



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

February 28- March 1, 2026

HEALING OF THE HEMORRHAGING WOMAN



A question that echoes every Lent, and especially in troubled times, is this: What fasting is truly pleasing to God? Is it only about refraining from food? Or is it simply refraining from vice? Scripture gives us a deeper and more demanding answer.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God speaks clearly: "Is this the fast that I choose: to lose the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free, to share your bread with the hungry?" (Isaiah 58). The fasting that pleases God is not a performance, not a ritual we complete, and not a diet we temporarily adopt. It is a transformation of the heart that becomes visible in the way we live, speak, and lead. True fasting certainly includes refraining from vice. We fast from anger, gossip, pride, greed, impurity, dishonesty, and indifference. We fast from harsh words and from the need to win every argument. We fast from the temptation to place ourselves at the center. But Christian fasting does not stop at avoiding sin. It moves beyond subtraction into addition. We fast from selfishness so that we may feast on generosity. We fast from noise so that we may listen to God. We fast from judgment so that we may grow in mercy.

Our Lord Jesus Himself, before beginning His public ministry, fasted forty days in the wilderness. In the Gospel according to Gospel of Matthew, we see that His fasting prepared Him to resist temptation and to remain faithful to the Father's will. His fast was not empty deprivation; it was communion, obedience, and trust. That is the pattern for us. Fasting is pleasing to God when it draws us closer to Him and makes us more like Christ. And how urgently the world needs this kind of fasting today.

We live in a time marked by division, violence, injustice, and confusion. Nations struggle, communities' fracture, families are strained. Leaders in politics, business, and even religious life are often tempted by power, pride, and self-interest. In such a climate, fasting becomes prophetic. It becomes a silent but powerful protest against corruption of heart.

Imagine if those entrusted with leadership fasted from dishonesty and embraced truth. If they fasted from seeking dominance and chose service instead. If they fasted from manipulation and committed to integrity. The world would begin to heal. But we cannot wait for "them." The change must begin with us. True fasting starts in the hidden places of the soul.

When we fast in a way that pleases God, our homes change. Our parishes change. Our workplaces change. A father who fasts from impatience becomes a source of peace. A mother who fasts from resentment becomes a fountain of tenderness. A priest who fasts from ego becomes a transparent instrument of Christ. A leader who fasts from self-glory becomes a servant.

Fasting is not about punishing the body; it

is about purifying the heart. It is not about proving our strength; it is about admitting our need for God. It teaches us that we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. It reminds us that everything we cling to in excess can become an idol. So what fasting is pleasing to God? It is the fasting that makes us more just, more merciful, more humble, more courageous. It is the fasting that opens our hands to the poor and our hearts to forgiveness. It is the fasting that unites prayer, sacrifice, and charity.

In a world hungry for authenticity and weary of empty words, may our fasting speak. May it declare that God alone is enough. And may it begin not with condemnation of others, but with conversion of our own hearts.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Three short years ago, on March 2, 2023, we purchased our new Parish Complex on Acushnet Avenue. Over the past three years, through the Grace of God and the hard work of our Parishioners, we have totally renovated the Church and Rectory and upgraded the landscaping. We have used the Parish Center to host Festivals, Hafli's, Bazaars, and a host of fundraising and social events. We have built on our foundation of faith to provide a beautiful new home for the present, and a place for our youth to grow into the future. We have also begun planning the renovations to transform the Parish Center into a place that will not only meet our needs but provide additional income opportunities through rentals. None of this would have been possible without the blessings of Our Lord, and your dedication. Happy Anniversary!

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.

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.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of March is offered in memory of Samir and Georgette Sawaya requested by Zakhia and Hiba Chdid.

CHOIR PRACTICE

We invite all interested people to choir practice beginning **Wednesday, March 11, from 6:30-8:00 PM**. Practices will take place every Wednesday evening in the Church. Please consider joining our Liturgical Music Ministry as we begin to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

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.

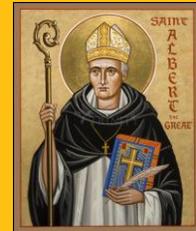
PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE

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

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

It is by the path of love, which is charity, that God draws near to man and man to God. But where charity is not found, God cannot dwell. If, then, we possess charity, we possess God, for is charity. (1 John 4:8)

Saint Albert the Great



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.

Palm Sunday Bake Sale



Our Lady Of Purgatory Church

Palm Sunday Bake Sale

Saturday, March 28 - Sunday, March 29
AFTER LITURGIES

MAAMOUL

BAKLAWA

KAAK

GHRAYBEE

And Assorted Pastries

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Pistachios : \$12.00 x Qty: ----- = \$-----

KAAK: (1/2 DOZEN).

Plain : \$ 8.00 x Qty: ----- = \$-----

Dates : \$ 10.00 x Qty: ----- = \$-----

GHRIBEE: (1/2 DOZEN).

6 pieces : \$8.00 x Qty: ----- = \$-----

BIKLAWA: (1/2 DOZEN).

6 pieces : \$10.00 x Qty: ----- = \$-----

TOTAL = \$----- Cash Check Credit/Debit

You can submit your orders by email at: officeolop@gmail.com

Or by calling the office: 508-996-8934 or online on the Church website: www.ourladyofpurgatory.org.



LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Tuesday, March 3, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church, Feast of Saint Katharine Drexel). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Richard Whitner requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

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

Wednesday, March 4, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Paul and His Sister, Saint Juliana). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Julia Maroon requested by her family. May her soul rest in peace.

Thursday, March 5, @ 9:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Albert the Great, Doctor of the Church). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Florence Dyer requested by the family. May her soul rest in peace.

Friday, March 6, Station of the Cross/ Adoration of the Cross, @ 12:00 PM, English and @ 7:00 PM, English/ Arabic.

Saturday, March 7, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of the Seven Young Men of Ephesus). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Marie Kenyon requested by family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Art Irish requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, March 8, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Frances of Rome). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Theresa Macedo requested by the family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Frank Olivieri. May his 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, MARCH, 2026

Saturday, February 28,

Annemarie Espindola
Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, March 1,

Ann Dupree / Hiba Chdid

Saturday, March 7,

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, March 8,

Rana Choubah / Halim Choubah

Saturday, March 14,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, March 15,

Mae Dickinson / Joumana Chedid

Saturday, March 21,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

Sunday, March 22,

Cayla Barbour / Jano Baroody

Saturday, March 28,

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

Sunday, March 29,

Ann Dupre / Gaby Baroody

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

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.

CONFESSION

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

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!

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 03/02-03/07/26

Monday:

Philippians 1: 21-30
Matthew 5: 13-17

Tuesday:

2 Corinthians 8: 1-9
Matthew 23: 1-12

Wednesday:

Galatians 2: 1-7
Matthew 17: 10-13

Thursday:

Galatians 1: 1-10
Luke 17: 20-37

Friday:

Romans 3: 1-7
Luke 12: 16-21

Saturday:

2 Timothy 3: 1-9
Matthew 12: 1-14

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21-22, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 3,477.00
Ash Monday	\$ 504.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 588.00
Advertisement Ads	\$ 300.00
Hall Donation	\$ 200.00
Lebanese Market	\$ 70.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 40.00
Total	\$ 5,179.00

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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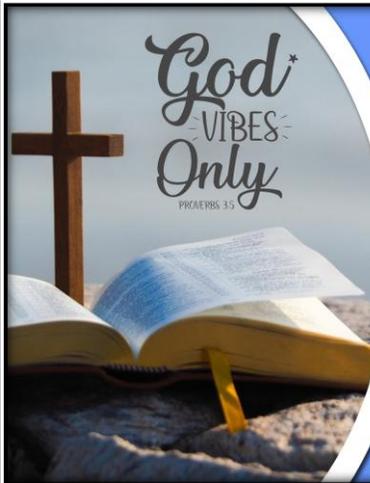


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Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD'S Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing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

Joseph & Marie Kenyon

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