



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

March 28 - 29, 2026

HOSANNA SUNDAY SHAANINI MBARAKI



IS IT TRUE THAT LOVE IS NOT LOVE UNTIL YOU GIVE IT AWAY?

In the light of Lent, yes, deeply, painfully, beautifully true. Because the kind of love we are called to is not possession, rather it is gift. The heart of it. The world teaches us: love is what I feel, what I receive, what fulfills me. But God reveals something radically different:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His own Son” Gospel of John 3:16 Love becomes real the moment it costs us something. If it stays inside unspoken, unshared, unexpressed, it may be emotion, but it has not yet become love in action. Lent: where love is tested. Lent is not just about giving things up. It is about learning how to give ourselves away. Look at Christ. He didn’t just feel love for humanity. He gave time to the forgotten, touched the untouchable, forgave the unforgivable, and ultimately “He loved them to the end.”

Love reached its fullness not in words but on the Cross. A real, human moment. Think about someone difficult in your life. Not someone easy to love but someone who drains you, misunderstands you, maybe even hurts you. You don’t feel love for them. In fact, everything in

you resists. And yet one day, you choose to: stay patient instead of reacting, listen instead of shutting down, forgive instead of keeping score.

Nothing in you wanted to do it. But you did it anyway. That moment quiet, unseen, costly that is love being born.

WHAT SCRIPTURE TEACHES US “

Love is patient, love is kind it does not seek its own.” First Letter to the Corinthians 13:4-5. “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself” “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life...” Love, in the Gospel, is always tied to self-giving. Why giving makes love real. When you give love away: it stops being theory and becomes sacrifice, it stops being comfortable and transformative, it stops being about you and becomes about the other. And here’s the mystery: The more you give love away the more your heart actually becomes full.

A LENTEN CHALLENGE FOR YOU AND ME

This Lent, don’t just feel love, practice it where it hurts:

Love the person who doesn’t appreciate you. Forgive someone who hasn’t asked for it. Serve when no one notices, be gentle when you’re tired. Speak kindness when silence would be easier Start small but make it real. Love locked inside the heart fades. Love given away multiplies.

On the Cross, it looked like Jesus lost everything. In truth that was the moment love conquered the world. So yes, love is not truly love until it is given away. And Lent is the season where we learn how to give it like Jesus Christ our Lord did.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

O Christ, I unite my sufferings to Yours, my pains to your pains, as I look at your head, crowned with thorns.

Saint Rafka



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:	\$ 504.00
Needed:	\$ 14,496.00

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

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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.

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

On behalf of the entire community of Our Lady of Purgatory Church, we extend our condolences to the family of Norma Thomas who passed away this week. Norma is the mother of Sarah (Nigel) Hitchings, Rachael (Dan) Higgins, and Michael (Kelly) Thomas. She is also survived by her sister Mary Ann Chomak, grandchildren Anna, Joseph, and Helen Higgins, Cole and Saffron Hitchings, Paul, Joshua, and Timothy Mattos, and three great grandchildren. May Almighty God welcome Norma into His kingdom and may her soul rest in peace. Allah yerhamma.

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

In preparation for Holy Week, we will have choir practice on **Tuesday evening, March 31, at 7:00 PM** and on **Wednesday evening, April 1, at 7:00 PM**. We look forward to seeing you there.

BISHOP'S APPEAL

Total Needed: \$3,500.00
Total Collected: \$3,134.00
Balance Needed: \$ 366.00

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.

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

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.

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.

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: _____
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 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: _____ = \$ _____

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: officelop@gmail.com
 Or by calling the office: 508-996-8834

PRE-ORDERS

DEADLINE

MARCH 22

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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

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

Monday, March 30, @ 7:00 PM, Coming to the Harbor, (Feast of Saint John Climacus). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Ann Abraham requested by the Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Tuesday, March 31, @ 7:00 PM, (Feast of Pope Saint Lucius). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Kaffa Peter requested by the Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

NO ADORATION.

Wednesday, April 1, @ 7:00 PM, Rite of the Lamp. (Feast of Saint Mary of Egypt).

Thursday, April 2, @ 7:00 PM, Thursday of the Mysteries. (Feast of Saint Aphian and His Brother Saint Aedesius).

Friday, April 3, @ 10:00 AM, Great Friday of the Crucifixion, Signing of the Chalice.

Friday, April 3, @ 7:00 PM, Burial of Jesus, (Feast of Isaiah and Ezekiel the Prophets).

Saturday, April 4, @ 10:30 AM, Saturday of the Light Prayer Service, Saturday, April 4, @ 4:30 PM, The Glorious Resurrection Vigil, (Feast of Pope Saint Anicetus). Liturgy is being offered for the Parishioners of OLOP and their Families.

Sunday, April 5, @ 10:30 AM, The Glorious Resurrection, (Feast of Saint Robert of Molesme, Founder of the Cistercian order). Liturgy is being offered for the Parishioners of OLOP and their Families.

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.

CONFESSION

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

LECTORS FOR MARCH/ APRIL, 2026

Saturday, March 28,
Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola
Sunday, March 29,

Ann Dupre / Gaby Baroody

Thursday, April 2,

Thursday of the Mysteries

Mae Dickinson / Joumana Chedid

Friday, April 3,

Burial of Our Lord, 7:00 PM,

Jimmy Kalife / Jano Baroody

Saturday, April 4,

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola
Sunday, April 5,

Jacques Barbour / Elie Abou Kheir

Saturday, April 11,

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, April 12,

Cayla Barbour / Jano Baroody

Saturday, April 18,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

Sunday, April 19,

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

Saturday, April 25,

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Mae Dickinson

Sunday, April 26,

Ann Dupre / Joumana Chedid

(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 21-22, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$	2,077.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$	389.00
Easter Flowers Donations	\$	95.00
Snow Removal Donations	\$	30.00
Lebanese Market	\$	10.00
Coffee Hour	\$	38.00
Candles	\$	269.00
Total	\$	2,908.00

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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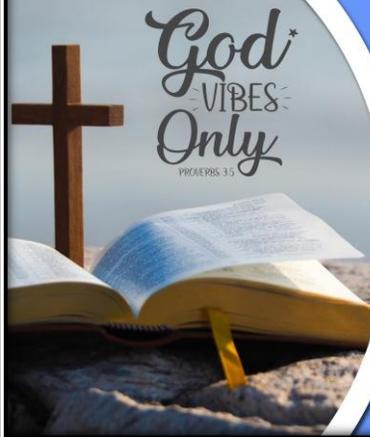


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Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD'S Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing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

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