



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



January 24-25, 2026

SUNDAY OF THE PRIESTS



BLESSED KARL OF AUSTRIA CAUSE FOR CANONIZATION USA / CANADA

Will who is a junior at Thomas Aquinas College in Northfield, MA, is working for the Gebetsliga, which is the North American branch of the canonization process for Blessed Karl of Austria.

Currently, the Gebetsliga is hosting a nine-month novena of masses and Divine Liturgies in honor of Blessed Karl in Massachusetts. He has asked us to host one of these novena masses on Wednesday, January 28, at 6:30 PM. This day also coincides with the Feast of Saint Ephrem.

This would consist of an ordinary Divine Liturgy, a novena prayer, and then a short talk on Blessed Karl. I hope many of you will be able to attend and to learn more about Blessed Karl of Austria. His life is quite remarkable. I have shared a little of his life below.

Blessed Karl of Austria (1887-1922) was undeterred in his commitment to follow Christ, and the circumstances of his life provided numerous opportunities for the Austro-Hungarian emperor to take up his cross and do just that. Karl's young adulthood was spent pursuing education

in politics and law alongside training as a military officer. He had become comfortable with the life of a prince who was not destined for high office.

From his earliest years, Blessed Karl was formed in the ways of faith, which only grew in his young adult years. Personally, he was known to be kind, humble and modest — a quintessential gentleman. A man of prayer, Blessed Karl was devoted to the Lord, especially in the Blessed Sacrament, and he was known to make several visits to the chapel daily.

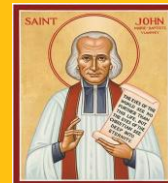
The faith of Blessed Karl was well-matched in the young Princess Zita of Bourbon-Parma. Together they recognized the most important service spouses perform for each other, as Blessed Karl told the future empress on their wedding day in 1911: "Now, we must help each other to get to heaven." After his 2004 beatification, Blessed Karl's feast day was set for their wedding anniversary, Oct. 21. There is now an open cause for his wife's canonization.

As is so in God's ways, the course of Blessed Karl's life unfolded in an unexpected manner. He was not supposed to inherit the throne from his great-uncle. Rather, the crown was destined for his

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The priest holds the key to the treasures of heaven: it is he who opens the door: he is the steward of the good Lord; the administrator of His goods [...] The priest is not a priest for himself; he is a priest for you."

St. Jean Vianney



uncle, Archduke Franz Ferdinand. But his death in 1914 — which was the impetus for World War I — caused the crown to fall upon Blessed Karl.

As a Catholic monarch, he embraced his office as the will of God. Informed by the Church's social teaching, the emperor sought at all costs to promote peace, equality and justice in the midst of a world at war. This came along with a great personal price.

Blessed Karl abhorred war: he could not understand why anyone would desire it. The merciless greed and quenchless thirst for power that fuels war's desire for conquest and domination was foreign to him. He was a gentle soul, one who thirsted above all for true and lasting peace. That dedication was unpopular and eventually cost him his life.

As his empire unraveled at the conclusion of the war in 1918, Blessed Karl did not greedily cling to the power of his office and relinquished any role he had in the government. He knew, above all, that

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.

God's providence entrusted him with the office to be of service to his people.

This was no failure on the part of Blessed Karl. The world tragically rejected his prophetic voice of conscience as the modernist and secular winds of society — post Enlightenment — were shifting its aim to eliminate the Church's voice, especially in temporal affairs.

Blessed Karl never abdicated, for that he saw as a rejection of God's will, but he twice attempted to regain his office. As democracy took hold of his realm, he was forced into exile. The royal family was exiled first to Switzerland and then eventually to the Portuguese island of Madeira. This remote location was chosen to prevent a third attempt to reclaim his realm.

His final years of suffering were embraced by Blessed Karl as an opportunity for him to offer up for the good of his people. He united himself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who knew what it was like to be mistreated, looked down upon and slandered. His new-found poverty came with a price for his health. Weakened by two heart attacks, Blessed Karl died at age 34 after a final bout with pneumonia that was brought on by his weakened health and the cold and damp climate of his exile.

His feast day is Oct. 21.

SECOND COLLECTION

Per the directive of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, there will be a second collection this weekend. This collection is taken up for the United States Catholic Bishops' Worldwide Charities. Thank you for your generosity and help.

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 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.



LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 24, @ 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 25, @ 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.

Tuesday, January 27, @ 9:00 AM,
(Feast of Saint Paula). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Robert and Margaret Lizotte (FM). May Their souls rest in peace.

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

Wednesday, January 28, @ 6:30 PM,
(Feast of Saint Ephrem, Doctor of the church).

Thursday, January 29, @ 9:00 PM,
(Feast of Saint Hippolytus of Antioch).

Saturday, January 31, @ 4:30 PM,
(Feast of Saint John Bosco). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Octavia David requested by Mariam David. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Mary Kenyon requested by the family. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, February 1, @ 10:30 AM,
(Feast of Saint Pionius and His Companions). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Louise Dupre requested by the family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Octavia David requested by Ida Farhat. May her soul rest in peace.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention. 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 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, please contact the office.

LECTORS FOR JANUARY,

FEBRUARY, 2026

Saturday, January 24,

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, January 25,

Rana Choubah / Elie Abou Kheir

Saturday, January 31,

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

Sunday, February 1,

Ann Dupre / Joumana Chedid

Saturday, February 7,

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, February 8,

Rana Choubah / Jano Baroody

Monday, February 9, @ 7:00 PM,

Feast of Saint Maron

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

Saturday, February 14,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

Sunday, February 15,

Cayla Barbour / Gaby Baroody

Saturday, February 21,

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

Sunday, February 22,

Mae Dickinson / Elie Abou Kheir

Saturday, February 28,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

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

OPEN HOUSE



ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA SCHOOL

JOIN US!

Tuesday, January 27

6 PM - 8 PM



All Are Welcome!

Scan to learn more!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

WEEK OF JANUARY 17-18, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,015.00
Donations	\$ 1,250.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 400.00
Dining Books Sale	\$ 85.00
Ham And Bean Tickets	\$ 20.00
Total	\$ 2,770.00

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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Joseph & Marie Kenyon

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