



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



January 3-4, 2026

THE FINDING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE



MY NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO ALL YOU

I wish each one of you a very Happy and Blessed New Year filled with God's love, peace and joy. I would like to begin this New Year by expressing to all of you my gratitude and thanks for your many prayers, hours of help in the church, and for your beautiful and generous Christmas wishes which you extended to me and to the Church. Your kindness was illuminated in so many ways and for that I am thankful. Our community continues to grow and to flourish because of you. I look forward to a New Year filled with much love, determination, dedication, and one common goal---to grow closer to God. Let us always give thanks and praise to Almighty God for what He has given us and what He continues to bless us with in His Church. God bless you always.

Fr. Vincent Farhat

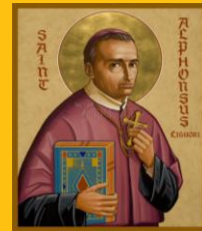
FINDING JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

As we begin a new year, the Gospel of Finding Jesus in the Temple offers a powerful lens through which to reflect on how we are living our lives. Mary and Joseph experience anxiety and confusion when they realize Jesus is not with them. They search everywhere, only to find Him where they least expected, but where He always belonged: in the Temple, in His Father's house. Bonnie Ware's reflection on life's regrets echoes this moment. Many people realize too late that they spend their lives busy, distracted, and moving forward, yet not always attentive to what matters most.

In the Maronite tradition, this Gospel speaks deeply to our spiritual journey. We are a people formed by prayer, silence, and perseverance, constantly called to return to the presence of God. Like Mary and Joseph, we may begin a new year with plans, resolutions, and good intentions, only to discover that Jesus has quietly been left behind.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Give me, therefore, I pray Thee, this gold, this incense, and this myrrh. Give me the gold of Thy holy love; give me the spirit of holy prayer, give me the desire and strength to mortify myself in everything that displeases Thee. I am resolved to obey Thee and to love Thee; but Thou knowest my weakness, oh, give me the grace to be faithful to Thee!"
St Alphonsus Liguori



The new year invites us to pause and ask: Where have I been searching for meaning? Where do I truly encounter Christ? The answer remains the same, when we make room for Him in prayer, in the Divine Liturgy, in His Word, and in one another.

To live a life without regret is to live a life centered on Christ. It is choosing relationships over routine, faith over busyness, love over fear. Each time we gather and proclaim, "Let us lift up our minds and hearts," we recommit ourselves to placing Jesus at the center of our days. As we step into this new year, may we not wander far before realizing what truly matters. Instead, may we find Jesus early and often in the Temple, in our homes, and

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Email: ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com | **Facebook Page:** Our Lady of Purgatory Catholic Church - Maronite Rite |

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

in the quiet movements of our hearts, and allow Him to shape a life well lived, rooted in hope and oriented toward eternity.

Bonnie Mohn "Living life"

Life is not a race, but indeed a journey. Be Honest. Work Hard. Be choosy. Say "Thank You", "I love you", and "Great Job" to someone each day. Go to Church and take time for prayer.

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh. Let your handshake mean more than pen and paper.

Love your life and what you've been given. It is not accidental. Search for your purpose and do it as best you can. Dreaming does matter. It allows you to become what you aspire to be. Laugh Often.

Appreciate the little things in life and enjoy them. Some of the best things really are FREE.

Do not worry, less wrinkles are more becoming. Forgive, it frees the soul. Take time for yourself. Plan for longevity. Recognize the special people you've been blessed to know. Live for today and enjoy the moment.

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

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.

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

We will celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord on Monday, January 5, at 7:00 PM, followed by coffee and zalabia in the Church Hall. If anyone would like to bring their zalabia please feel free to do so. I will also be blessing Holy Water on that evening.

I will also celebrate Epiphany on Tuesday, January 6, at 9:00 AM. Dayem Dayem!

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of January is offered for the soul of Mansour Barbour requested by Norma Barbour and family.

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.

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-Khoury 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, 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. May her soul rest in peace.

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.

Monday, January 5, @ 7:00 PM, Vigil of the Glorious Epiphany, (Feast of Saint Paul, the First Hermit, Feast of Saint John Neuman).

Tuesday, January 6, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of the Glorious Epiphany).

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

Wednesday, January 7, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of the Praises of Saint John the Baptist).

Thursday, January 8, @ 9:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Carterius the Priest).

Saturday, January 10, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Dan Tavares requested by Lou and Smitty Cabral. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Julia Maroon and her family (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, January 11, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint Theodosius of Antioch). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Octavia David requested by the family (40- Day Mass). May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Walter and Janet Lalor requested by Jimmy Thomas and family. May their souls rest in peace.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

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

LECTORS FOR JANUARY, 2026

Saturday, January 3,

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna and Helen Higgins

Sunday, January 4,

Mae Dickinson / Joumana Chedid

Saturday, January 10,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, January 11,

Ann Dupre / Jano Baroody

Saturday, January 17,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

Sunday, January 18,

Cayla Barbour / Hiba Chdid

Saturday, January 24,

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, January 25,

Rana Choubah / Elie Abou Kheir

Saturday, January 31,

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

(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.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 01/05/26-01/10/26

Monday:

Philippians 3: 7-12

Matthew 11: 25-30

Tuesday:

Titus 2: 11-3:7

Luke 3: 15-22

Wednesday:

Colossians 1: 24-29

Luke 7: 18-30

Thursday:

Colossians 2: 1-7

Matthew 3: 13-17

Friday:

Galatians 5: 2-15

John 5: 31-38

Saturday:

Galatians 5: 16-26

John 5: 39-47

WEEK OF DECEMBER 27-28, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,251.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 2,894.00
New Year Offering	\$ 50.00
Dining Books Sale	\$ 170.00
Donations	\$ 100.00
Total	\$ 4,465.00

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.

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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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