



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



January 17-18, 2026

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Pain and suffering have come into your life, but remember pain, sorrow, suffering are but the Kiss of Jesus – A sign that you have come so close to him that He can kiss you."*

*Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

#### "DO YOU SEE THE PAIN IN PEOPLE'S EYES?"

The season of Epiphany is about seeing. The Magi saw a star others ignored. John the Baptist saw Jesus and proclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God" (John 1:29). Epiphany reminds us that God reveals Himself but only to those who are truly looking.

Yet today, I want to ask a different Epiphany question: Do we see the pain in people's eyes?

We live in a world where people smile easily but suffer deeply. Pain rarely announces itself loudly. It hides behind polite greetings, Sunday clothes, social media posts, and even faithful church attendance. Epiphany calls us not just to see Christ revealed but to see Christ hidden in wounded hearts.

Scripture tells us, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (John 1:9). Light exposes what is hidden not to shame, but to heal. When Christ enters a life, He reveals truth with mercy. When He enters our hearts, He teaches us to see others as He sees them. Jesus had this gift of seeing pain. He looked at Zacchaeus and saw loneliness behind greed (Luke 19). He looked at the

Samaritan woman and saw shame behind sarcasm (John 4).

He looked at Peter after the denial not with condemnation, but with love that broke his heart open (Luke 22:61).

People often say, "No one understands what I'm going through." But Epiphany proclaims that God sees, and He invites us to become His eyes.

#### A Real-Life Story

I once met a man who never missed Mass. He was always polite, always helpful, always smiling. Many admired his faith. One day, after years of seeing him, I simply asked, "How are you really?" His eyes filled with tears. He said, "no one has asked me that in years." He had lost his wife, was estranged from his children, and lived in quiet despair. His pain was invisible until someone chose to see.

That moment taught me something powerful: Sometimes the greatest act of faith is paying attention. Epiphany teaches us that God does not reveal Himself only through miracles and stars but through compassion, presence, and attentive love. St. Paul reminds us, "Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). But we cannot carry burdens we refuse to notice.

**Practically speaking,** seeing pain means:

Listening without rushing to fix it. Not judging what we don't understand. Being patient with people seems difficult because pain often speaks through frustration. Offering presence instead of answers.

**Emotionally,** it means allowing ourselves to be moved. Jesus Himself "was moved with compassion" (Matthew 9:36). If we never feel disturbed by another's suffering, we are not yet seeing with God's eyes. Epiphany is not only about Christ being revealed to us, it is about Christ being revealed through us. When we notice pain, when we respond with mercy, when we choose kindness over indifference, the light of Christ shines again in the world.

**So, this Epiphany, we should ask ourselves:**

Who around me is carrying silent pain? Whose eyes have I passed without really seeing?

How can I let Christ's light pass through me today? Because sometimes, the greatest revelation is not a star in the sky but rather a tear in someone's eye that finally meets love.

"Arise, shine; for your light has come" (Isaiah 60:1). And that light begins when we choose to truly see.

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

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

**Office Email:** [officeolop@gmail.com](mailto:officeolop@gmail.com)

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

## 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](mailto:officeolop@gmail.com)

## 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, please contact the office.

## 2025 TAX CONTRIBUTION LETTERS

If you would like a letter from the Church for your 2025 tax contributions, please contact the Church office at:

(508)-996-8934 or by email at [officeolop@gmail.com](mailto:officeolop@gmail.com) and we will prepare this letter for your tax records. This can only be done for those who use envelopes and/or pay with checks as these are the only way we can record them in our system. Thank you for your support.

## SAVE THE DATE KIBBEE DAY

We will be preparing Kibbee for Saint Maron's Hafli on Tuesday, January 27, at 10:30 AM, in the Church Hall. Your help is greatly appreciated.

## 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 5 yrs./general seating):  
No Charge

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

**2026 NATIONAL MYO CONFERENCE**  
**SAVE THE DATES**

**ChatGOD**  
THE ANSWERS YOU NEED

**JUN 23** **JUN 28**

**UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON**



## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, January 17, @ 4:30 PM,**  
(Feast of Saint Anthony the Great). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Diana Rahme and Muriel Espinasse requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nancy David (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, January 18, @ 10:30 AM,**  
(Feast of the Establishment of the Chair of Saint Peter in Rome, Feast of Saint Athanasius of Alexandria, Doctor of the Church, Feast of Saint Cyril of Alexandria, Doctor of the Church). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Samir and Georgette Sawaya requested by Zakhia and Hiba Chdid family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Nader requested by Joann Longdon. May his soul rest in peace.

**Tuesday, January 20, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Euthymius the Great).  
**From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration.**

**Wednesday, January 21, @ 9:00 AM,**  
(Feast of Saint Sebastian). Liturgy is being offered for Mariam David and the living and deceased members of her family requested by Mariam David and family.

**Thursday, January 15, @ 9:00 PM,**  
(Feast of Saint Timothy, Disciple of Saint Paul).

**Saturday, January 17, @ 4:30 PM,**  
(Feast of Saint Francis de Sale, Doctor of the Church). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Octavia David requested by the Kenyon family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Mary Saba requested by the family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, January 18, @ 10:30 AM,**  
(Feast of the Conversation of Saint Paul). **Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy.** Liturgy is being offered for all souls in the Book of Life. May all the souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Abouna Boutros Nasr requested by Jean and Joumana Chedid family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Margueritte Chedid requested by the family. May her soul rest in peace.

## 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 January is offered for the soul of Mansour Barbour requested by Norma Barbour and family.

## 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 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).



St. Francis Xavier School  
Acushnet, MA

## SAVE-THE-DATE Open House

**JOIN US SUNDAY 1/25 FROM 12-2:00PM!**

- Take a tour
- Meet our amazing teachers
- Applications open for new families on Feb. 2nd




## WEEK OF JANUARY 10-11, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,300.00
Epiphany Offering	\$ 20.00
Dining Books Sale	\$ 185.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 135.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,640.00</b>

**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

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ham & Bean Supper

**5:30pm Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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.*

*Your Loving Children*

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