



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



February 7-8, 2026

SUNDAY OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED FEAST OF SAINT MARON

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.



May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.



Saint Maron
Patron of Maronite Catholics
Priest, Hermit, Mystic & Healer
c. 350 - 410
Memorial - 9 February

Before the Maronite Church leads us into the Great Fast, she once again invites us to pause. Not to rush. Not to prepare lists of sacrifices. But to remember with hope. We remember the faithful departed our parents and grandparents, spouses and children, friends and neighbors, those who walked with us in faith and now rest in the mercy of God.

We pray for our faithful departed because love does not end at death. In the Maronite tradition, death is not a wall, it is a passage. The Church teaches us that those who have died in Christ are still part of us. To pray for the departed is to say: "You are still my mother. You are still my father. You are still my loved one." Our prayers do not disturb their rest. They complete our love. They Shaped Who We Are. The faithful departed are not strangers to us. They are written into our lives. They taught us how to pray. They carried us to church. They passed down faith through quiet example. They stood by us in moments of joy and suffering. Many of them were not famous. Most were never publicly recognized. Yet they lived holiness in ordinary ways.

The Church remembers them because faith is inherited before it is chosen.

Why Remember Them Before Lent?

Because Lent is a journey of the heart. Before we examine our sins, the Church invites us to examine our roots. We remember those who: forgave us when we failed, loved us when we were difficult, taught us perseverance through hardship. Their lives become a mirror, asking us: "How will your faith be remembered?"

At every Qorbono, we pray: "Remember, O Lord, the faithful departed..." This is not symbolic language. It is a declaration of faith. Those we love are not absent. They are present in a new way. Our prayers lift them, and their lives continue to shape us.

There is a reason why certain names still bring tears. Why certain voices echo in our memory. Why certain graves still feel close.

To remember the faithful departed is not weakness. It is faith. What This Commemoration Teaches Us: It teaches us: that death does not have the final word, that mercy is stronger than judgment that memory is sacred, it teaches us that the Church is bigger than what we see. So, we should "Live well. Forgive freely. Don't judge. Pray often. Trust God completely." Their lives invite us to walk Lent not with fear, but with

hope.

As we remember the faithful departed, we place them gently into God's mercy, the same mercy we will one day need. May their memory be eternal. May their souls rest in peace, and may their faith guide us as we enter the Great Fast with humility, repentance, and hope.

Saint Maron, father of our Church and witness to hope, pray for the faithful departed we remember today. Entrust them to the mercy of God, that they may be forgiven, healed, and welcomed into the light of eternal life. Strengthen us who still journey on earth, that our grief may be filled with hope, and our lives with faithfulness. Lead us all to the joy of the resurrection, where Christ lives and reigns forever.

DIVINE LITURGY FEAST OF SAINT MARON

Divine liturgy for the Feast of Saint Maron will be held on Monday, February 9, at 7:00 PM. This is a Holy Day of Obligation as we celebrate the father of our church. I look forward to seeing you all here.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"If during life, we have been kind
to the suffering souls in
Purgatory, God will see that help
be not denied us after death."*
Saint Paul of the Cross



Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon
Address: 4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA 02745

Office: 508-996-8934 | Fax: 774-202-0758 | Evening Emergency Number: 561-371-5316 | Website: www.ourladyofpurgatory.org
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.

ASH MONDAY SERVICES



As we approach the Season of Lent, this is a friendly reminder that Ash Monday services will be held on Monday, February 16, 2026. There will be two Liturgies that day. The first one will be held at 11:00 AM and the second will be held at 7:00 PM.

OBSERVANCE

The Most Reverend Bishops Gregory Mansour and Elias Zaidan have issued the following Lenten guidelines for the Maronites of the U.S.:

- All Maronites who are physically capable are to abstain from meat on Ash Monday and all Fridays of Lent.
- Ash Monday and Great Friday of the Crucifixion are also days of fasting. Fasting in the Maronite Church involves eating and drinking nothing at all (except water and medicine) from midnight until noon. The rest of the day normal meals can be taken, but without meat. All Maronites who are physically capable are to fast on these two days.

Personal Devotion

Clergy, religious, and laity who wish to observe the more traditional Maronite practice of fasting and abstinence are encouraged to do so. That practice is summarized in the following, taken from the Synod of Mt. Lebanon (1736):

Every weekday of Lent (Monday through Friday) is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products (eggs, butter, milk, etc.) Fasting involves eating and drinking nothing at all (except water and medicine) from midnight until noon.

The rest of the day normal meals can be taken, but without meat or dairy products. Dairy products are excluded because they are animal products. Saturdays and Sundays are exempt from fasting and abstaining as are the following feast days: The 40 Martyrs- March 9, St. Joseph- March 19, and the Annunciation- March 25.

FISH FRY FRIDAYS

Fish Fry Fridays are here once again. We will begin Friday Lenten Dinners on Friday, February 20, beginning at 5:00 PM and ending at 8:00 PM. Fish Fry Fridays will be held every Friday during Lent. Tickets are available for purchase by contacting the office at: 508-996-8934 or by email to: officeolop@gmail.com You may join us before or after Stations/Adoration of the cross.

2026 DINING BOOKS STILL AVAILABLE

Our 2026 Dining Books are still available for sale. Although the first event has passed, there are still five other dining events in the book. Instead of the \$85.00 for the six events, the books are being sold for \$70.00 for the remaining 5 events. They will consist of three Fish Fry's, 1 Italian Dinner, and 1 Saj Sunday. If you would like to purchase a dining book, please contact the office, Joe Barckett, or Matthew Thomas.

LENTE WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saint Anthony of the Desert Maronite Church, 300 N. Eastern Ave, Fall River, MA is hosting a Lenten Women's Retreat on Saturday, March 7, 2026 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at our Saint Sharbel Maronite Center. This one-day retreat is open to all women. The guest speaker will be **Johnnette Williams** of EWTN program **WOMEN OF GRACE**. A donation of \$40.00 per person is requested and a continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Through reflection on our Blessed Mother and her accompaniment of Christ during His Passion, this retreat will serve as a spiritually nourishing way to enter into Great Lent. Please see the enclosed flyer for registration details.



FUTURE HALL PLANS



Dear Parishioners of OLOP:

Last week I made an announcement that we would be doing a face lift in our Church Hall. Below you will see a rendition for our hall. The work that will be done will consist of painting, flooring, window treatments, lighting, and interior doors near the classrooms.

We will be doing the painting ourselves with the help of anyone who is willing. We have already received donations for all eight chandeliers. The flooring will cost \$27,000.00 as shown in the drawing below. We have decided not to go with carpeting. The window treatments will cost \$5,000.00.

By doing this work, we will have the opportunity to begin renting this space which will help the church throughout the year with our expenses. It will also give us a beautiful space to host our many functions.

To accomplish this, we need donations for the flooring and window treatments. If you would like to donate to this project, I would greatly appreciate this. Once we have most of the money needed, we can then begin this project.

I would like to thank Kyra Chomak for her help and vision for this project.

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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 7, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Pope Saint Anterus I). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Dan Tavares requested by Philip and Jano Baroody. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of David David requested by the family (FM). May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, February 8, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Zechariah the Prophet). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Donna Poirier requested by Ida Farhat. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for all the intentions and names of the Christmas flowers.

Monday, February 9, @ 7:00 PM, Feast of Saint Maron.

Tuesday, February 10, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Apollonia).

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

Wednesday, February 11, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Our Lady of Lourd, Feast of Saint Charalampus).

Thursday, February 12, @ 9:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Meletius of Antioch).

Saturday, February 14, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Feast of Saint Valentine the Priest).

Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph M. Thomas requested by the Hitchings family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Rose Sinicropi Terres requested by Ida Farhat. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, February 8, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saints Faustinus and Jovita, Feast of the 21 Coptic Martyrs of Libya). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Regis and Marthe Valois requested by Reggie Thomas and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Maria Pinto requested by Maria and Marco Sousa. May her soul rest in peace.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of February is offered to all the deceased members of our family requested by Lou and Smitty Cabral.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSON)

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 for a special intention by Zakhia and Hiba Chdid. 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 FEBRUARY, 2026

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).

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.

WEEK OF JANUARY 31- FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,503.00
January Online Giving	\$ 856.47
Hafla Donations	\$ 220.00
Hall Renovation	\$ 200.00
Wine And Host	\$ 75.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 31.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 20.00
Total	\$ 2,905.47

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.



BARBERSHOP x LOUNGE



EST. 2022



Christophe Chedid
Barbershop Owner



+1 (508) 343 - 0099



chedidcuts@gmail.com



@chedidcuts



578 Dartmouth St.
South Dartmouth, MA 02748

M & S Excavation



Milad Maalouf

Licensed

LAND CLEARING • SITE WORK
ROADS • SEPTIC SYSTEMS

134 Old Westport Road
N. Dartmouth, MA 02747

508-971-0067
Fax 508-991-5631

CYCLONE CLEANING & RESTORATION SERVICES



◆ Carpets & Upholstery

◆ Commercial/Residential Cleaning

◆ Smoke/Water Damage

◆ Washing/Waxing/Stripping Floors

Call the company you've counted on
for years — CALL CYCLONE!

Anthony David • 508-995-8816

833 Mount Pleasant Street • New Bedford, MA 02745
www.CycloneCleaning.com

FULL SERVICE SALON

Wassim Chedid
401-837-0664
Tuesday & Thurs
1-6pm
Saturday
1-5pm



Zakhia Chedid
774-444-3337
Monday,
Wednesday &
Friday
1-6pm

WWW.HEADSOFSATESALON.COM
North Dartmouth, MA
653 State Road (Route 6) • 508-999-0177



Wassim Chedid 401-837-0664
Tuesday & Saturday..... 9-12:30pm
Wednesday & Friday..... 9-6pm

Zakhia Chedid 774-444-3337
Monday & Friday..... 9-12:30pm
Tuesday & Thursday..... 9-6pm
Saturday 9-4pm

401-831-9536 • WWW.SALONPERSIA.COM



Complete Automotive Repair
Foreign / Domestic
State Inspection Station

Eli Nassif

508-998-3445

Fax 508-998-9549

4227 Acushnet Ave.

New Bedford, MA 02745



We Sell Diesel Fuel

Counseling ASSOCIATES

152 Dean Street, Taunton, MA
508-837-0790

For all your jewelry needs

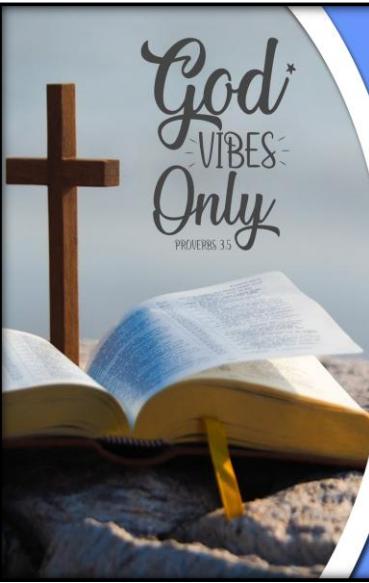


Your Trusted Jeweler
for over 28 years

508-992-5320

Located: 279 State Rd. Dartmouth, MA 02747

www.aa jewelersinc.com



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

OVER 75 YEARS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE CRAFTSMANSHIP



www.duprecontractors.com

DUPRE
INC.

BLOCK • BRICK • GLASS BLOCK

BLUESTONE • FIELDSTONE • COBBLESTONE

Cutting and Core Drill • Driveways
Steel Fabrication and Installation
Handicap Access

508-993-8088

369 Nash Rd. • New Bedford