



# Our Lady of Purgatory



## Maronite Catholic Church

May 16-17, 2026

### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION



#### IS A NO REPLY CONSIDERED A REPLY WHEN GOD DOESN'T ANSWER OUR PRAYERS IMMEDIATELY?

Sometimes the deepest pain in prayer is not “no.” It is silence. It is kneeling with tears, asking God for help, for healing, for clarity, for rescue and hearing nothing back. No sign. No comfort. No answer we can touch. And in those moments the heart quietly asks: “Lord, where are You? Did You hear me at all?” But perhaps one of the hardest truths of faith is this: God’s silence is not always God’s absence.

A mother watching her child learn to walk does not run forward at every stumble. Not because she is indifferent, but because love sometimes allows struggle so strength can be born. In a deeper and holier way, God often works beneath the surface where we cannot yet see Him. We want immediate answers; God often works in eternal ways. We ask for relief, while He may be building endurance, humility, purification, wisdom, or a deeper union with Him. Even Jesus Christ Himself cried out in agony: “My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?”

The silence of Heaven touched even Him on the Cross. Yet behind that silence, salvation was unfolding. What looked abandoned was actually embraced by the Father in a mystery too deep for human eyes to understand at the time.

Sometimes we think prayer is a transaction: “I asked, so God should answer this way.”

But prayer is first a relationship. And relationships are not measured only by spoken words. There are moments when a father sits quietly beside his suffering child and says nothing because presence itself is the answer. God’s presence is often hidden, quiet, almost imperceptible like a candle flame in a dark church that seems small yet keeps burning through the night.

A “no reply” from God can mean many things: “Not yet.” “I am preparing something you cannot see.” “This path will wound you.” “I want you to trust Me beyond feelings.”

Or simply: “Stay with Me a little longer.”

And yes, sometimes the silence hurts because we are praying from exhaustion. We are not asking for luxuries; we are begging for strength. In those moments, faith becomes less about certainty and more about remaining. Remaining before God even when the heart feels empty. Remaining because love does not walk away at the first silence.

The saints often spoke about this hidden season. Not because they lacked faith, but because their faith became purified. Love that survives silence becomes real love. Anyone can trust God when miracles happen quickly. But the soul that still whispers, “Lord, I believe You are here,” while carrying unanswered prayers that soul has entered deep faith.

Practically, when God feels silent: Keep praying honestly, not perfectly. Tell Him your disappointment without fear. Read small portions of Scripture slowly. Sit in silence before Him, even for a few minutes. Look for quiet graces rather than dramatic signs. Let others carry you in prayer when your strength fades. And never underestimate the hidden answers already around you: the unexpected strength to survive another day, the person who checked on you at the right time, the peace that arrived for a brief moment, the door that closed before it harmed you, the tears that softened your heart instead of hardening it. Sometimes God answers not by removing the storm, but by keeping the soul from drowning in it.

The tragedy is not that God is silent. The tragedy is when we stop speaking to Him because of the silence. Faith is often loving God in the dark until dawn slowly appears again.

And dawn does come. Quietly. Patiently. Faithfully.

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“Do not be afraid to love. You will never lose by loving. You will only gain in the end.”*

*St. Rita of Cascia*



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

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

## WELCOME ABOUNA GEORGE ANTABY

We welcome Abouna George once again to OLOP. Abouna George will be covering for me on **Sunday, May 17**. Fr. George, who is stationed in Lawrence, Massachusetts, was kind enough to come and celebrate Sunday Liturgy for me. His beautiful liturgy and heartfelt words are always welcomed, and we thank him for assisting us. Welcome Abouna George!

## THANK YOU FOR A BEAUTIFUL MOTHER'S DAY

I would like to thank Jacques Barbour and all the men who honored the women in our lives for Mother's Day with the beautiful brunch. From those who set up the hall, prepared food, decorated, and cleaned up, thank you.

I would also like to thank Matthew and Cathy Thomas for the donation of the Spa Gift Card and Norma Barbour for the Michael Kors purse and wallet for the Mother's Day Raffle. Your kindness helped the Education Foundation and the young men and women who benefit from these scholarships. God bless all of you!

## CALLING 2026 GRADUATES

As we come closer to graduation day, I would like to congratulate our 2026 graduates. I am asking for this year's list of graduates to be sent to me by email so that we may offer liturgy and acknowledge you.

Parents, please send the name of your children who are graduating from High School, the school they graduated from and the college they will be attending in the fall. College and/or Graduate students, please tell me where you graduated from, your major, and what your future plans hold for you.

We are very proud of all our young adults and wish you all the best in the future. May God continue to bless you and hold you in His loving arms.

## 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 up for Catholic Home Missions which is used for new missions in the USA. Our Eparchy has received grants from the USCCB from this collection for several years. Thank you for your generosity.

## SAJ SUNDAY MAY 24TH

Saj Sunday will be held on Sunday, May 24, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Please mark your calendars and join us as we make fresh bread to order. We will have zaatar minooshee and cheese minooshee for sale. Come and enjoy.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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, 2026,**

**Painting of the hall.**

**Most of the work will be done after  
5:30 PM.**

**June 1-5, 2026,**

**Chandeliers installation**

**June 8-12, 2026**

**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.

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**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 souls of Peter and Raja Bou Eassey requested by the Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, May 17, @ 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.

**Tuesday, May 19, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Philoterus, Feast of Saint Cyriaca and Her Companions).** 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 20, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Thalaleus of Lebanon).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Ray Bachand requested by Deacon Jean and Martha Mattar. May his soul rest in peace.

**Thursday, May 21, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Constantine the Emperor and His Mother Saint Helen). NO LITURGY.**

**Saturday, May 23, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Tobit the Righteous).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Roufael and Shoushlia Gabriel and the deceased members of their family requested by Joann, Anthony and Lorraine David. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Norma Thomas requested by Mariam David and Family. May her soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, May 24, @ 10:30 AM, Pentecost Sunday, (Feast of Saint Simeon the Stylite, Disciple of Saint Maron).** Liturgy is offered for the soul of Abouna Boutros Nasr requested by the Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Anthony and Margaret Abraham Thomas requested by the Family. May their souls rest in peace.

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

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

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

## LECTORS FOR MAY, 2026

**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 09-10, 2026

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,703.00</b>
<b>Mother's Day Raffle</b>	<b>\$ 1,030.00</b>
<b>Hall Rental</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
<b>Second Collection</b>	<b>\$ 354.00</b>
<b>Lebanese Market</b>	<b>\$ 118.00</b>
<b>Sanctuary Candle</b>	<b>\$ 55.00</b>
<b>Memorial Donation</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,660.00</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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*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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