



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



December 27-28, 2025

SUNDAY AFTER THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI



In the Maronite Church, the Feast of the Glorious Birth is not simply a commemoration of a moment in history, it is the celebration of God bending down from eternity to enter our humanity, our stories, our fears, and our hopes. The birth of Jesus Christ is the moment heaven kisses the earth.

For generations, creation waited in longing. The prophets announced the coming of the Messiah. Israel walked through centuries of exile, return, silence, and expectation. Yet when the moment came, it arrived not with royal trumpets, but with a whisper in the night a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.

God Chooses Humility, Not Majesty
The King of Kings chooses a cave instead of a palace. The Creator of the universe chooses to be held by human hands. The Eternal Word chooses to cry, breathe, and depend on a mother and father. **This is the great mystery of Christmas:** God becomes small so that we may become great in Him. He becomes poor so that we may inherit the riches of heaven. He becomes vulnerable so that we may

find courage. He becomes one of us so that we may become one with Him. **The Light Breaks Into Our Darkness**
Our liturgy proclaims that a great light has shone upon the people sitting in darkness. The birth of Christ is not simply a warm story of shepherds and angels—it is the arrival of light into every dark corner of the human heart.

When Christ is born: Fear is confronted by hope. Sin is confronted by mercy. Death is confronted by life. Loneliness is confronted by Emmanuel: God with us. The manger becomes the first throne of the Savior. The cave becomes the first sanctuary of the New Covenant. The night sky becomes the first cathedral ceiling of His glory.

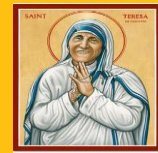
The Holy Family: A Model for All Families

At the heart of the Birth is the Holy Family Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. They stand as the new beginning, the restored image of what humanity was meant to be: Mary, full of grace, offers her entire being to God. Joseph, silent and steadfast, protects and obeys.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas -+time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, in a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another."

Saint Theresa of Calcutta



Jesus, the true Light, brings salvation.

In them, God shows us that holiness begins in the home, in the quiet routines of love, sacrifice, and faithfulness.

The Shepherds and the Magi: A Message for Us

The first to receive the news of Christ's birth are not the powerful, but the humble. The shepherds run to the manger with hearts open, and the Magi journey from afar seeking truth. Together they teach us: Approach Christ with humility like the shepherds. Seek Him with perseverance like the Magi. Offer Him the gift of our lives like both groups did.

What the Birth of Christ Means for Us Today

The Nativity is not just a memory; it is a reality that transforms our present.

1. Christ desires to be born in our hearts.

The cave of Bethlehem mirrors the cave within us, places that feel cold, hidden, or unworthy. Christ chooses that cave to dwell in.

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.

2. God meets us in simplicity. He is not found in noise, pride, or perfection. He is born in silence, humility, and availability.

3. Christmas is God's declaration that we are loved. Not because of what we have done, but because of who He is love made flesh.

4. We are sent, like the shepherds, to proclaim the Good News. Joy is not meant to be kept; it must be shared. The Birth of Christ is the beginning of our redemption, the opening of the door between heaven and earth. It is the reminder that God's love is not distant, abstract, or conditional, it is personal, near, and overflowing.

As we celebrate the Glorious Birth, may Christ find in us a manger prepared with faith, a cave warmed by love, and a heart ready to receive Him. And may the newborn King fill our families, our communities, and our world with the peace the angels proclaimed on that holy night: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth and good hope to all."

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, start 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 by email at officeolop@gmail.com

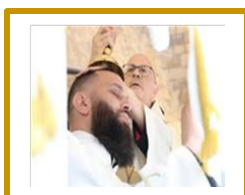
2026 YEARLY ENVELOPES

This year we will begin a new system for the contribution envelopes. The weekly envelopes will be mailed out every four months to all the parishioners. Nothing else will change and those who use the envelopes will be able to obtain their tax deduction letters from the church. Thank you for your generosity and understanding.

WITH THANKS AND GRATITUDE

I would like to thank all of you for your kindness and warm wishes this Christmas. I especially thank you all for making this Glorious Season of the Birth of Our Lord a very special and joyous occasion. God has certainly blessed me with such a wonderful community. I wish you all much joy and happiness.

THANK YOU DEACON NADIM KHALED



We say goodbye to our Deacon, Nadim Khaled, as he completes his Christmas assignment with us at OLOP. Nadim has been a great help to me in the office as well as liturgically in the Church. As he prepares for his priesthood ordination, we will assure him of our prayers. Thank you for your talents, dedication, and love for our humble parish. You are most welcome back here anytime. God bless you and your journey to the priesthood.

NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Divine Liturgy for New Year's Day will be held on Wednesday, December 31, at 4:00 PM. and Thursday January 1, at 12:00 PM This is a Holy Day of Obligation celebrating the Circumcision of Jesus and World Peace Day. Please join us as we begin our new year. Blessings to all of you.

FEAST OF THE GLORIOUS EPIPHANY

The Feast of the Glorious Epiphany will be celebrated on Monday, January 5, at 7:00 PM. This is a Holy Day of Obligation as we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. Immediately following Divine Liturgy, we will celebrate with coffee, zalabia, and pastries in the church hall. And Tuesday, January 6, at 9:00 AM. Anyone who would like to bring their signature zalabia is welcome to do so. Dayem Dayem!

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.

SAVE THE DATE SAINT MARON'S DAY HAFLI

will be held on **Saturday, February 7**, at OLOP Church Hall. Of course you can expect great food, live entertainment, a cash bar, and desserts. Tickets are \$75.00 and Dance Floor Tickets are \$100.00. Please mark your calendars and join us for the great annual event. Tickets are now on sale. Please contact Sousou Maalouf or the Church Office.

Our Lady of Purgatory Church
Saint Maron's Hafli
Saturday, February 7, 2026
at
OLOP Church Hall
4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA 02745

**Live Entertainment
by
CHADI NADDAF
&
Bashir EL-Khouiry Band**

**Doors Open
@ 7:00PM
Cash Bar & Mezza
Dinner served
@ 8:00 PM**

**Dance Floor Seating: \$ 100.00 (All Ages)
General Seating: \$ 75.00
Children (8-17): \$ 40.00
Children (under 8 yrs./general seating):
No Charge**

**For Ticket Sales Contact:
Sousou Maalouf:(508)-916-1523
Church Office:(508)-996-8934**

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 27, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Stephen, the First Martyr, the First Deacon). Liturgy is being offered for Mariam David and the living and deceased members of her family requested by Mariam David and family. Liturgy is being offered for the good health of Janet Hesketh requested by James and Lisa House.

Sunday, December 28, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Marina (Margaret) in Pisidia). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy. Liturgy is being offered for all souls in the Book of Life. May they rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Thomas and Octavia David requested by the family. May their souls rest in peace.

Tuesday, December 30, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Anysia). NO LITURGY. From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration. **NO ADORATION.**

Wednesday, December 31, @ 4:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Zoticus). Liturgy is offered for all the Parishioners and Friends of Our Lady of Purgatory.

Thursday, January 1, @ 12:00 PM, The Circumcision of Jesus, (Feast of Saints Basil and Gregory, Doctors of the Church). Liturgy is offered for all the Parishioners and Friends of Our Lady of Purgatory.

Saturday, January 3, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Malachi the Prophet). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Myriam Couri requested by Joann, Anthony and Lorraine David. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Maria Victoria Montoya requested by Cody and Jackie Shidell.

Sunday, January 4, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint Caius, Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mansour Barbour requested by the family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Chomak family 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 Annemarie Espindola. 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 December is offered for Estephan Diab requested by Jacques and Amal Barbour.

LECTORS FOR DECEMBER, 2025

Wednesday, December 24,

Christmas Eve,

Jacques Barbour / Jano Baroody

Thursday, December 25,

Christmas Day,

Mae Dickinson / TBA

Saturday, December 27,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, December 28,

John Barbour / Elie Abou Kheir

Wednesday, December 31,

New Year's Eve,

Eric Tavares / TBA

Thursday, January 1, 2026,

New Year's Day

TBA

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

IN OUR PRAYERS

Reggie Thomas, 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.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 20-21, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,678.00
Building Fund	\$ 3,000.00
Donations	\$ 1,000.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 220.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 60.00
Advertisement Ads	\$ 200.00
Candles	\$ 283.00
Total	\$ 6,441.00

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.

OUR LADY OF PURGATORY

Maronite Catholic Church

2nd Annual Ham & Bean Supper

5:30pm Saturday, January 24th, 2026

OLOP Community Center



Ham, beans, coleslaw, homemade cornbread, beverages and desserts!

Tickets: \$20 Adult, \$5 Children under 10

Please call the office at 508-996-8934 or email the office at officeolop@gmail.com for tickets.

BARBERSHOP x LOUNGE

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EST. 2022

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Barbershop Owner

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Joseph & Marie Kenyon

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.

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