grace as she begins her reign. Congratulations to her parents Bruce and Sandy Thomas, brother John, sister Marie-Alaina, and Tete Hyatt Thomas.

MATCHING DONATION FOR PARKING LOT



Cost needed	\$ 18,000.00
Donations to date:	\$ 7,500.00
Donations needed:	\$ 10,500.00

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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 8, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Ann Schafer Stevenson requested by the Class of 82 Lansing Catholic Central High School. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 9, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Matrona of Pamphylia). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Yvonne Choubah requested by family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Daniel and Souad (Keiruz) Yazbeck requested by family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the wellbeing of Philip Black.

Tuesday, November 11, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Mennas and His Companions, Feast of Saint Martin, Bishop of Tours).

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

Wednesday, November 12, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Theodore the Studite).

Thursday, November 13, @ 9:00 PM, (Feast of Saint John the Chrysostom, Doctor of the Church, Feast of Saint Frances Cabrini). Liturgy is being offered for the living and deceased members of Mariam David family requested by Mariam David and family.

Saturday, November 15, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saints Gurias, Samonas, and Habib the Deacon). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Elizabeth Grenier requested by Annie Costa (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 16, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Matthew the Evangelist). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Arnold and Laurette Mello requested by the Mello family. May their souls rest in peace.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for the living and deceased members of Mariam David family by Mariam David and 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.

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 November is offered for John Malvina and Joseph David requested by Joann, Anthony and Lorraine David.

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.

LEBANON 2026 ELECTIONS

The Lebanese government is now seeking all Lebanese abroad to register to vote in the upcoming 2026 parliamentary election. The registration process began on October 2, 2025, and will close on November 20, 2025. A link is issued by the Lebanese government that allows Lebanese expats to log in and input their data to register. I have emailed this information to all of you and have included it in this announcement. If you are eligible to vote, I hope you will take this opportunity to register.

<https://diasporavote.mfa.gov.lb/>

LECTORS FOR NOVEMBER, 2025

Saturday, November 8,
Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, November 9,

Rana Choubah / Halim Choubah

Saturday, November 15,

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

Sunday, November 16,

Ann Dupre / Gaby Baroody

Saturday, November 22,

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Smitty David

Sunday, November 23,

Cayla Barbour / Elie Abou Kheir

Saturday, November 29,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, November 30,

John Barbour / Hiba Chdid

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

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 1-2, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 2,137.00
October Online Giving	\$ 684.33
Bazaar Food Sales	\$ 75.00
Bazaar Raffle Tickets	\$ 230.00
Bazaar Donations	\$ 200.00
Donations	\$ 200.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 225.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 45.00
Sanctuary Candles	\$ 20.00
Total	\$ 3,816.33

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.

Our Lady of Purgatory Catholic Church

Annual Lebanese Holiday Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, November 15, 2025
10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Money & Basket Raffles Delicious Lebanese Food

Caravan & Silent Auction

Craft Tables Desserts



Sunday, November 16, 2025
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

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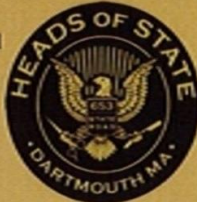
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