



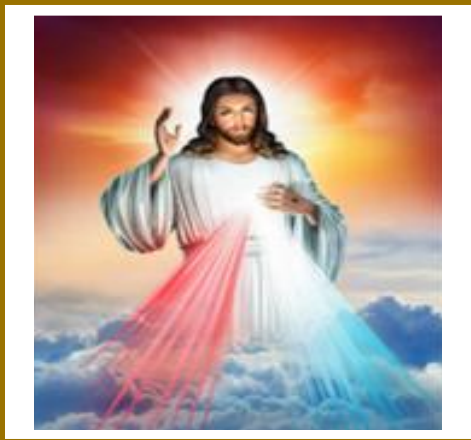
Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

April 11 - 12, 2026

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



Divine Mercy is not simply one attribute of God among many, it is the way God chooses to relate to us when we stand most exposed, most fragile, most aware of our failures. After the Resurrection, mercy is no longer an abstract idea; it has a face, a voice, and wounds that still speak. In the Gospel of John, when the Risen Christ appears to His disciples, He does not erase His wounds. He shows them. This is not supplementary, it is indicative. The wounds remain, but they are no longer sources of death; they have become channels of life. Divine Mercy, then, is not the removal of our brokenness, but its transformation. It is God entering precisely into what we would rather hide and making it a place of encounter.

There is something deeply unsettling about mercy when we truly understand it. Justice feels measurable; we can weigh it, calculate it, justify it. Mercy disrupts that logic. It gives more than is deserved. It restores what seems irreparably lost. It looks at betrayal and still says, "Peace be with you." **The Resurrection confirms that God is not bound by the arithmetic of human fairness.** He does not meet our sin with equivalent retaliation, **but with an overwhelming excess of love.** And this is where many of us quietly struggle

not with believing that God is merciful in general, but with accepting that His mercy applies personally, concretely, to us. We often carry an interior resistance, as though our particular failures fall just outside the reach of grace.

Yet Divine Mercy insists otherwise. It tells us that there is no sin more powerful than the Cross, no darkness that the Resurrection cannot penetrate. But it also asks something in return not as a condition, but as a participation. After breathing peace upon His disciples, Christ entrusts them with the ministry of forgiveness. In other words, **mercy received must become mercy given.** It cannot remain private. It must take flesh again in us.

This is where Divine Mercy becomes demanding. It is one thing to be consoled by God's forgiveness; it is another to extend that same forgiveness to someone who has wounded us deeply. The real test of whether we have encountered mercy is not how moved we feel in prayer, but how we respond when we are hurt, misunderstood, or betrayed. In those moments, something within us cries out for justice, for vindication, for distance. Mercy does not deny that cry, rather it acknowledges the wound, and it refuses to let the wound have the final word. To live Divine Mercy is to stand in that tension and choose, again and again, not to mirror the harm we have received.

At the same time, living mercy also means learning to see ourselves truthfully, without harshness and without illusion. There is a false humility that keeps us trapped in guilt, endlessly rehearsing our failures as though that somehow honors God. It does not. True humility accepts mercy. It allows God to be greater than our past. It trusts that beginning again is not hypocrisy, but grace. After the

Resurrection, every moment becomes a place where life can start anew not because we are strong, but because He is risen.

There is also a quiet, often overlooked dimension of Divine Mercy: **its patience.** God does not rush our transformation. He walks with us through it. We tend to measure growth in dramatic changes, but mercy often works in hidden ways in the slow **softening of a hardened heart**, in the **decision to remain gentle** when irritation would be easier, in the **courage to return to God after yet another failure.** These small, almost invisible movements are not insignificant; they are the very fabric of a merciful life.

To live Divine Mercy after the Resurrection, then, is to become a place where others can encounter what we ourselves have received. It is to carry within us a different way of seeing, a different way of responding, a different way of loving. It means that when others come into contact with us, **they do not simply experience our personality or our opinions, but they encounter something of God's own heart.**

And perhaps this is the deepest truth: **Divine Mercy is not ultimately about what we do, but about who we become.** It is the gradual shaping of the soul until it begins to resemble Christ Himself wounded, yet life-giving; rejected, yet open; crucified yet risen. In a world that often operates on retaliation, comparison, and self-protection, a merciful person becomes a quiet contradiction, a living sign that another reality is possible.

The Resurrection is the proof that mercy is not weakness. It is victory. And every time we choose mercy in ways seen or unseen, we allow that victory to take root in the world again.

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.

SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION FOR SOUTHERN LEBANON

There will be a special second collection for our brothers and sisters in Southern Lebanon this weekend. As we know the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East is devastating, especially for those in Southern Lebanon who have left their homes and livelihood because of the war. Thank you for your generosity and assistance. Let us continue to pray that Almighty God will help all involved to strive for peace and hope to those who are hopeless.

THANK YOU FOR A BEAUTIFUL LENTEN JOURNEY

There are so many people to thank for making this Lenten journey such a beautiful experience. Those who prepared the Church and altar, the music ministry, the decorators, the carpenters, the audio/visual crew, those who donated the Easter flowers, the bakers, and the Good Friday volunteers, thank you for making this journey a true spiritual experience for all of us.

I would also like to thank you for your kind and generous Easter wishes to me and to the Church.

May the Risen Lord continue to bless this community for many years. God bless all of you.

HALL FLOORING

We are very close to beginning our facelift of the church hall. All the chandeliers have been donated. 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 & Install: \$16,000.00
Donations Received: \$ 4,800.00
Needed to Begin: \$11,400.00

Chandeliers 9 Total: \$ 5,400.00
Donations Received: \$ 5,400.00
Needed: \$ 00.00

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. 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.

FISH FRY FUNDRAISER

This year the Fish Fry Committee offered our famous fish fry every Friday during Lent to our parish as well as the surrounding community. It was a great success. I would like to thank Matt Thomas, Joe Barckett, and Hiba Chdid for leading this amazing crew. To all the volunteers I thank you for your dedication and hard work. I also would like to thank Liz Chedid for donating her wonderful bake goods for the dessert to our customers.

Total Income: \$ 17,871.30
Total Expenses: \$ 7,304.27
Total Profit: \$ 10,567.03

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

I publish the Second 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.

A TASTE OF ITALY

Please join us for A Taste of Italy at Our Lady of Purgatory on **Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 5:30-7:30 PM.**

Reservations are recommended so please call the office with your reservation. We look forward to seeing you then.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Do not let the past disturb you, just leave everything in the Sacred Heart and begin again with joy."

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta



HALL RENOVATION SCHEDULE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The dates are set to begin the work at the hall. I am asking for volunteers to help do the painting. Please let me know if you can assist with the painting. Below is the tentative schedule for the work to be done.

May 26-30 Painting of the hall.
Most of the work will be done after 5:30 PM.

June 1-5 The Chandeliers will be installed

June 8-12 The flooring will be installed

All the chandeliers have been donated. Thank you for your generosity. We are still in need of donations for the flooring. Once the work is complete, there will be a plaque displayed in the hall for all donations received. This plaque can have your family name or in memory of a loved one engraved on it. A form will be available for those who donated to fill out what name you would like on the plaque. Please complete the form and return it to the office. Thank you in advance for your help.

Our Lady of Purgatory Church's



Please join us for an Italian Dinner

Eggplant Parmigiana Chicken Marsala
 Baked Sausage Ziti Fettuccini Alfredo
 Ratatouille - Salad - Garlic Bread
 Desserts - Coffee

Saturday, April 18, 2026
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Donation: \$18.00

Our Lady of Purgatory Church Parish Center
 4254 Acushnet Avenue New Bedford, MA 02745

For More Info - Please call (508) 996-8934

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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 Eugegraphus). 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.

Tuesday, April 14, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Hermenegild the King). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of James and Catherine Graham (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

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

Wednesday, April 15, @ 9:00 AM (Feast of Pope Saint Soter).

Thursday, April 16, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Bernadette Soubirous). NO LITURGY.

Saturday, April 18, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Thais the Penitent). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Michele Sr., Anna, Michele Jr. and Baldassare Magaletta requested by Joann, Anthony and Lorraine David. May their soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Dennis Mooney requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, April 19, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Timon the Deacon). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Arthur and Annie Thomas, and Edward and Rose Mattar requested by the Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Beverly Farhat Granger. May her soul rest in peace.

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.

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.

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 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, Zita Drouin, Lucienne Rodrigues and Edmond Salameh. If anyone is missing, please contact the office.

WEEK OF APRIL 04-05, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 4,009.00
March Online Giving	\$ 1,177.48
Good Friday Collection	\$ 607.00
Holy Thursday Collection	\$ 442.00
Snow Removal Donation	\$ 175.00
Host and Wine Donation	\$ 100.00
Easter Flowers Donations	\$ 120.00
Lebanese Market	\$ 80.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 39.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 20.00
Candles	\$ 65.00
Total	\$ 6,834.48

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.

HALL RENOVATION MEMORIAL PLAQUE FORM

For those who have donated toward the renovation of the hall, please fill out the form that will be displayed on the plaque. **You may have your family name or in memory of a loved one.** Please return this form to the office.

Donation by: _____

Name on Plaque: _____



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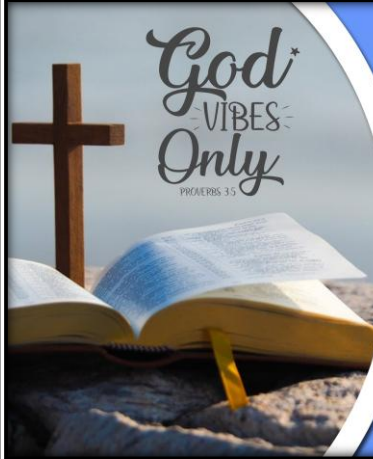
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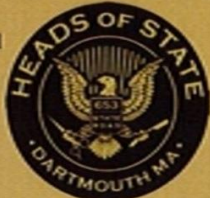
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Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD'S Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing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

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