



# Our Lady of Purgatory



## Maronite Catholic Church

April 25 - 26, 2026

### FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE RESURRECTION



#### WHO IS YOUR WINGMAN?

We usually think of a wingman as someone who has our back, someone who stands beside us in the moments that matter most. In the air, a wingman doesn't fly ahead or disappear behind; he stays close, watches carefully, protects, and steps in when danger comes. He doesn't draw attention to himself, but without him, the mission becomes far more dangerous. **Now bring that image into the season of the Resurrection.**

After the Resurrection, Jesus doesn't simply prove He is alive and then step away. He doesn't say, "I've done my part now you figure it out." Instead, He comes close. He walks with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. He enters locked rooms filled with fear. He cooks breakfast on the shore. He breathes peace into anxious hearts. In other words, He becomes the ultimate wingman, not distant, not theoretical, but present.

A true wingman knows your weaknesses but doesn't shame you for them. Think of Peter who denied Jesus

three times. After the Resurrection, Jesus doesn't confront him with anger; He meets him with love:

"Do you love me?" Three times. Not to humiliate him, but to restore him. That's what a real wingman does; he lifts us when we've fallen.

A true wingman also sees what you cannot. When the disciples saw only failure and fear, Jesus saw mission and purpose: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He reminds them and us that our story isn't over just because we stumbled.

And perhaps most importantly, a true wingman never abandons you in the battle. The Resurrection is not just proof that Jesus conquered death—it's proof that He is still fighting for you. Alive. Active. Present. He stands beside you in your struggles, your temptations, your doubts, and even your hidden wounds.

**But here's the deeper question: do we let Him be our wingman? Or we believe that we do not need Him?** Because sometimes we try to fly solo. We rely on our own strength, our own plans, our

own control. And then we wonder why we feel overwhelmed, why fear creeps in, why we lose direction. The Resurrection gently invites us to remember we were never meant to do this alone. To live the Resurrection is to live with the awareness that Christ is right there when you walk into a difficult conversation, when you face temptation, when you carry grief, when you feel uncertain. He is not watching from a distance; He is beside you, guiding, protecting, and strengthening. So maybe today the reflection becomes simple and personal: When I feel alone do I remember He is there? When I fall do I let Him lift me? When I'm afraid do I trust Him to stand with me? Because the **empty tomb is not just a moment in history it's a promise:** because **our wingman is alive. And He's not going anywhere.**

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*Faith in the resurrection of Jesus says there is a future for every human being; the cry for unending life which is a part of the person is indeed answered... God exists: that the real message of Easter. Anyone who even begins to grasp what this means also knows what it means to be redeemed.*

*Pope Benedict XVI*



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)

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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.

## WELCOME TO THE FLOCK OF CHRIST

Congratulations to Tanios Jacques Barbour who received Baptism and Confirmation last weekend. We congratulate his parents Jacob and Jillian Barbour, Godparents Joshua and Rafka Barbour, his grandparents Jacques and Amal Barbour and the Faria Family.

May Almighty God bless Tanios all his days and keep him in His loving arms. Mabrook!

## MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

The Education Foundation is sponsoring a Mother's Day Raffle. You can enjoy a **\$200.00 gift certificate to M Aesthetics Spa. Tickets are \$20.00/each- 3 for \$50.00.** All the proceeds will benefit the Education Foundation Scholarship program. This will allow this foundation to continue to offer scholarships to our high school seniors and undergraduate college students to help with their education. Please support their effort. God bless.

## 2026 EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for the 2026 Education Foundation Scholarships will be emailed this week. The Education Foundation Members have worked very hard to replenish monies needed to award our young men and women a scholarship to help in their education. Any High School Senior who will be attending college in the fall, and any Undergraduate College student are encouraged to apply for these scholarships. There will be 2 scholarships awarded for the 2026 school year.

These scholarships will be emailed and must be completed by and returned by **Sunday, May 31, 2026.** Please follow the instructions and supply the necessary documents to be considered for these scholarships. If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the foundation members or Fr. Vincent.

## CONFESSION

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

## MOTHERS DAY BRUNCH

Calling all men, fathers, husbands, and sons who would like to help. We will have a special Mother's Day Brunch on **Sunday, May 10,** immediately following Divine Liturgy. This is our way of saying thank you to all the women in our lives. I hope you will join us on this special day honoring our mothers.

## 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 Chandeliers installation**

**June 8-12 Flooring installation**

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.

## FIRST COMMUNION CEREMONY



On **Sunday, May 3,** three of our children will receive their First Holy Communion. This special sacrament will be held at 10:30 AM Mass. Please keep all our children in your prayers as they prepare to receive Jesus for the first time. God bless all of them.

## 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: \$ 5,750.00**  
**Needed to Begin: \$10,250.00**

**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.

## 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:** \_\_\_\_\_



## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, April 25, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Fadi Hardin requested by Mariam David and Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Jack Cushman requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, April 26, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint Anacletus). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy.** Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in the Book of Life. May all the souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Norma Thomas requested by the Family (40-Day Mass). May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Anibal, Therese and Roland Abi Chedid requested by Samir and Joceline Abi Youness Family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Tuesday, April 28, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Jason, one of the 72 Disciples).** Liturgy is being offered for a special intention. May the intention be answered.

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

**Wednesday, April 29, @ 9:00 AM (Feast of Saint Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church).** Liturgy is being offered in thanksgiving of Mariam David and for the living and deceased members of the David and Daher families requested by Mariam David and Family.

**Thursday, April 30, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint James, son of Zebedee). NO LITURGY.**

**Saturday, May 2, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Athanasius of Alexandria, Doctor of the Church).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of August Barber requested by Norma Barbour and Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Leo Macedo requested by the Family (FM). May his soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, May 3, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Our Lady of Lebanon, Feast of the Blessed Stephen Doueihi, Maronite Patriarch, Feast of Saint Timothy and His Wife Saint Maura).** Liturgy is being offered in honor of our First Communicants and their families. May God bless them.

## 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.

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention by John and Claire Barbour. 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 APRIL/MAY 2026

**Saturday, April 25,**  
Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Mae Dickinson  
**Sunday, April 26,**

Ann Dupre / Joumana Chedid  
**Saturday, May 2,**  
Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares  
**Sunday, May 3,**

The First Communicants  
Intercessions: The First Communicants

**Saturday, May 9,**  
Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola  
**Sunday, May 10,**

Ann Dupre / Elie Abou Kheir  
**Wednesday, May 13,**

**Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord**  
**Vigil**

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid  
**Saturday, May 16,**

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral  
**Saturday, May 17,**

Cayla Barbour / Jano Baroody  
**Saturday, May 23,**

Annemarie Espindola  
Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

**Sunday, May 24,**

Halim Choubah / Joumana Chedid  
**Saturday, May 30,**

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola  
**Sunday, May 31,**

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

**(If you are unable to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson).**

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

The Vocations Team for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn has printed these beautiful prayer cards for each family. Vocations take on different ways of life such as a priest, religious brother or sister, deacons, subdeacons, holy married couples, parents, and generous single people. In all these vocations does the beauty of our Catholic Faith shine and draws us closer to Christ, to know Him, love Him, and serve Him more.

We ask that you take a copy of these prayer cards home with you and pray this prayer with your family every night. Our Lord listens to our prayers. May the fire and zeal for our Lord foster vocations worthy to serve Him.

## 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 18-19, 2026

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,477.00</b>
<b>Hall Renovation Donation</b>	<b>\$ 950.00</b>
<b>Lebanese Market</b>	<b>\$ 90.00</b>
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	<b>\$ 67.00</b>
<b>Sanctuary Candle</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>\$ 237.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,831.00</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.**

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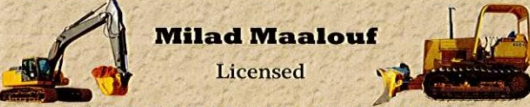


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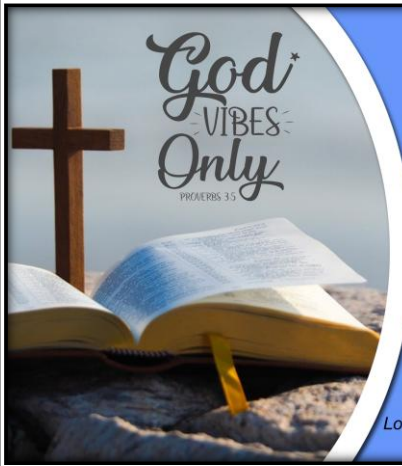
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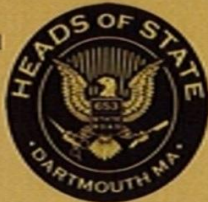
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Joseph & Marie Kenyon

*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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