



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

March 14 - 15, 2026

HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC



This story I read by Jim Campbell carries a very powerful spiritual lesson, especially during Lent, because it reveals the true nature of love, love that does not depend on recognition, reward, or return. **“She Doesn’t Know Who I Am, But I Know Who She Is”**

An elderly man goes every morning to a nursing home to bring breakfast to his wife.

A nurse asks him why he does this every day. He explains that his wife has Alzheimer's disease, and she no longer recognizes him. She hasn't known who he is for five years.

The nurse, surprised by such devotion, asks him: “Why do you keep coming if she doesn't even know who you are?” The old man gently smiles and says something profound:

“She doesn't know who I am... but I know who she is.”

The Lesson About Love: In today's world, love often becomes conditional. We love when people appreciate us. We give when others give back. We remain faithful when relationships are easy. But this elderly man shows a different kind of love.

A love that says: “I will love you not because you remember me, but because I

remember my promise.” This is the kind of love that reflects the love of Jesus Christ. **The Connection to the Cross On Calvary**, Jesus looked down at a world that often forgets Him. Many ignore Him. Many deny Him. Many live as if He never existed. Yet He continues to love. You could almost hear Christ say: “They may not remember who I am... but I know who they are.” And because of that love, He stayed on the Cross.

The Lenten Question: Lent invites us to examine our love. Do we only love when it is easy? Do we forgive only when someone apologizes? Do we serve only when someone thanks us?

Or do we love like this elderly man faithfully, quietly, and without expecting recognition?

Because real love is not a feeling. Real love is a decision we renew every day. Practical Lessons for Our Lives: This story teaches us several powerful lessons we can practice this Lent. **Love Is a Commitment**, Not Just an Emotion. Feelings come and go.

But love remains when we choose it every day. Just as this husband continues to show up every morning. **Faithfulness Is the Greatest Form of Love:** Great love is not shown in dramatic moments.

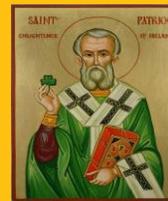
It is shown in small daily sacrifices. A visit. A prayer. A kind word. A forgiving heart.

Love Without Expecting Recognition: Many acts of goodness go unseen. But that does not make them meaningless. God sees what others forget.

Remember Who People Are: Sometimes people hurt us, disappoint us, or change. But we can choose to remember the goodness in them. Just as this husband remembers the woman he married. The

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me.



Hidden Message of the Story: The most touching part of this story is not the illness. It is the faithfulness. Because true love says:

“I will remain faithful to you...even when life becomes difficult.”

That is exactly the love God has for us. A Beautiful Lenten Thought every day God looks at humanity and could say: “They forget me. They ignore me. They rarely thank me.” Yet He still loves us. **Why?** Because like that elderly husband, God says: “They may not remember who I am, but I know who they are. **And that is the kind of love that can change the world.**

On Calvary, Jesus looked at a world that would often forget Him, deny Him, or walk away from Him. Yet He still chose the Cross. Imagine the heart of Christ looking at humanity and saying something similar to that elderly husband: “They may forget who I am, but I know who they are.” And because of that love, He remained on the Cross. That is the love we are invited to rediscover during Lent. Not a love based on convenience. Not a love that depends on appreciation. But a love that remains faithful. A love that forgives. A love that serves.

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 |

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Because in the end, the greatest measure of love is not how much we receive It is how faithfully we give.

This Lent invites us to ask ourselves one question: When love becomes difficult, when forgiveness becomes hard, when kindness is not returned, Will we walk away?

Or will we remain faithful, just like that elderly husband and just like Christ? Because the greatest love the world has ever seen was not shown in comfort. It was shown on a Cross.

And that love still calls each of us to follow it.

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.

CONFESSION

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

SAVE THE DATE MAAMOUL DAY



We will be preparing the maamoul for Palm Sunday bake sale on **Monday, March 23, starting @ 10:30 AM**, in the **Church Hall**. All are invited to come and help. Thank you for your dedication and assistance. God bless you!

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.

CHOIR PRACTICE

We invite all interested people to choir practice beginning **Thursday, March 12, from 6:30-8:00 PM**. Practices will take place **every Thursday 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.

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.

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS



As we prepare for the Risen Lord on Easter, donations are being accepted to help with the cost of the Easter flowers. If you would like to donate towards the flowers, you may do so in memory of a loved one or special intention. Please write your intention on the envelope and we will remember your intention at a special Liturgy. Thank you for your kindness.

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

SAINT JOSEPH FEAST DAY INSTALLATION AND BRUNCH

On Sunday March 15, the St. Joseph Sodality will be observing the Feast Day of St. Joseph. During the Divine Liturgy, the newly elected officers will be installed along with new members of the Saint Joseph Sodality. Immediately following Divine Liturgy, the Sodality will be offering a beautiful brunch in the Church Hall which you are all invited to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jacques Barbour or Rana Choubah.

SNOW PLOWING SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION

As you know, we have had our share of snow this year. With the last snowstorm, our expenses for plowing have exceeded what was normal for the past six years, we have spent **\$15,000.00** thus far for snow removal. To keep up with our normal monthly expenses, we will have a special collection on **Sunday, March 15**, at our weekend Divine Liturgies. I appreciate your assistance with this collection and thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 14, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Euphrasia). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Malvina and Joseph J. David requested by the family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Tavares requested by Helena Tavares and Family. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, March 15, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Benedict, Founder of Monastic Life in the West). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Marguerite Chedid requested by the family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Bobbie Cushman. May her soul rest in peace.

Tuesday, March 17, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Patrick). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Coury – Zilah families requested by the family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

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

Wednesday, March 18, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Doctor of the Church).

Thursday, March 19, @ 9:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Joseph the Virgin, the Spouse of Mary). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Gary L. Tyler requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

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

Saturday, March 21, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint James, Bishop of Catania). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Saba and Constantine families requested by Annemarie Espindola. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Louise and David Pimentel requested by Norma Barbour and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of John Serpa requested by Marlene Serpa. May his Soul rest in peace.

Sunday, March 22, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Sergius Paulus). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Walter Chomack requested by MaryAnn Chomack and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joann Yozefek requested by the family. May her soul rest in peace.

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.

LECTORS FOR MARCH, 2026

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).

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.

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 and Edmond Salameh. If anyone is missing, please contact the office.

WEEK OF MARCH 7-8, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,810.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 850.00
Advertisement Ads	\$ 400.00
Hall Renovation	\$ 1,500.00
Total	\$ 4,560.00

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.

Our Lady Of Purgatory Church

Palm Sunday Bake Sale

Saturday, March 28 - Sunday, March 29

AFTER LITURGIES



MAAMOUL



BAKLAWA



KAAK



GHRAYBEE

And Assorted Pastries

4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA 02745

Palm Sunday Bake Sale



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

MAAMOUL: (1/2 DOZEN)

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

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

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

KAAK: (1/2 DOZEN)

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

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

GHRAYBEE: (1/2 DOZEN)

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

BAKLAWA: (1/2 DOZEN)

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

TOTAL = \$ _____ Cash Check Credit Debit

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

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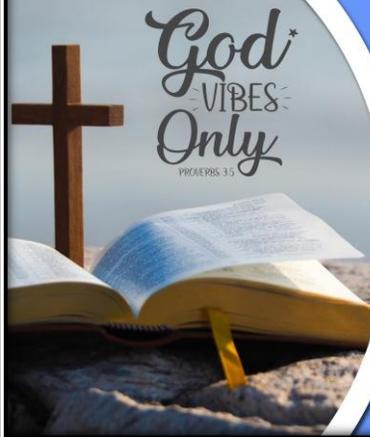


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Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD'S Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing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

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