



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

February 21- 22, 2026

HEALING OF THE LEPER



The Morning Star appears while the night is still heavy when darkness seems to have the final word. It does not eliminate the night, but it announces that the night is ending. This is how the Church understands Mary. She rises quietly in a broken world, not drawing attention to herself, but pointing beyond herself to the coming of the Sun. In moments when faith feels fragile and hope seems distant, Mary reminds us that God is already at work, even when we cannot yet see the full light. Lent places us in this same space, a season when the world still feels dark, yet the promise of redemption is already shining. Like the Morning Star, we are called to live as signs of hope: steady, faithful, and oriented toward Christ. We may not banish the darkness on our own, but by staying close to the true Light, we announce to the world that dawn is near. Christ is the Sun, the true Light of the world, the source of truth, life, and salvation. When we walk by His light, we see clearly who we are and where we are going. But when that light is ignored or replaced, darkness quietly takes over. We recognize that darkness today: confusion instead of truth, noise instead of wisdom, fear instead of hope. Lent confronts us

with an honest question: *What light is guiding my life?* This holy season calls us to turn back toward the Sun of Righteousness before the shadows convince us they are normal.

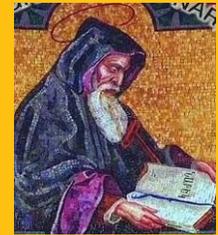
A man once shared how, during a long season of depression and loss, he stopped praying not out of rebellion, but out of exhaustion. Life didn't fall apart overnight, but slowly everything grew darker. Decisions became heavier. Hope felt distant. One night, unable to sleep, he stepped outside just before sunrise. The sky was still dark, but one bright star remained. It wasn't daylight yet, but it was enough to remind him that the night was ending. That morning, he whispered his first prayer in months. Nothing changed instantly but the direction did.

Mary appears in this story as the Morning Star and the Dawn. She rises while the night is still present, not to draw attention to herself, but to announce that the Sun is near. She does not chase away the darkness by force; she remains faithful, trusting the promise of God. Through her "yes," the long night begins to break. Like that single star in the dark sky, Mary reminds us that God is already at work even when the world still looks dark.

Lent places us precisely in that moment not yet at Easter morning, but no longer in the deepest night. Like Mary, we are called to live as people of the Morning Star: resisting the darkness, choosing hope, and orienting our lives toward Christ. When we allow His light to rise within us through repentance, FORGIVENESS, prayer, and trust, the shadows begin to lose their power. The Dawn has come, the Sun is rising, and the world is not as dark as it once was if only, we choose to walk in the Light.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

In the face of my darkness, You are light. In the face of mortality, You are life.
Saint Gregory of Narek



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.

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**. I Hope you will be able join us.

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.

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.

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.

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.

MARONITE HERITAGE DAY

The Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light will be having Maronite Heritage Day at Our Lady of Purgatory Church on Saturday, February 28, from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Dinner will be served as well. I look forward to seeing all of our youth here.

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.

PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE

We will be having our annual Palm Sunday Bakesale on Saturday, March 28, and Sunday, March 29, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Pre-order forms will be available next week.

Our Lady Of Purgatory Church
Palm Sunday Bake Sale
Saturday, March 28 - Sunday, March 29
AFTER LITURGIES
MAAMOUL
BAKLAWA
KAAK
GHRYABEE
And Assorted Pastries
4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA 02745

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

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.

SAVE THE DATE!
MYO RETREAT
2026
March 20-22
Where: Our Lady of Mercy Maronite Church
341 June St, Worcester, MA 01602
Who: 9-12 graders
QUESTIONS?
CONTACT SOPHIE ELHALLAL
(240) 708-9987
SOPHIE.ELHALLAL@GMAIL.COM
REGISTRATION
COMING SOON!

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.

Lenten Women's Retreat
in the Footsteps of Mary:
Walking the Way of the Cross
This one-day retreat is open to all women and will be led by Johnnette Williams of the EWTN program Women of Grace.
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.
Saturday, March 7th 2026
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Saint Anthony of the Desert Maronite Church
Saint Sharbel Maronite Center
Your Talk by Johnnette Williams
Maronite Morning Prayer at 9:15 AM and Eucharist at 1:00 PM
Continental Breakfast and Lunch provided
Donation \$40.00
Register online at <https://www.womenofgrace.com/retreat>
or by calling St. Anthony of the Desert (508) 872-0924

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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 Abraham 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.

Tuesday, February 24, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Margaret the Penitent). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Vincent Caporale requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

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

Wednesday, February 25, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint Felix III). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Beverly Granger requested by Ida Farhat. May her soul rest in peace.

Thursday, February 26, @ 9:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Alexander, Patriarch of Alexandria). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Ed Castellani requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

Friday, February 27, Station of the Cross/ Adoration of the Cross, @ 12:00 PM, English and @ 7:00 PM, English / Arabic.

Saturday, February 28, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saints Koura and Marana, Disciples of Saint Maron). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Susan and Amy Cabral requested by Lou and Smitty Cabral. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Cathy Claypool requested by Ida Farhat. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, March 1, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Domnina, Disciple of Saint Maron, Feast of Saint Eudokia (Afdakia) of Baalbek). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Georgette and Samir Sawaya requested by Zakhia and Hiba Chdid family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Erin Pecotte requested by Ida Farhat. May her soul rest in peace.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Ashley Leaver, 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 FEBRUARY, 2026

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).

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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 14-15, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,489.00
Holy Day Collection	\$ 353.00
Hall Donation	\$ 1,300.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 200.00
Lebanese Market	\$ 40.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 38.00
Total	\$ 3,380.00

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.

You are cordially invited to our
Lenten Taizé Service
Connecting the dots... from Christmas to Easter

Repent and Believe... your redemption is at hand
Sunday, February 22, 2026
7 p.m.
St. John Neumann Parish
157 Middleboro Road, E. Freetown, MA

BARBERSHOP x LOUNGE

CHEDID Cuts

EST.  2022



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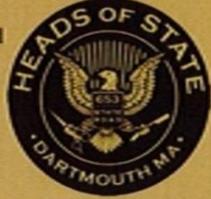


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Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD's Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing day.

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