



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

November 29-30, 2025

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD VISITATION OF THE VIRGIN TO ELIZABETH



The Visitation is one of the most tender and profound encounters in all of Scripture. After the Annunciation, when the angel told Mary that she would conceive by the Holy Spirit, we might expect her to retreat, to isolate, or to focus inward on her own miraculous calling. Instead, the Gospel tells us something astonishing: “In those days, Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country...” (Luke 1:39). Mary had just received the greatest announcement in human history—yet her first instinct was not to be served, but to serve. Not to be honored, but to honor. Not to think of herself, but to think of another. Dear faithful, this is humility in motion. Mary’s Humility: The Silent Teacher. Mary could have stayed home and absorbed the immensity of what was happening: She was chosen to be the

Mother of God. She carried the Word made Flesh. Heaven was dwelling in her womb.

Yet she rose immediately and traveled a long, difficult journey—almost 90 miles—to bring kindness, comfort, and companionship to Elizabeth.

Her humility was not passive; it was active. Her love was not sentimental; it was sacrificial.

Her holiness was not kept hidden; it became a gift to others. Mary teaches us that true humility does not shrink away—it goes forth. It moves outward, not inward. It sees the needs of others even in our own moments of blessing or struggle.

The Meeting: Grace Recognizes Grace, what does this mean? When Mary greets Elizabeth, something divine happens: The child in Elizabeth’s womb leaps for joy. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Mary’s greatness consists in the fact that she wants to magnify God, not Herself.
Pope Benedict XVI



This is the first proclamation of Christ—before Jesus is even born.

Mary becomes the first disciple, the first missionary, the first tabernacle carrying the living God into the world. She arrives with no speeches, no demands, no special treatment. She simply shows up—and grace explodes into the room. Sometimes the holiest thing we can do is simply be present for someone. Sometimes God works through our simple arrival, our presence, our humble steps toward another person.

WHAT MESSAGE CAN WE TAKE AS THE FAITHFUL?

Humility Means Putting Love into Action. Humility is not thinking less of ourselves but thinking more deeply about others.

Mary didn’t wait to be asked, she went. She didn’t wait for comfort, she offered it.

She didn’t wait for recognition, she gave

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.

herself away quietly. We are called to do the same: Visit the lonely. Support those carrying heavy burdens. Bring Christ with us into every home and heart we encounter. God Works Through Ordinary Encounters.

The Visitation happened in a simple home, between two women, in a forgotten hill country village. Yet Heaven touched Earth there.

Our everyday visits, phone calls, acts of kindness, or encouragement might feel ordinary—but God uses them in extraordinary ways.

Joy Is Born When We Carry Christ to Others. John leaped for joy. Elizabeth proclaimed with joy. Mary sang the Magnificat. Joy is the echo of Christ's presence. When we bring Christ into our families, our workplaces, our conversations, our ministries—joy is born again, sometimes where it has long been absent.

Service Strengthens Our Own Faith. Mary went to help Elizabeth, but in that household Mary herself was strengthened: Her calling was confirmed. Her faith echoed back to her. Her Magnificat arose from that place. Often, when we serve, we receive more than we give.

Final Message is that the Visitation is not only a story of two holy women, it is a model for all of us.

It teaches us that: Humility leads us outward. Love requires movement. Faith grows when shared. Christ is carried into the world through our ordinary acts of kindness and joy is the fruit of every encounter touched by God.

Like Mary, may we go “in haste”—not rushing out of anxiety, but out of love. May we be present to others, especially those in need. And may every home we enter experience the quiet grace, the gentle peace, and the deep joy of Christ dwelling within us.

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.

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We extend our condolences to Anthony (Marcel) David, Beth David, Cathy (Matthew) Thomas, Marie (George) Borges and their families for the loss of their mother Octavia David, who passed away November 24. We also send our sympathy to her sisters, Maryann Chomak and Norma Thomas. There will be a visitation at Fairhaven Funeral Home, 117 Main St, Fairhaven, MA, 02719, on Sunday, November 30, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection will be held on Monday, December 1, at 10:00 am, at Our Lady of Purgatory Church. May Almighty God welcome Octavia into His kingdom and may her soul rest in peace. Allah yerhamma.

MANY THANKS TO THE BAZAAR COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS

I would like to thank the Christmas Bazaar Committee, Smitty Cabral, Lorraine and Joanne David, Annmarie Espindola, and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make this bazaar a great success. God bless all of you.

Total Income	\$ 23,514.69
Total Expenses	\$ 3,941.18
Total Profit:	\$ 19,573.51

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

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Beginning December 15, we will begin our Christmas Novena. The schedule is posted below. I hope to see you for this beautiful prayer service.

**Monday, December 15,
Novena will begin at 7:00 PM**

**Tuesday, December 16,
Novena will begin at 7:00 PM**

**Wednesday, December 17,
Novena will begin at 7:00 PM**

**Thursday, December 18,
Novena will begin at 7:00 PM**

**Friday, December 19,
Novena will begin at 7:00 PM**

**Saturday, December 20,
Novena will begin at 5:30 PM**

**Sunday, December 21,
Novena will begin at 11:30 AM**

**Monday, December 22,
Novena will begin at 7:00 PM**

**Tuesday, December 23,
Novena will begin at 7:00 PM**

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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 30, @ 10:30 AM,
(Feast of Saint Andrew, Feast of Saint Bishoy (Pishoy)). **Remember Me in Your Kingdom Liturgy.** Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in the Book of Life. May they rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Milad Chedid requested by the family. May his soul rest in peace.

Tuesday, December 2, @ 9:00 AM,
(Feast of Habakkuk the Prophet).

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

Wednesday, December 3, @ 9:00 AM,
(Feast of Saint Francis Xavier).

Thursday, December 4, @ 9:00 AM,
(Feast of Saint Barbara, Feast of Saint John oh Damascus, Doctor of the Church).

Saturday, December 6, @ 4:30 PM,
(Feast of Saint Nicholas (Zakhia)). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Michel Geha requested by OLOP. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Moses P. and Annie Moses (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, December 7, @ 10:30 AM,
(Feast of Saint Ambrose, Doctor of the Church). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Julia Barber requested by Norma Barbour and family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of David and Yvone Sylvia (FM). May they 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.

CONFESSION

Please know that confession is available before liturgies. You may also call to set up an appointment.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns in Thanksgiving for a special intention by 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.

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, 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, DECEMBER, 2025

Saturday, November 29,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, November 30,

John Barbour / Hiba Chdid

Saturday, December 6,

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, December 7,

Mae Dickinson / Elie Abou Kheir

Saturday, December 13,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, December 14,

Ann Dupre / Jano Baroody

Saturday, December 20,

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

Sunday, December 21,

Cayla Barbour / Gaby Baroody

Saturday, December 27,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, December 28,

John Barbour / Elie Abou Kheir

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

MATCHING DONATION FOR PARKING LOT



Cost needed \$ 18,000.00

Donations to date: \$ 7,500.00

Donations needed: \$ 10,500.00

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

Monday:

Ephesians 1: 15-23

Luke 1: 46-56

Tuesday:

Ephesians 2: 1-10

Luke 10: 38-42

Wednesday:

Ephesians 2: 11-16

Luke 19: 1-10

Thursday:

Ephesians 2: 17-22

John 4: 39-42

Friday:

Ephesians :14-21

Mark 7: 24-30

Saturday:

Ephesians 4:1-7

Luke 5: 27-32

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22-23, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,592.00
Bazaar Food Sale	\$ 520.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 150.00
Making Of Christmas Movie	\$ 190.00
Angel Program	\$ 25.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 25.00
Total	\$ 2,502.00

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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