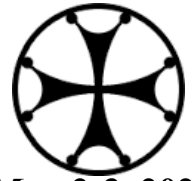




Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

May 2-3, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE RESURRECTION OUR LADY OF LEBANON



“UNWRAPPING THE GIFT OF TODAY” WHY EVERY DAY IS A GIFT FROM GOD?

We are still living in the light of the Resurrection, the empty tomb of Jesus Christ, the victory of life over death. But here is the question we don't often ask: If Christ is risen why do so many of our days still feel the same?

Routine. Busy. Sometimes heavy and sometimes even empty. And yet, the Church tells us something radical in this season after Easter: **Every single day is a gift.** Not metaphorically. Not poetically. But truly.

Let me share something real. There was a man who went to visit his elderly father every single day in a nursing home. His father no longer recognized him. The memory was gone. Every day, the son would walk in, smile, sit with him, feed him, talk to him as if nothing had changed. One day, a nurse said to him: “Why do you keep coming? He doesn't even know who you are.”

And the son looked at her and said: “Maybe he doesn't know me but I still know him.” and then he said something even deeper: “And every day I still have him even like this **is a gift I won't get back.**”

That is resurrection vision. You see, before the Resurrection, we measure life by convenience, success, and feelings. But after the Resurrection we begin to measure life by something deeper: Presence. Love. Opportunity. A day is a gift not because it is easy but because it is given.

Given by a God who conquered death. Given by a God who is not finished with you.

Given by a God who says every morning: “Rise again and live.” But here's the problem.

Most of us don't unwrap the gift. We rush through it. We postpone it. We live in yesterday or we worry about tomorrow. And the gift sits there unopened. And one day there will be no more gifts to open. Not as a fear but as a truth that should wake us up. **So how do we live differently?** How do we actually unwrap this day?

First, receive the day. Before your cell phone before your schedule, and Just whisper:

“Lord, thank You for this day.” That simple prayer can change the entire direction of your heart.

Second, Stay where your feet are. Because God is not in yesterday. And He is not

waiting in tomorrow. He is here. In that conversation. In that interruption. In that person who needs your patience. If we miss the moment we miss the gift.

Third, love when it costs you something. That son kept showing up even when it hurt. Even when it felt unnoticed. That is resurrection love. Anyone can love when it's easy. But to love when it's tiring, repetitive, unrecognized, that's where eternity enters our day.

Fourth, don't waste your suffering. The risen Christ still carries His wounds. Why?

Because suffering, when united with Him, becomes a doorway not a dead end. So instead of asking, **“Why is this happening?”** Try asking: “Lord where is the life hidden in this?”

And finally end your day with gratitude. Not with regret, not with guilt, but by gathering the day: “Where did I see You?” “Where did I love?” “Where did I miss the moment?”

And you'll begin to see something beautiful: God was there more than you realized.

Dear brothers and sisters, **the tragedy of life is not that it is short. The tragedy is that we leave so much of it unopened.** The Resurrection is not only about life after death. It is about life right now. Today is not ordinary. It is sacred. It is given. It is unrepeatable.

So when you wake up tomorrow. Don't just get out of bed. Rise. Rise with Christ. Rise with intention. Rise with awareness.

And say: “Lord help me not waste this day.” Because one day this will not be “just another day” It will be the day I wish I had lived differently. So open it, live it and love in it while you still can.

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

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Office Email: 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 Oliver Barbour, who was baptized and confirmed in the flock of Christ last weekend. Congratulations to his parents Jonathon and Allie Barbour, sisters Adina and Camille, grandparents John and Claire Barbour, Jay and Anne Marie Pavao, Godparents Priscilla Chedid and Owen Pavao, and the entire family. May Almighty God cradle Oliver in His hands and protect him from all harm. Welcome Oliver and mabrook!!

CONGRATULATIONS MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Michael who were married April 24. We also congratulate their parents, Naja and Idalina Moujabber and their family as well as Patrick and Alyssa Michael and their family. May Almighty God bless their marriage abundantly. Mabrook!

CONGRATULATIONS MR. AND MRS. POLUTCHKO

Congratulations to David and Alexa Polutchko who were married April 25. Alexa is the daughter of Peter and Cindy Thomas, granddaughter of Regi Thomas, and niece of Chorbishop Michael and James Thomas. May God bless you as you begin your married life together. Mabrook!!

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.

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 or a Michael Kors Pale Ocean Pocket Book with matching wristlet wallet. 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.

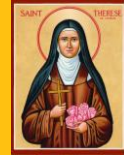
CONFESSION

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

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you - for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart...don't listen to the demon, laugh at him, and go without fear to receive the Jesus of peace and love. Receive Communion often, very often...there you have the sole remedy, if you want to be cured. Jesus has not put this attraction in your heart for nothing..."

St. Therese of Lisieux



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. Please contact Jacques Barbour at: **508-725-6705** or via email at: jpbtherapy@hotmail.com

GET READY FOR THE 2026 ANNUAL LEBANESE FESTIVAL

It may seem like it is too early to even think about the Lebanese Festival, but we are not! Every year our festival keeps getting bigger and better and that is because of you! After Mother's Day, we will begin preparing for this event and I am calling upon all of you. It is my hope that many of you will help in different ways, including our youth and young people.

I ask you to think about how you can assist in making this festival the best one ever. The tents have been reserved and the stage is set. **The festival will take place on Friday, September 11, from 5-11 PM, Saturday, September 12, from 12-11PM, and Sunday, September 13, from 12-5PM.** I hope you are as excited as I am to host our brothers and sisters from around the area and beyond. I thank you in advance for your help and commitment to our Church. Blessings.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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 souls of Joseph and Marie Kenyon and Herve and Yvette LeBlanc requested by Mike and Diane LeBlanc. May their souls 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.

Tuesday, May 5, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Irene). 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, May 6, @ 9:00 AM (Feast of Saint Dominic Savio). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the living and deceased members of Joseph Semaan Dawood Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Thursday, May 7, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Antoninus). NO LITURGY.

Saturday, May 9, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Isaiah the Prophet, Feast of the Second Council of Constantinople). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Larry Oliveira requested by Mike and Diane LeBlanc. 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. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Mary Saba and George Michael requested by the Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, May 10, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Simon the Zealot, Feast of Saint Damien of Molokai). Liturgy is offered for all Mothers living and deceased.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention by Smitty Cabral. 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 May is offered in memory of Anthony and Margaret Thomas requested by the Family.

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.

LECTORS FOR MAY, 2026

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.

WEEK OF APRIL 18-19, 2026

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday Collection | \$ 2,329.00 |
| Hall Renovation Donation | \$ 3,800.00 |
| Memorial Donations | \$ 400.00 |
| Coffee Hour | \$ 39.00 |
| Donation | \$ 250.00 |
| Total | \$ 6,818.00 |

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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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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