



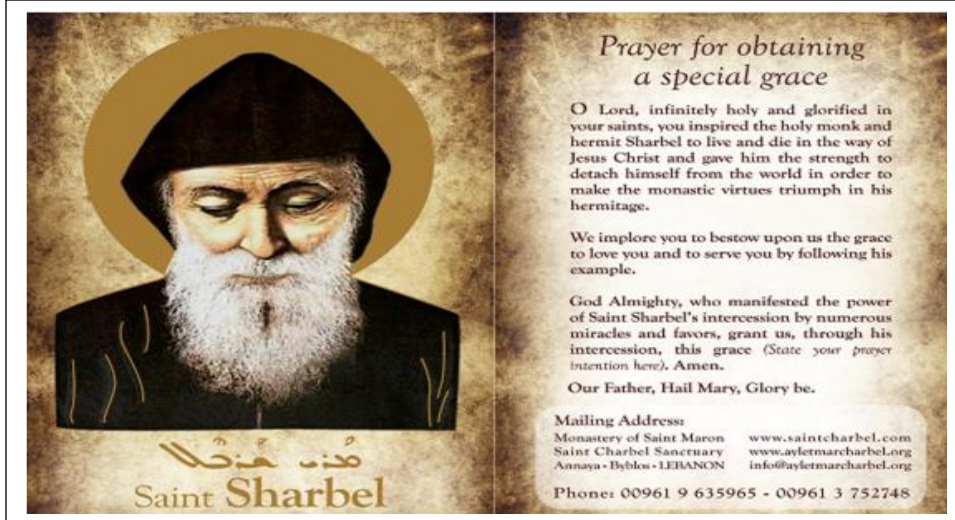
# Our Lady of Purgatory



## Maronite Catholic Church

July 20-21, 2024

### TENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



#### SAINT CHARBEL HAVE MERCY ON US

Saint Charbel Makhlof of Lebanon (1828 - 1898), is revered by Christians and Muslims as a holy man of God, who devoted his life to prayer and intercession as a Maronite monk, and later as a hermit, at the Monastery of Saint Maron, Annaya, Lebanon. His intercession led to many extraordinary miracles, healings, and answered prayers for thousands of people. The crypt where his mortal remains are kept is filled with innumerable letters of answered prayers and the walls are lined with many crutches left by people who were cured through his intercession. Today, thousands of Christians and Muslims come to visit the monastery and pay their respect at Charbel's tomb. And many return home with thanksgiving and spiritual blessing.

**"FOR YOU HAS HE COMMANDED HIS ANGELS TO KEEP YOU IN ALL YOUR WAYS" - PSALM 91:11**

In introducing St Charbel, we suggested that he must have been led down some extraordinary pathways without ever

letting this be apparent, ways which his superiors had not thought to record in writing, although it seems unthinkable that they would not have noticed what was happening.

There is, however, one account which stands out – the text of the death notice in the convent register entered by his superior, abbot Antonios Michmichani, Fr Antonios spares himself the trouble of writing a long commentary on St Charbel's life by simply pointing out that "the work he will do after his death" will speak eloquently enough "of a monk who behaved on earth more like an angel than a man". The stunning precision of this prediction was, nevertheless, to be expected in the light of the signs and wonders accomplished in his lifetime by the saintly monk.

We have only sketches of these extraordinary paths along which he was led. One of his brother monks relates how once, when St Charbel was worshipping in the church, he seemed to be "talking to someone". Without solid evidence though, this may have been just an impression. In addition to this, there are several other examples describing a

profound stillness suggestive of a deep state of contemplation prayer. According to St Teresa of Avila, this could be classed as one or other state of "ecstasy" or "union with God", which she could speak about with discernment, as a doctor of the church. But here too, there is a lack of real evidence.

#### CHARBEL ABSORBED IN PRAYER WHEN LIGHTNING AND FIRE FILLED HIS HERMITAGE CHAPEL

There is one example, however, of St Charbel's state of ecstasy when he was in contemplation. It happened in the winter. During a thunderstorm which swept through Annaya, lightning hit the hermitage chapel with a great crash. The explosion shook the walls, and the electrical charge produced a smell of burning which almost suffocated the two hermits sitting by the hearth in the kitchen. It was so bad they were on the point of fainting. When they came to their senses, they rushed into the chapel and were surprised to find Charbel on his knees and completely absorbed in prayer. This was despite the lightning scorching the altar cloth and the gold-embroidered chasuble laid on it. The lightning must have at the least, brushed against the saintly monk.

This incident was without doubt extraordinary and we are entitled to



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)

Email: [ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com) | Facebook Page: Our Lady of Purgatory Catholic Church - Maronite Rite |

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.

believe that when lightning struck the chapel, the saint was in ecstasy. When the monks from the main convent arrived, having rushed down in the dark to check on the damage, they reproached him for letting the fire damage the altar cloth and the precious chasuble. St Charbel simply replied "what could I have done? It was all over in a flash!" Was he just unruffled? Should he have been more concerned about his companions? Or was he trying to divert attention from his ecstasy? This is not unlikely. In any case, we can be sure that on that night he was protected in a very special way.

### MINISTRY OF HEALING AND MIRACLE-WORKING

Of course, we have already emphasized that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are not necessarily signs of sainthood, but rather tools for the edification of the faithful. On the other hand, the regular exercising of a spiritual gift can become a permanent service to the church, a ministry. This was the case with St Charbel. Early in his monastic life his superiors had taken note of his extraordinary ministry of healing and miracle working. They did not deprive themselves of its use. St Charbel prayed on two occasions, at the request of this superior, for the monastery's storage jars of oil and wheat to be filled and his prayers were answered.

### A MONK "DRUNK ON GOD"

That St Charbel became more and more aware of being led along extraordinary pathways is without doubt. "Drunk on God", as his biographer Paul Daher described him, he was also constantly looking out for his brothers and sisters. We can well imagine him at the hermitage in the latter period of his life. He had acquired unparalleled self-control and inner equilibrium.

As with St Paul, it was "no longer he who was living, but Christ living in him" (Galatians 2: 20). People would flock from the surrounding villages to attend his masses on Sundays and weekdays. We could say that the Holy Spirit was constantly whispering to him to speak and act as he did. A worried father (from the village of Kfar Baal, near Jbeil) came one day to ask for prayer for his children and was amazed to be welcomed with kindness and reassurance before he had even opened his mouth to explain. In another case, when a father came to Saint Charbel to solicit his prayer for his children and was about to hurry home

with some holy water, Saint Charbel reassured him that his children were out of danger, and he didn't have to hasten so quickly. Following the example of divine Wisdom, Charbel "found his delight" in giving joy to his brothers (Proverbs 8 v 31).

St. Charbel Makhlof, OLM, who was canonized in 1977 by Pope Paul VI. In emptying himself of all imaginable comforts, this saint was filled with grace, allowing God to work through him in a more powerful way. Since St. Charbel's beatification in 1965, St. Maroun's Monastery in Lebanon has received hundreds of thousands of letters from around the world, many reporting miracles and wonders worked through this simple hermit's intercession. At St. Charbel's canonization, Pope Paul VI said, "[We] need people who offer themselves as victims for the salvation of the world, in a freely accepted penance, in an unceasing prayer of intercession ... in a radical way [St. Charbel embodied] a spirit from which no faithful of Christ is exempt...a path salutary for all." If we empty ourselves of our worldly attachments, we, too, can live more like St. Charbel, more like Christ, so that God can fill us more completely with His grace.

By: Fadi Noun

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Sophie Correa, Stephen Dacosta, 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.

### THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Josephine Chedid by Charbel and Antoinette Chedid. 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.

### 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](mailto: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.**

### 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.

### 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.



**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 9<sup>th</sup> ~ 5pm to 10pm**  
**Sat, Aug 10<sup>th</sup> ~ Noon to 11pm**  
**Sun, Aug 11<sup>th</sup> ~ 11am to 5pm**

Authentic Lebanese Food and Pastry

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

Bounce House & Inflated Basketball

Hookah

Alcoholic Beverages

Dancing and so much more!

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

FREE PARKING

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**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.

**Saturday, July 27, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Pantaleon).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Clarence and Mildred Hahn, Sandra Stevenson and Robert Allen Wellner requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Kay Sarris requested by Helena Tavares and family. May her soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, July 28, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of The Third Council of Constantinople, Feast of Saint Anthusa, Feast of the Blessed Stanley Rother). Remember Me In Your Kingdom.** May all the souls in the book of life rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Leo Farhat requested by family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of all the deceased members of Victoria Lahoud family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

## LECTORS FOR JULY 2024

**Saturday, July 20,**  
Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

**Sunday, July 21,**  
John Barbour / Jano Baroody

**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 07/22-07/27/24

### Monday:

Acts of the Apostles 21: 1-14  
Matthew 23: 13-15

### Tuesday:

Romans 8: 28-39  
Matthew 13: 36-43

### Wednesday:

Acts of the Apostles 21: 27-28, 30b-40a  
Matthew 23: 23-26

### Thursday:

Acts of the Apostles 21: 40-22:10  
Luke 12: 1-5

### Friday:

Acts of the Apostles 22: 17-29  
Luke 12: 6-9

### Saturday:

Acts of the Apostles 22: 30-23:11  
Luke 12: 10-12

## 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

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,029.00</b>
<b>Raffle Tickets</b>	<b>\$ 80.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>\$ 53.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,162.00</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.**

Please join  
**Bishop Gregory Mansour**  
at the  
**Eparchy of Saint Maron's**  
**FIFTEENTH ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024  
UNION LEAGUE CLUB

Proceeds will support Seminarians, Parishes and Missions, Retired Priests, help to our Church in the Middle East, and our newly acquired St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center.

We seek the spirituality of St. Sharbel to brighten our world with HOPE!  
We look forward to seeing you and thank you for your support  
EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN  
718-237-9913 • saintmaron@yahoo.com • www.stmaron.org

BARBERSHOP x LOUNGE

# CHEDID Cuts

EST. 2022




**ROUTE 18**  
GAS & SERVICE

Complete Automotive Repair  
Foreign / Domestic  
State Inspection Station

Eli Nassif  
508-998-3445  
Fax 508-998-9549  
4227 Acushnet Ave.  
New Bedford, MA 02745



We Sell Diesel Fuel

**CHRISTOPHE CHEDID**  
Business Owner



100 State Rd  
Dartmouth, MA 02747

774.255.0099  
@ : Chedidcuts



SCAN ME

# Counseling ASSOCIATES

152 Dean Street, Taunton, MA  
508-837-0790

## M & S Excavation



**Milad Maalouf**  
Licensed

LAND CLEARING • SITE WORK  
ROADS • SEPTIC SYSTEMS

134 Old Westport Road  
N. Dartmouth, MA 02747

508-971-0067  
Fax 508-991-5631

For all your jewelry needs



## A & A Jewelers

Your Trusted Jeweler  
for over 28 years

508-992-5320

Located: 279 State Rd. Dartmouth, MA 02747

www.aajewelersinc.com



*God's VIBES Only*  
PROVERBS 35



## CYCLONE CLEANING & RESTORATION SERVICES




- ◆ Carpets & Upholstery
- ◆ Commercial/Residential Cleaning
- ◆ Smoke/Water Damage
- ◆ Washing/Waxing/Stripping Floors

Call the company you've counted on for years - CALL CYCLONE!

Anthony David • (508) 995-8816  
833 Mount Pleasant St. • New Bedford, MA 02745  
www.CycloneCleaning.com


### FULL SERVICE SALON



**Wassim Chedid**  
401-837-0664  
Tuesday & Thurs  
1-6pm  
Saturday  
1-5pm

**Zakhia Chedid**  
774-444-3337  
Monday,  
Wednesday &  
Friday  
1-6pm

WWW.HEADSOFSTATESALON.COM  
North Dartmouth, MA  
653 State Road (Route 6) • 508-999-0177



*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**

*Your Loving Children*

## SALON PERSIA

308 THAYER STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI

**Wassim Chedid** 401-837-0664  
Tuesday & Saturday . . . . . 9-12:30pm  
Wednesday & Friday . . . . . 9-6 pm

**Zakhia Chedid** 774-444-3337  
Monday & Friday . . . . . 9-12:30pm  
Tuesday & Thursday . . . . . 9-6 pm  
Saturday . . . . . 9-4 pm

401-831-9536 • WWW.SALONPERSIA.COM

OVER 75 YEARS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE CRAFTSMANSHIP



## DUPRE

BLOCK • BRICK • GLASS BLOCK  
BLUESTONE • FIELDSTONE • COBBLESTONE  
Cutting and Core Drill • Driveways  
Steel Fabrication and Installation  
Handicap Access

**508-993-8088**  
369 Nash Rd. • New Bedford

www.duprecontractors.com