



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

July 13-14, 2024

NINTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

WEEKLY REFLECTION

“Jesus Meek and Humble of Heart, make our hearts like your heart”. This powerful statement should always make us think harder about its meaning and it should challenge our faith daily. It is said that humility is not fear. Meekness is not weakness. Humility and meekness are indeed spiritual powers and gifts. The salvation of this human world lies nowhere else than in the human heart, in the human power to reflect, in human meekness and human responsibility. It is one of the most difficult things to attain for me personally.

In Zechariah 9:9, Jesus presents Himself in the Gospel, meek and humble of heart. Meek means to be patient and gentle. It is not renouncing of rights but the opposite of today’s world of anger, division and of long embraced retribution. If we take a minute to reflect, it is crazy that Jesus Christ, the savior, chose to come down from Heaven and be with us in this crazy world, as a servant to all. In a world where we’re appealed to focus on making the best name for ourselves, but God has given us His only Son, the intact example of putting others’ needs above our own. Humility is defined in the dictionary as freedom from pride or arrogance, the quality or state of being humble.

The other day I read a quote stating that “I am in competition with no one. I have no desire to play the game of being better than anyone. I am trying to be better than the person I was yesterday”. Life is not a competition but a character. If there's anyone to compete with it should be yourself alone. The only competition we have is the person we see in the mirror every morning. We are not in a race with any other individual or situation except

with ourselves. Therefore, how can I be a better person today than yesterday? Michael Josephson wrote this beautiful poem about what will matter in life, and it is very fitting when discussing being meek and humble of heart:

Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end. There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days. Your wealth, fame and power will shrivel to irrelevance. Your grudges, resentments, frustrations and jealousies will finally disappear. So too, your hopes, ambitions, plans and to-do lists will expire. The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away. It will not matter where you came from or what side of the track you lived on in the end. It will not matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.

Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant. So, what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured? What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built, not what you got, but what you gave. What will matter is not your success, but your significance.

What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught. What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example. What will matter is not your competence, but your character. What will matter is not how many people you knew but how many will feel a lasting loss when you’re gone. What will matter is not your memories but the memories of those who loved you. What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what. Living a life that matters doesn’t happen by accident.

It’s not a matter of circumstance but of

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



choice. Choose to live a life that matters.”

Colin Smith provided the following strategies for cultivating meekness of heart: Moderate your expectations of others. Find joy in evidence of God’s grace. Remember how much you have been forgiven. Take time before you form judgments. Make friends with meek people. Take pleasure in the joys of others. Discern God’s hand in the work of your enemies. Walk daily in fellowship with Jesus Christ. Anticipate all that God has promised. Ask God to give you meekness. Lord, you said that a gentle and quiet spirit is of great worth in your sight. Please give me that spirit. Help me to curb this harsh tongue. Keep me from rash judgments and help me to think the best of others.

Help me to discern your hand working for my good, even when I face great difficulties, opposition and sometimes wounds. Help me to find pleasure in the joy of others. Help me to walk with Jesus Christ, so that a reflection of your meek Son, Jesus Christ, may be formed in me today and everyday of my life so tomorrow I can be a better person than yesterday, and help my heart become like the heart of your only begotten son, Jesus Christ.

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.



The Massabki Brothers



Three Maronite brothers - Francis, Raphael and Abdel Moati Massabki - grew up and lived in 19th century Damascus, then part of the Ottoman Empire. They were laymen who lived ordinary, devout Christian lives.

On 9 July 1860, during an Ottoman attack on a Franciscan Church in Damascus, the three brothers were given the chance to renounce their faith and convert or die.

All three chose to profess Jesus Christ for eternal life. Later that night they were martyred along with eight Franciscan Friars. On 7 October 1926, Pope Pius XI beatified the three brothers.

On 1 July 2024 Pope Francis approved the canonisation of the Massabki brothers and the Friars, to take place on Sunday 20 October 2024 in the Vatican.

Their feast day is 10 July.

*Maronite icon written by Fr Abdo Badwi

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of July is offered for the living and deceased members of the Daher and David families by Mariam David and family.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Helen Yamine by Milad and Sousou Maalouf. 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

Sophie Correa, Stephen Dacosta, Abouna Tanios Abi Ramia, Kenneth Macedo, Muriel Moline, Patricia Farhat, Ghada Karam, Beverly Parlapiano, Michael Bruce, Magda Moosa, Sharon Conti, David Techlin, Debbie Freedenberg, Efrangieh Daou, Reggie Thomas, Peter Helmer, Renee Helmer, Octavia David, Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Angela Scorza-Anderson, Theresa John, Laurette Bou Ramia, Annie Peter, Mariam David, Norma Thomas, Zita Drouin, Lucienne Rodrigues, Ed Da Rocha, and Edmond Salameh. If anyone is missing from this list, please contact the Church office.

FOR ANY EMERGENCY

I ask all of you to please direct any calls pertaining to mass intentions, office related needs, etc., to:

Hiba Chdid at the office, 508-996-8934, by email, officeolop@gmail.com, or after hours on her cell, 508-617-3888.

Any emergencies, concerns or questions liturgically, I ask you to contact:

Deacon Jean Mattar at 774-217-9232.

NO WEEKDAY LITURGIES AND NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

There will be no weekday Liturgies Monday through Thursday or Eucharist adoration on Mondays. I appreciate your understanding. I will announce when they will once again resume.

ANNUAL LEBANESE FESTIVAL

- SAVE THE DATES-

September may sound like a long time away but as we prepare for our Annual Lebanese Festival, it is never too early to begin preparations. The festival will be held on Friday, September 13, and Saturday, September 14, 2024.

In the next few weeks, I will be sending out information and asking you to volunteer. For this major fundraiser to be a success, your help is needed. I ask you in advance to think about how you can help make this festival a great success. Younger and older alike, your participation will make a great difference.

SAINT JOSEPH SODALITY NEWS

Periodically we will be publishing news and coming events from the St. Joseph Sodality. The Sodality is the oldest organization in the Parish, having been founded in 1918. Through their devotion to St. Joseph, Sodality Members seek to emulate the life and faith of St. Joseph, and by doing so, hope to achieve eternal happiness as he did. The Sodality encourages you to consider becoming a member.

FREE ADMISSION

All are invited to come and join us
Festivities will go on come rain or shine!
Under the tents or in the open air!

Lebanese Mahrajan Food Festival

St. Anthony of the Desert Church, 300 N. Eastern Avenue, Fall River, MA

Fri, Aug 9th ~ 5pm to 10pm
Sat, Aug 10th ~ Noon to 11pm
Sun, Aug 11th ~ 11am to 5pm

Authentic Lebanese Food and Pastry

MITCHELL KALTSUNAS AND ENSEMBLE
Fri. 6pm-10pm
Sat. 6pm-10pm
Sun. 12noon-4pm

Hookah

Bounce House & Inflated Basketball

DJ. GEORGE AYUB
Fri. 5pm-6pm
Sat. 3pm-6pm
10pm-11pm
Sun. 11am-12noon
4pm-5pm

THROWBACK
THROWBACK Sat. 1pm-3pm

Alcoholic Beverages

Dancing and so much more!

Facebook: St Anthony of the Desert Maronite Catholic Church
Website: <https://saotd-fr.org/>
Phone: 508-678-7633

FREE PARKING

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 13, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Joel the Prophet). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Anthony Cabral requested by Lou and Smitty Cabral. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Michael and Ann David requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, July 14, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Bonaventure, Doctor of the Church, Feast of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Deacon Anthony Khoury requested by OLOP. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Charbel Baroodly requested by Charles Baroodly. May his soul rest in peace.

Saturday, July 20, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Elias the Prophet). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Louise and David Pimental, Alfred Dallaire and George Thompson requested by Norma Barbour and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in Purgatory requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May all the souls in Purgatory rest in peace.

Sunday, July 21, @ 10:30 AM, (Celebration of Saint Sharbel Feast, Feast of Saint Simeon Salus and His Friend Saint John). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of George F. Thomas requested by family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Mary Saba requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

LECTORS FOR JULY 2024

Saturday, July 13,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, July 14

Ann Dupre / Gaby Baroodly

Saturday, July 20,

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, July 21,

John Barbour / Jano Baroodly

Saturday, July 27,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

Sunday, July 28,

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

(If you are not able to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson)

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 07/015-07/20/24

Monday:

Acts of the Apostles 18: 18-28

Luke 11: 33-36

Tuesday:

Acts of the Apostles 19: 1-10

Luke 11: 37-41

Wednesday:

Acts of the Apostles 19: 11-22

Luke 11: 42-46

Thursday:

Acts of the Apostles 19: 23-29, 35-40

Luke 11: 47-51

Friday:

Acts of the Apostles 20: 6-16

Luke 11: 52-54

Saturday:

Acts of the Apostles 20: 17-24, 28, 32, 35

Matthew 23: 1-12

CONFESSION

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

FINANCE COUNCIL

MEMBERS:

Jimmy Kalife, Wassim Chedid, Rose Dupre, Rana Choubah, Nigel Hitchings, and Joseph Barckett.

PARISH COUNCIL

MEMBERS:

Fadi Bark, Johnny Kalife, Vicki Thomas Marini, Jacques Barbour, and Smitty Cabral.

WEEK OF JULY 6-7, 2024

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,044.00
Candles	\$ 74.00
Total	\$ 1,118.00

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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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.

Joseph & Marie Kenyon

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