



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

May 9-10, 2026

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Mother's Day arrives quietly, yet it carries a weight that touches every heart differently, some with joy, some with longing, some with gratitude, and others with a gentle ache. It is a day that reminds us what a mother truly is: not simply one who gives life, but one who sustains it, shapes it, and pours herself out daily in ways often unseen.

A mother is the first home we ever knew. Her voice becomes the first comfort, her presence the first security, her love the first reflection of something greater than us. She teaches without always speaking through sacrifice, patience, resilience, and a tenderness that endures even when tested. She carries burdens silently so that her children may walk more freely. She gives, and gives again, often without asking for anything in return. God, in His wisdom, created mothers with a strength that is unlike any other. Not always the strength that the world recognizes, but a deeper, quieter power the strength to endure, to forgive, to begin again each day no matter how heavy yesterday was. He placed within her heart a unique capacity to love beyond limits, to see hope where others see failure, and to remain steady when everything around her feels uncertain. This strength is not loud, but it is unshakable. It is the kind of strength that bends without breaking, that

sacrifices without counting the cost, and that reflects something divine in its very nature.

In this, every mother reflects something of the beauty of the Virgin Mary. Like Mary, she says "yes" to a calling that is not always easy. Like Mary, she treasures moments in her heart, even when they are mixed with sorrow. Like Mary at the foot of the cross, she stands in love even in suffering. And like Mary in the quiet of Nazareth, she transforms ordinary days into sacred ones through faithfulness. Mothers mirror that same quiet strength, the kind that does not seek attention, but changes lives.

For those whose mothers have gone before us, this day becomes a bridge between earth and heaven. Love does not end; it deepens. We remember them in the habits they taught us, the prayers they whispered, the values they planted. We honor them by living what they lived for. Pray for them, speak their names, carry forward their goodness. And trust hopefully, faithfully that they rest in the peace of heaven, interceding in ways we cannot see.

For those whose mothers are still with them, this day is a call to action. Not only to say, "thank you," but to show it. Time, patience, forgiveness, attention, these are the gifts that matter most. Listen to her stories, even the ones you've heard before. Be present. Speak gently. Love her not only in words, but in how you treat her, especially in the small moments. The greatest honor we can give our mothers is not perfection, but genuine love.

And for all mothers living and departed this is our prayer, woven into a poem:

A mother's hands, both warm and worn,
Have shaped our nights and held our morn.
In whispered prayers and silent

tears, She walked beside us through the years. If she still walks this earth today, Hold her close, don't turn away.

For time moves fast, and moments flee. Love her now, intentionally. And if she rests beyond our sight, in heaven's calm, eternal light, speak her name in prayer once more, She is not lost just gone before. For every hug, for every care, for every hidden, faithful prayer, a mother's love will never cease it echoes still in timeless peace. So, whether near or far above.

We thank God now for a mother's love. A gift so deep, so strong, so true. A glimpse of heaven, given through you. May this Mother's Day be filled with gratitude, remembrance, and love that is lived not just spoken, and let us never forget how much a mother is worth.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The most important person on earth is a Mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She had built something more magnificent than any Cathedral: The tiny perfection of her baby's body. The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new Saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mother are closer to God the creator than any other creature: God's joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation. What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: To be a Mother?

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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS

This time of the year is extra special as our children receive their First Communion. With the help of the Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light, Charbel Arsanios, Giovanna Galotti, and Inna ElKhoury, received their First Communion last weekend. May God bless them always.



2026 EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

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.

SECOND COLLECTION

Per the directive of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, there will be a second collection this weekend. This collection is taken to help with the upkeep of The Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

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.

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.

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Tuesday, May 12, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus). Liturgy is being offered in honor of Saint Sharbel for a special intention requested by Mariam David and Family.

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

Wednesday, May 13, @ 7:00 PM, The Ascension of Our Lord Vigil, (Feast of Saint Addai, one of the 72 Disciples, Feast of Our Lady of Fatima).

Thursday, May 14, @ 9:00 AM, The Ascension of Our lord, (Feast of Saints Boniface and Aglae, and Their 20 Companions). NO LITURGY.

Saturday, May 16, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of saint Gennadius, Patriarch of Constantinople). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Marie Kenyon requested by the Family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Peter and Raja Bou Eassey requested by the Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, May 10, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Serapion). Liturgy is offered for the soul of Fadi Hardin requested by the Family (40-Day Mass). May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Tommy and Josie Thomas requested by the Family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Shirley Roy requested by the Family. May her soul rest in peace.

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.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Georgette Sawaya, Josephine Chedid and for all mothers living and deceased by Zakhia and 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.

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 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).

WEEK OF MAY 02-03, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,407.00
Hall Renovation Donation	\$ 10,600.00
April Online Giving	\$ 631.33
Hall Rental	\$ 300.00
Second Collection	\$ 202.00
Lebanese Market	\$ 15.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 50.00
Candles	\$ 156.00
Total	\$ 13,361.33

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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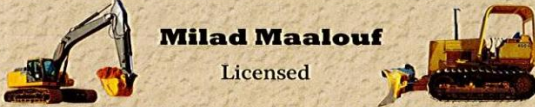


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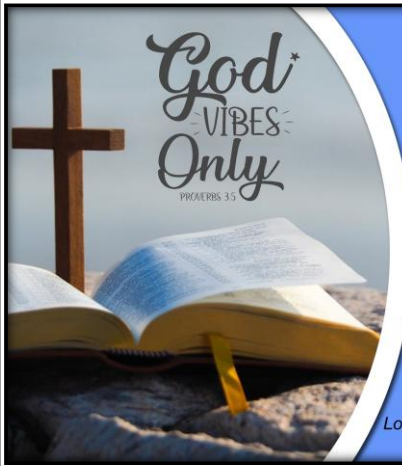
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Joseph & Marie Kenyon

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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