



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



April 4 - 5, 2026

THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION



CHRIST IS RISEN TRULY HE IS RISEN MESSIAH QAM! HAKKAN QAM!

Christ is Risen, truly He is Risen. I wish all of you a happy and blessed Easter. We have come to the completion of the Season of Lent--- following Jesus' ministry, His suffering and death on the cross, and His Glorious Resurrection. His resurrection is the reason for this journey and now we remember throughout the year His promise to us---"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me." We have followed Jesus during this season of Lent, and we continue to follow Jesus every day of our lives so that we, as St. John's gospel tells us, will be with Him.

"Whoever serves me must follow me" is what we keep with us as we walk this earthly life. This, my brothers and sisters, is our challenge! And what a challenge it is. What must we do in order to serve and follow Jesus? Well, you have heard His

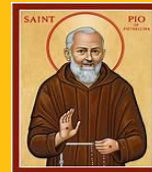
message especially during this season of Lent. You have heard the gospel readings and have patiently listened to my homilies asking us to love one another, to forgive one another, to serve one another through charity and hospitality, and to build up one another. Jesus asks much of us.

However, if we remember His sacrifice and His promises, we will realize that our duty to one another is possible; that our actions toward one another are paramount in serving Jesus Christ. And we will realize that these requests Jesus asks of us cost us nothing---charity, forgiveness, love, and peace cost us nothing. But what we gain is priceless. We gain inner peace with one another and more importantly we gain the prize of eternal life in paradise.

My wish for all of us is that we keep these feelings and emotions that we have carried throughout this season of Lent every day of our lives. That we remember His ministry of healing body and soul; His compassion and suffering for His people so that they may believe and inherit the Kingdom of God; His example of

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Easter reminds us that God's love is stronger than any suffering or darkness we may encounter."
Saint Padre Pio



forgiving those who persecuted Him and who intentionally hurt Him.

Our goal is to strive to be better followers of Jesus Christ because of this blessed season of Lent and that is what Jesus intended for all of us to do. It is up to us, as a community of faith, to help each other, to "build each other up in our faith" as St. Paul tells us. We cannot do this alone my friends. We must rely on Almighty God to walk with us. We must place our trust in the power of the Most Holy Trinity. My prayer for you and for me is to unite ourselves to the faith that Jesus sacrificed His life for. May we build each other as one community in faith, hope, and love. Messiah Qam---Hakkan Qam!!! Christ Is Risen---Truly He Is Risen!!!

BISHOP'S APPEAL

Total Collected: \$3,604.00

Thank you to all of you who contributed to the Bishop's Appeal for 2026. We were able to meet our required \$3,500.00 which will be sent to the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn. May God continue to bless you and your family.

Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon

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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.

HOLY WEEK- EASTER REFLECTION

Holy Week is not just a sequence of sacred days, it is a journey into the very heart of love, a love that bends down, breaks open, and rises again.

It begins with Holy Thursday, the night of the Mysteries, the night of the Last Supper. Here, Christ does something extraordinary. He gathers His disciples, not just to share a meal, but to give them Himself forever. He takes bread, blesses it, breaks it, and says, "This is my Body." He takes the cup: "This is my Blood."

In that moment, He institutes the Eucharist, the living presence of His love that remains with us through all time. But He does not stop there. He also entrusts this mystery to His apostles: "Do this in memory of me." Here, He establishes the priesthood, calling ordinary men to become instruments of an extraordinary grace, so that His Body and Blood would never disappear from the world.

Then, in the same night, He kneels and washes their feet. The One who gives His Body becomes the servant of all. The Eucharist and service are inseparable. Love received must become love given.

And this is where our lives are first challenged: Can we live what we receive? Can we become what we consume?

To live Holy Thursday every day means to become Eucharist for others, to be broken, shared, and given in small, hidden acts of love: patience with our family, forgiveness toward those who hurt us, and presence to those who feel alone. And it means honoring the gift of the priesthood, praying for those who carry this mission, and recognizing Christ who continues to feed us through them.

Then we walked into the darkness of Good Friday. Here, love is no longer given under the sign of bread and wine, it is given on the wood of the cross.

The cross reveals a hard truth: love will be misunderstood, rejected, even wounded. Christ is betrayed, abandoned, mocked, and nailed. And yet, He does not stop loving. He forgives: "Father, forgive them."

Good Friday teaches us that the Eucharist we receive is not cheap, it is the fruit of sacrifice. The Body broken on the altar is the same Body broken on the cross.

In our daily lives, we all carry crosses: disappointments, betrayals, silent struggles, hidden pain. The temptation is to become bitter, to close our hearts. But

the cross invites us to do something greater and that is to love anyway. To love unconditionally.

To live Good Friday every day means: to forgive when it hurts, to remain faithful when it is difficult, to trust God even when He seems silent.

Because the story does not end at the cross. It bursts into light with Easter. The tomb is empty. Death is defeated. Love wins.

Easter is the fulfillment of what began on Holy Thursday and passed through Good Friday. The Body given rises. The Blood poured out becomes life. What looked like defeat becomes victory.

Easter is not just a miracle that happened, it is a promise that continues. It tells us that no darkness is final, no sin is greater than mercy, no wound is beyond healing. God always has the last word, and that word is life.

To live Easter every day means to be a person of hope: to rise after every fall, to believe that change is possible, to bring light into the lives of others. So Holy Week is not just something we remember, it is something we become.

We become: the Eucharistic love of Holy Thursday, the sacrificial love of Good Friday, the living hope of Easter. And when we live this way, our whole life becomes a living Gospel: a story where love is received, offered, and renewed until one day, we rise with Him.

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.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of April is offered for the deceased members of Abou Kheir and Farhat Families requested by Elie and Micha Abou Kheir.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

I publish the First Banns of Marriage between Vincent Michael and Sylvie Moujabber. If any of you know cause or just impediment why these two people should not be joined in Holy Matrimony, you are to declare it.

MARONITE HERITAGE DAY APRIL 11 AT OLOP

The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light will hold the monthly Maronite Heritage Day on **Saturday, April 11, from 3:00-7:00 PM, at Our Lady of Purgatory Church Hall**. Please bring your children for a wonderful gathering.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

As per the directive of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, the collection on Good Friday is sent through the USCCB to the Holy Land and to the Maronite Eparchy of Haifa. Thank you for your generosity.

EASTER SERVICES:

Saturday, April 4,

Easter Vigil, 4:30 PM

Sunday, April 5,

Easter Morning, 10:30 AM

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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Tuesday, April 7, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint John the Baptist de la Salle). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mary David requested by Sophie Correa (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

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

Wednesday, April 8, @ 9:00 AM (Feast of Saint Barlaam, Feast of the Second Council of Nicaea).

Thursday, April 9, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Hermas). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the American-Lebanese veterans Auxiliary (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Saturday, April 11, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Antipas). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Christine David requested by the Family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Marion Barber requested by Norna Barbour and Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Marie Kenyon requested by the Family.

Sunday, April 12, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saints Mennas, Hermogenes, and Eugephus). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Abou Kheir and Farhat families requested by Elie and Micha Abou Kheir Family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls and intentions of the Easter flowers. May their souls rest in peace and your intentions be answered.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention by Hiba Chdid. 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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

LECTORS FOR APRIL, 2026

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, Reggie Thomas, Beverly Landreth, 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 28-29, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$	2,950.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$	925.00
Hall Renovation	\$	700.00
Memorial Donations	\$	300.00
Easter Flowers Donations	\$	115.00
Snow Removal Donations	\$	100.00
Total	\$	5,090.00

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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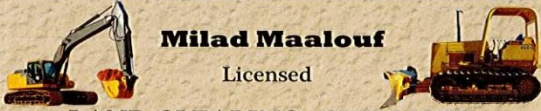


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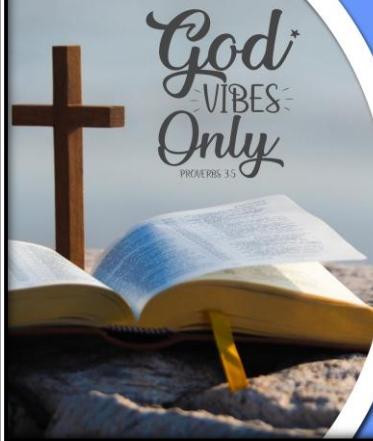


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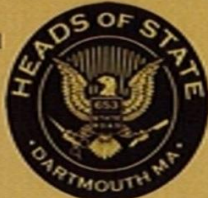
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Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD'S Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing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

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