



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



November 22-23, 2025

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE VIRGIN MARY



As we begin our journey toward the Birth of Our Lord, the Church places before us the tender and powerful moment of the Announcement to Mary. The angel's greeting, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you," is more than a message—it is an invitation. God reaches into the quiet life of a humble young woman in Nazareth, and through her "Yes," the world is changed forever. Mary's response was not given in certainty, but in trust. She did not fully understand, yet she surrendered her plans, her fears, and even her future into God's hands. Her "Let it be done" becomes the doorway through which Christ enters our humanity.

A Story for Our Journey: Years ago, a small Christian family had a tradition during Advent. They would place an empty cradle in their living room. Each family member could lay a small piece of straw in it every time they made an act of kindness, forgiveness, or sacrifice during the week. As Christmas grew closer, the cradle slowly filled. On Christmas Eve, when they placed the figurine of Baby

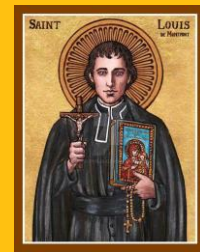
Jesus on the soft bed they had prepared, the mother would say, "With every act of love, you made a place for Jesus to rest in your heart." That simple family tradition reflects the heart of Mary's "Yes." She made a place for Christ—not with decorations, not with perfection, but with openness, humility, and love.

HOW DO WE PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS?

As we enter this season: Open your heart as Mary opened hers. Make space for God's will, even when it surprises you. Practice small acts of kindness. Every word of encouragement, every act of patience, becomes a piece of straw in the manger of your soul. Pray for the grace to trust. Mary teaches us that God does His greatest work when we let Him lead. Seek reconciliation. Forgiveness is one of the most beautiful ways to welcome Christ. Mary reminds us that Christmas is not simply the celebration of a birth—it is the celebration of God-with-us, entering even

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

If you put all the love of all mothers into one heart it still would not equal the love of the Heart of Mary for her children.
Saint Louis Marie de Montfort



the quiet, ordinary corners of our lives. As we walk with Mary toward Bethlehem, may her faith become our example, her courage our strength, and her trust our preparation. "O Mary, full of grace, guide us as we prepare a dwelling place for your Son in our hearts. "The Annunciation Is Our Story Too. As we celebrate the Announcement to the Virgin Mary, remember this: God continues to announce Himself into the lives of ordinary people. He continues to call. He continues to surprise. He continues to whisper, "Do not be afraid... for the Lord is with you." And whenever we—like Mary—open our hearts and say, "Let it be done according to Your will," God does what is impossible. May her faith become ours. May her courage inspire us. May her "yes" echo in our own lives. And may the Lord who began this good work in me, and in you, bring it to completion.

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

Address: 4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA 02745

Office: 508-996-8934 | **Fax:** 774-202-0758 | **Evening Emergency Number:** 561-371-5316 | **Website:** www.ourladyofpurgatory.org

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.



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8 October 2025

Prot No. 491/1/25

Reverend Vincent W. Farhat
Our Lady of Purgatory Church
4254 Acushnet Ave.
New Bedford, MA 02745

Dear Father Farhat,

By virtue of this letter I hereby renew your appointment as Pastor of Our Lady of Purgatory Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts (Prot. No 341-1-19) for two years. This renewal is effective October 1, 2025.

You are asked to continue to exercise your ministry in accordance with all of the provisions of Ecclesiastical laws, the Statutes of this Eparchy and in compliance with the applicable civil laws in force.

Thank you, dear Father, for your willingness, once again, to continue to lay down your life for the flock. May the prayers of the Mother of God and Saint Maron, be with you.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+ Gregory John Mansour

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.

ANGEL PROGRAM

Will you consider being an Angel for our Children's Christmas Pageant? The proceeds of the Angel Program will benefit the children's pageant, and the other half will be sent to **Caritas Lebanon and Tele Lumiere**. Please fill out a form that is located at the entrances of the Church. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

2026 OLOP DINING BOOK

Dining Books are now on sale just in time for Christmas. These are great gifts for family and friends. These books contain 6 dinners that are planned over the next few months. They are:

Ham and Bean Supper, Saturday, January 24, beginning at 5:30 PM.

Lenten Fish Fry, February 27, beginning at 5:00 PM.

Lenten Fish Fry, Friday, March 13, beginning at 5:00 PM

Lenten Fish Fry, Friday, March 27, beginning at 5:00 PM

A Taste of Italy, Saturday, April 18, beginning at 5:00 PM

Saj Sunday, May 17, beginning at 11:30 AM

A \$100.00 value all yours for \$85.00. If you would like to purchase these books, please contact the office at 508-996-8934 or email the office at officeolop@gmail.com

MYO GATHERINGS TO COME

Advisors and parents of the MYO met this week to discuss events and gatherings for the up-coming year. Our first gathering will be on Sunday, December 14, to go and sing Christmas carols to two or three nursing homes in the New Bedford area. We will meet before that to go over the songs. Last year, the residents of these nursing homes were filled with much joy from all of you. I am happy we will be able to bring them more joy this year. A calendar of events will be published soon. These will be sent to all of you and your parents. I would like to thank Vivian Yazbeck, Jacques Barbour, and Sister Therese who have been instrumental in organizing these events. Looking forward to another exciting and spiritual filled year with all of you.

MATCHING DONATION FOR PARKING LOT



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

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 22, @ 4:30 PM,
(Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne,
Parents of Our Lady, the Virgin Mary).
Liturgy is being offered for the soul of
Daniel Tavares requested by Mike and
Diane LeBlanc. May his soul rest in
peace.

Sunday, November 23, @ 10:30 AM,
(Feast of Saint Sassine, Bishop of
Cyzicus). Liturgy is being offered for the
soul of Mark Thomas requested by
family. May his soul rest in peace.

Tuesday, November 25, @ 9:00 AM,
(Feast of Pope Saint Clement).
From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Eucharistic
Adoration.

Wednesday, November 27, @ 9:00 AM,
(Feast of Saint Peter, Patriarch of
Alexandria).

Thursday, November 28, @ 9:00 PM,
Thanksgiving Day, (Feast of Saint
James Intercisus). **NO LITURGY.**

Saturday, November 29, @ 4:30 PM,
(Feast of Saints Saturninus and
Sisinius). Liturgy is being offered for the
soul of John J. David requested by the
family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy
is being offered for the soul of Joseph M.
Thomas requested by the family. May his
soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 28, @ 10:30 AM,
(Feast of Saint Andrew, Feast of Saint
Bishoy (Pishoy)). Liturgy is being offered
for the soul of Milad Chedid requested by
the family. May his soul rest in peace.

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.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns in
Thanksgiving for Almighty God by Rose
David. 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.

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, 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 NOVEMBER, 2025

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).

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 11/24-11/29/25

Monday:

Galatians 3: 1-6

Luke 11: 27-32

Tuesday:

Galatians 3: 7-14

Matthew 11: 25-30

Wednesday:

Galatians 3: 23-29

Matthew 13: 54-58

Thursday:

Galatians 4: 1-7

Matthew 12: 46-50

Friday:

Galatians 4: 8-12

John 6: 40-44

Saturday:

Galatians 4: 13-20

Luke 10: 21-24

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 15-16, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 954.00
Angel Program	\$ 25.00
Total	\$ 979.00

**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.**

NOVEMBER
Sat, 22nd - Sun, 23rd
9AM - 4PM

**HOLIDAY
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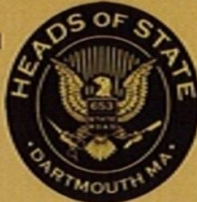
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Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD's Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing day.

Joseph & Marie Kenyon

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