



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



February 14- 15, 2026

### MIRACLE AT CANA IN GALILEE



#### THE EUCHARIST IS THE ANTIDOTE FOR SINS

In one week, we step into the holy season of Lent. The Church does not rush us into it; she gently invites us. Lent is not a punishment, not a season of guilt, and certainly not a time to prove how strong or disciplined we are. Lent is a season of return, a return to God, to truth, and to the parts of our hearts we often avoid. That is why it is so fitting that, as we prepare for Lent, we gather in Eucharistic Adoration and proclaim that the Eucharist is the antidote for sins. An antidote is not given to the healthy. It is given to the wounded, the poisoned, the weak. The Eucharist is not a reward for the perfect; it is medicine for the sinner.

#### LENT BEGINS BY HELPING US NAME THE TRUTH:

We are wounded by sin, sometimes by our own choices, sometimes by habits we've carried for years, sometimes by exhaustion, resentment, or quiet compromises we've made with ourselves. Sin is not just "breaking rules." Sin dulls our love, weakens our joy, and distances us from who God created us to be. And here is the hope: God does not respond to our sin with distance. He responds with presence.

In the Eucharist, Christ does not lecture us. He does not shame us. He gives Himself. He enters precisely the places in us that are fractured. The same Jesus who healed the sick and forgave sinners now waits for us in silence, saying without words:

"Come to me as you are. Let me heal what you cannot fix."

Lent, then, is not about trying harder on our own. It is about placing ourselves more honestly before the Lord, especially before the Lord present in the Eucharist. Adoration trains our hearts for repentance. Sitting before Him, we begin to see ourselves clearly, but gently. We recognize what needs to change, not because we are afraid, but because we are loved.

#### PRACTICALLY, THIS IS WHAT LENT INVITES OF US:

To slow down enough to notice what is poisoning our hearts.

To confess our sins, trusting that God's mercy is greater than our weakness.

To fast from what numbs us and feed on what truly gives life.

To return again and again to the Eucharist, the true antidote, the medicine of immortality.

If we enter Lent without the Eucharist, we rely on willpower.

If we enter Lent with the Eucharist, we rely on grace.

As we prepare for this sacred season, let us ask for one simple grace: the courage to come before the Lord honestly and the humility to let Him heal us. May this coming Lent not make us heavier with guilt, but lighter with mercy. And may the Eucharist, the antidote for our sins restore us, strengthen us, and lead us back to the joy of repentant and forgiven hearts.

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Fasting cleanses the soul, raises the mind, subjects one's flesh to the spirit, renders the heart contrite and humble, scatters the clouds of concupiscence, quenches the fire of lust, kindles the tree light of chastity".  
Saint Augustine*



#### MANY THANKS

I'd like to thank all who made the Feast of Saint Maron Hafli a great success. It was a beautiful evening that was the result of the Holy Spirit in every way you can imagine. May God bless those who prepared, worked, donated, and supported with many blessings. May God bless this beautiful community of OLOP.

#### ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL

The Annual Bishop's Appeal has now begun. Every year our Parish is asked to raise \$3,500.00 to the Bishop's Appeal. This money assists in educating our Seminarians, helping the retired clergy of our Eparchy, sending funds to Lebanon, and to replenish the Eparchy's Endowment Fund.

You have been generous throughout the years in reaching our goal. I thank you in advance for your help this year. There will also be a second collection in during Lent to help us reach this goal. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

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

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**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.**

## 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

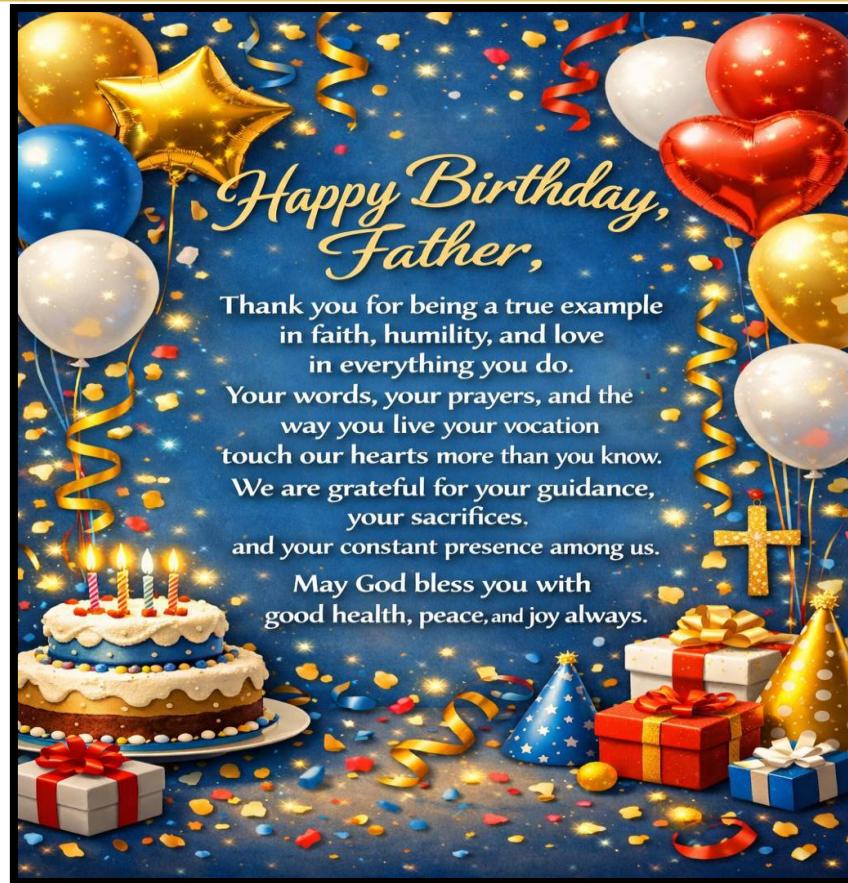
Clergy, religious, and laity who wish to observe the more traditional Maronite practice of fasting and abstinence are encouraged to do so. That practice is summarized in the following, taken from the Synod of Mt. Lebanon (1736):

*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.*

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS/ ADORATION OF THE CROSS

Beginning Friday, **February 20**, we will begin Stations of the Cross/Adoration of the Cross. We will have services every Friday during Lent with **English** service at **12:00 noon** and **English/Arabic** service at **7:00 PM**. Hope you will join us.



### 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](mailto: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.

### 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.

### LENTEN 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.



## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**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 15, @ 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. Liturgy is being offered for a special intention requested by Zakhia and Hiba Chdid. May your intention be answered.

**Monday, February 16, @ 11:00 AM, and @ 7:00 PM, Ash Monday Services. (Feast of Saint Theodore the Soldier).**

**Tuesday, February 17, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Agapitus, Bishop of Synnada).**

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

**Wednesday, February 18, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint Leo the Great, Doctor of the Church). NO LITURGY.**

**Thursday, February 19, @ 9:00 PM, (Feast of the 500 Martyrs of Tyre). NO LITURGY.**

**Friday, February 20, Station of the Cross/ Adoration of the Cross, @ 12:00 PM, English and @ 7:00 PM, English / Arabic.**

**Saturday, February 21, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Eustathius, Patriarch of Antioch).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Olivia Smith requested by Lou and Smitty Cabral. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Robert Abreham requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, February 22, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of the Establishment of the Chair of Saint Peter in Antioch). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy.** Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in the Book of Life. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Mary (Peter) Barckett, Diane (Barckett) Moses and Joey Moses requested by the Barckett family. May their souls rest in peace.

## 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.

### 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.

### LECTORS FOR FEBRUARY, 2026

**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.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESION)

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

## 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.

### WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7-8, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 937.00
Hall Renovation	\$ 1,000.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 10.00
Candles	\$ 93.00
Total	\$ 2,040.00

**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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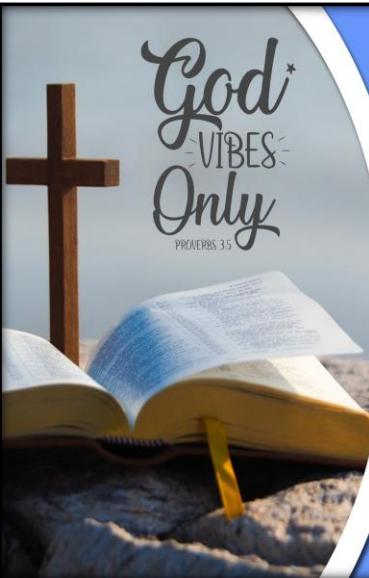


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