



# Our Lady of Purgatory



## Maronite Catholic Church

March 21 - 22, 2026

### HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN



#### “WHEN WE FORGIVE, WE RESTORE OURSELVES”

**A Lenten Reflection** Forgiveness is often described as something we do for others. But in truth, forgiveness is first and foremost an act of self-restoration.

Every time someone hurts us, we feel it in more than words. The pain lodges in our hearts, sometimes in our minds, and slowly, almost slowly, in our bodies. Bitterness, anger, and resentment are like invisible chains. They tie us to the past, keep us awake at night, and rob us of peace. When we hold onto resentment, we become prisoners not of the person who hurt us, but of our own anger. Every thought that replays the wrong, every imagined injustice, is a silent wound we carry. **Forgiveness breaks those chains.**

#### **A True Story of Inner Restoration**

A woman I once heard about had a relationship torn apart by betrayal. Her trust was broken, and for years, she refused to speak to the person who hurt her. She carried anger in her chest, insomnia at night, and sadness that no therapy seemed to be erased. One Lent, she decided to try something different. She went to church, knelt, and prayed for the person who had caused her pain. She didn't feel love immediately. She didn't even feel relief. But she prayed anyway. Over time, something remarkable

happened. Her anger started to loosen its grip. She began to smile again. Sleep returned. She realized she had been punishing herself as much as the person who hurt her. **By forgiving, she was no longer tied to the past. She was free. She had restored herself.**

Forgiveness is Not Forgetting: Restoration doesn't mean forgetting the pain. It doesn't mean excusing wrongdoing. It doesn't even require reconciliation. Restoration means choosing life over bitterness. It means reclaiming joy, peace, and hope that resentment steals. As the Bible reminds us: “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger and be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:31-32)

Forgiveness restores our soul because it puts us back in God's hands. It stops our hearts from being consumed by the wrongs we've suffered. And it allows us to move forward—lighter, freer, and capable of loving again.

**Practical Steps to Restore Yourself Through Forgiveness** Acknowledge the pain. Denying it only lets bitterness grow. Offer forgiveness intentionally, we should say it in prayer, even if the heart doesn't fully feel it yet. Release the burden to God. Let Him hold justice, while you reclaim your peace.

Actively choose freedom. Refuse to replay the hurt or let it define your life.

**A Lenten Invitation** This Lent, let us consider: what chains am I carrying that only forgiveness can break? Forgiveness is a gift we give ourselves. Each act of letting go is a small resurrection in our own hearts. **In forgiving, we do not only honor God;** we restore the person He created us to be whole, peaceful, and free.

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“If God sends you many sufferings it is a sign that He has great plans for you and certainly wants to make you a saint.”*  
**St. Ignatius of Loyola**



#### 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.

**Snow Removal: \$15,000.00**  
**Funds Collected: \$ 484.00**  
**Needed: \$ 14,516.00**

#### GOOD FRIDAY MERCY MEAL

Immediately following the Burial of Jesus on Good Friday, we will have our annual Mercy Meal in the Church Hall. A signup sheet is located at the three entrances of the Church for those who are willing to make something to bring to the Mercy Meal. Thank you in advance for your participation.

**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](http://www.ourladyofpurgatory.org)

**Email:** [ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com) | **Facebook Page:** Our Lady of Purgatory Catholic Church - Maronite Rite |

**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.

## 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.

## HALL FLOORING

We are very close to beginning our facelift of the church hall. Eight of the 9 chandeliers are already donated. There is one more that is needed in the amount of \$600.00.

The flooring is the major expense which will cost \$16,000.00 and the painting we will do ourselves. Here is the latest count of our fundraising efforts.

### Flooring

**Material and Install: \$16,000.00**  
**Donations Received: \$ 4,800.00**  
**Needed to Begin: \$ 11,400.00**

**Chandeliers 9 Total: \$ 5,400.00**  
**Donations Received: \$ 4,800.00**  
**Needed: \$ 600.00**

We will begin painting after Easter. The walls have been prepared, spackled, and cleaned so that we can begin the process. Of course, I will be asking for help from the parish so please consider giving your time to this effort. Dates will be forthcoming soon. Thank you all who have donated your time and treasures. There is still plenty of work to be done but we have come a long way. Thank you very much.

## 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.

## BISHOP'S APPEAL

**Total Needed: \$3,500.00**  
**Total Collected: \$2,745.00**  
**Balance Needed: \$ 755.00**

## 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!

## SAINT MARON'S DAY HAFLI

### Total Income:

**Ticket Sales: \$ 16,070.00**  
**Bar Sales: \$ 2,143.72**  
**Hafla Donations: \$ 1,120.00**  
**50/50 Raffle: \$ 1,033.00**  
**Total Income: \$ 20,366.72**

### Total Expense:

**Food Expense: \$ 1,558.22**  
**Kitchen Help: \$ 360.00**  
**Hafla Supplies: \$ 1,105.35**  
**Band: \$ 4,300.00**  
**Total Expenses: \$ 7,323.57**

**Total Profit: \$ 13,043.15**

You are cordially invited to our  
 Palm Sunday Taize' Service



"They shall look upon him whom they have pierced,"

John 19:37

Sunday, March 29, 2026 - 7 p.m.

St. John Neumann Church

157 Middleboro Rd., East Freetown, MA

## CHILDREN'S EGG COLORING



Calling all youth to come and join us with coloring Easter Eggs. We will meet on **Saturday, April 4, at 11:00 AM**, immediately following the Saturday of the Light Prayer Service which begins at **10:30 AM**. We will be asking the parents to assist us in filling the Easter Eggs with chocolates for the Easter Egg hunt on Easter morning. Thank you for your help.

## PASSION WEEK SERVICES SCHEDULE

**Monday, March 30,**  
 Coming to the Harbor,  
 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy  
**Tuesday, March 31,**  
 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy  
**Wednesday, April 1,**  
 Rite of the Lamp, 7:00 PM  
**Holy Thursday, April 2,**  
 Washing of the Feet, 7:00 PM  
**Friday Morning, April 3,**  
 Signing of the Chalice, 10:00 AM  
**Good Friday Evening, April 3,**  
 Burial of Jesus, 7:00 PM  
**Saturday, April 4,**  
 Saturday of the Light Prayer Service,  
 10:30 AM

## EASTER SERVICES:

**Saturday, April 4,**  
 Easter Vigil, 4:30 PM  
**Sunday, April 5,**  
 Easter Morning, 10:30 AM

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**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.

**Tuesday, March 24, @ 7:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia, Feast of the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary Vigil).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph, Matilda and George Attallah requested by the family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

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

**Wednesday, March 25, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of The Annunciation to the Virgin Mary).**

**Thursday, March 26, @ 9:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Gabriel the Archangel).**

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

**Saturday, March 28, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Philetus and His Wife Saint Lydia, and Their Children).** Liturgy is being offered for All the Parishioners of OLOP.

**Sunday, March 29, @ 10:30 AM, Hosanna Sunday, (Feast of Saint Cyril of Baalbek).** Liturgy is being offered for All the Parishioners of OLOP.

## 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.

## 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.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

## 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.

## LECTORS FOR MARCH, 2026

**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).

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Theresa Saab, 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 14-15, 2026

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	\$	<b>2,887.00</b>
<b>Bishop's Appeal</b>	\$	<b>550.00</b>
<b>Easter Flowers Donations</b>	\$	<b>285.00</b>
<b>Snow Removal Donations</b>	\$	<b>484.00</b>
<b>Hall Renovation</b>	\$	<b>500.00</b>
<b>Lebanese Market</b>	\$	<b>138.00</b>
<b>Altar Host and Wine</b>	\$	<b>75.00</b>
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	\$	<b>55.00</b>
<b>Sanctuary Candle</b>	\$	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>5,024.00</b>

**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

# CHEDID Cuts

EST.  2022



**Christophe Chedid**  
Barbershop Owner

-  +1 (508) 343 - 0099
-  chedidcuts@gmail.com
-  @chedidcuts
-  578 Dartmouth St.  
South Dartmouth, MA 02748

## ROUTE 18 GAS & SERVICE

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

## M & S Excavation

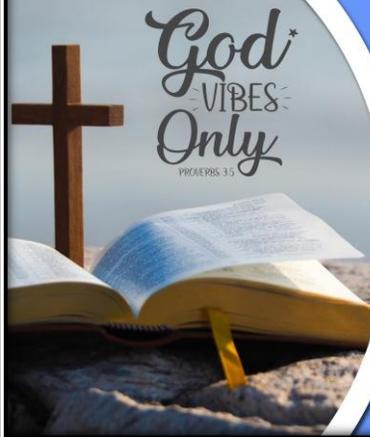


**Milad Maalouf**

Licensed

LAND CLEARING • SITE WORK  
ROADS • SEPTIC SYSTEMS

134 Old Westport Road  
N. Dartmouth, MA 02747  
508-971-0067  
Fax 508-991-5631



For all your jewelry needs

## A & A Jewelers

Your Trusted Jeweler  
for over 28 years

508-992-5320

Located: 279 State Rd. Dartmouth, MA 02747

www.aajewelersinc.com



## 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



*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

Your Loving Children

## OVER 75 YEARS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE CRAFTSMANSHIP



## DUPRE INC.

BLOCK • BRICK • GLASS BLOCK  
BLUESTONE • FIELDSTONE • COBBLESTONE

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

**508-993-8088**

www.duprecontractors.com

369 Nash Rd. • New Bedford

## SALON PERSIA

308 THAYER STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI

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

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

401-831-9536 • WWW.SALONPERSIA.COM