



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



January 4-5, 2025

THE FINDING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE A BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

The traditional belief that there were three wise men is a development based on the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh recorded in Matthew 2:11. The identification of the wise men as kings may have developed from a reading of Psalm 72 that says, “May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him” (v. 11).

Most Nativity scenes include the Magi, but we know from [Scripture](#) that they did not arrive until later. Some Bible scholars suggest that this may not have occurred until up to a year and a half later, based on King Herod’s command in Matthew 2:16: Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men.

The fact that Herod had all the male children up to two years old killed

suggests that some time had passed before he ascertained the age of the Christ child from the Magi. In any case, Matthew does not tell us exactly how much time elapsed between the birth of Jesus and their arrival.

According to the website religoustolere.org:

“The Egyptian God Horus was born of the virgin Isis; as an infant, he was visited by three kings.” Of Hercules, Osiris, Bacchus, Mithras, Hermes, Prometheus, Perseus, and Horus, the site claims all of them had been “visited by ‘wise men’ during infancy.” In classic popular mythicist fashion, there are no primary source citations to back up these claims.

As I have already pointed out, Matthew’s Gospel is silent on the number and political status of the Magi. These are later developments in Christian tradition and not a matter of Gospel record. Because we know that these traditions arose from biblical inferences, we can say with confidence that they have nothing to do with pagan mythology.

Furthermore, of the pagan deities

mentioned above, none of them was visited by three wise men or kings. The burden of proof is with the mythicists, and they will be hard pressed to deliver anything credible.

Some mythicists will also claim that, like Jesus’ birth, the births of certain pagan gods were heralded by a star in the east. Mythicist author and blogger [D.M. Murdock](#) writes, “Rather than representing a ‘historical’ event surrounding the birth of a Jewish messiah, the star at the coming of the savior can be found in the myths of Egypt.”

Of the Magi, Pope Benedict XVI explains that it is possible these men were part of a Persian priesthood, or they could have been something else (see *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*, p. 94). Whoever they were, they were probably not Jewish. This point is significant, because even if there were a parallel here with some pagan god and the birth of Jesus, it makes sense that the Magi would recognize a sign familiar to them and respond to it. But there are no pagan parallels.

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

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.

Some mythicists attempt to connect Sothis—a star that the ancient Egyptians believed to be significant—to the birth of Horus. However, this can be achieved only through a series of rigorous mental gymnastics.

The Egyptians most often connected the rising of Sothis (AKA Sirius) to the rising level of the Nile River, which was very important to them. The flooding of the Nile brought with it fertile soil necessary for farming (see the *Oxford Guide to Egyptian Mythology*, p. 256). In the astral realm, the goddess Isis was sometimes identified with Sothis, and her husband, Osiris, was identified with the constellation Orion. Their sexual union was said to have produced Horus (*Oxford Guide*, p. 171). Even if Jesus were an astrological deity as some mythicists claim, there is still no parallel here.

The other “star in the east” parallel claims are met with the same obstacle: little to no evidence. There are other accounts from antiquity that appeal to astrological events as a sign of some spiritual significance, but none of them plays out like the story of Jesus’ birth and the visit of the Magi.

CHURCH ENVELOPES ARE IN FOR 2025

For those who have requested and use the Church envelopes, they are at the entrance door of the Church. If anyone would like to use the envelopes and needs a set, please contact the Church office and we will prepare some for you.

2025 OLOP DINING BOOK

Dining Books are now on sale just in time for Christmas. These are great gifts for family and friends. These books contain 5 dinners that are planned over the next few months. They are:

Ham and Bean Supper, Saturday, January 18, beginning at 5:30 PM

Shawarma Sunday, February 23, beginning at 11:30 AM

Lenten Fish Fry, Friday, March 7, beginning at 5:00 PM

Lenten Fish Fry, Friday, March 21, beginning at 5:00 PM

Saj Sunday, April 27, beginning at 11:30 AM

A \$70.00 value all yours for \$60.00. If you would like to purchase these books, please contact the office at 508-996-8934 or email the office at officeolop@gmail.com

FEAST OF THE GLORIOUS EPIPHANY

The Feast of the Glorious Epiphany will be celebrated on Monday, January 6, at 7:00 PM. This is a Holy Day of Obligation as we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. Immediately following Divine Liturgy, we will celebrate with coffee, zalabia, and pastries in the church hall. Anyone who would like to bring their signature zalabia is welcome to do so. Dayem Dayem!

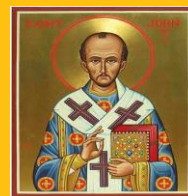
IN OUR PRAYERS

Nayeli Nassif, Maria Baptista, Ligia 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, Reggie Thomas, Peter Helmer, Renee Helmer, Octavia David, Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Theresa John, Angela Scorza-Anderson, 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.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“For by gold the power of a king is signified, by frankincense the honor of God, by myrrh the burial of the body; and accordingly, they offer Him gold as King, frankincense as God, myrrh as Man.”

St John Chrysostom



SAVE THE DATE

SAINT MARON'S DAY HAFLI

will be held on **Saturday, February 1**, at OLOP Church Hall. Of course you can expect great food, live entertainment, cash bar, and desserts. Tickets are \$75.00 and Dance Floor Tickets are \$100.00. Please mark your calendars and join us for the great annual event. Tickets are now on sale. Please contact Sousou Maalouf or the Church Office.

Our Lady of Purgatory Church Saint Maron's Feast Day Hafli

Saturday, February 1, 2025

at

OLOP Church Hall

4254 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, MA, 02745



Cash Bar & Mezza

@ 7:00 PM

Dinner Served

@ 8:00 PM

Live Entertainment by

Rami Badr

&

Bachir Khoury Band

Dance Floor Seating: \$100.00 (All Ages)

General Seating: \$75.00

Children (8 -17): \$40.00

Children (under 8yrs.): No Charge

For Ticket Sales Contact:

Church Office: (508) 996-8934

Sousou Maalouf: (508) 916-1523

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 4, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Pope Saint Caius, Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nancy David requested by The Family (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, January 5, @ 10:30 AM, (Vigil of the Glorious Epiphany, Feast of Saint Paul, the First Hermit, Feast of Saint John Neumann). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mansour Barbour requested by Norma Barbour and Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Walter and Janet Lalor requested by Jim Thomas and family. May their souls rest in peace.

Monday, January 6, @ 7:00 PM, Feast of the Glorious Epiphany.

Saturday, January 11, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Theodosius of Antioch). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Robert and Margaret Lizotte (FM). May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Julia Maroon and her family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, January 12, @ 10:30 AM, (Vigil of Saint Tatiana of Rome). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Samir and Georgette Sawaya requested by Zakhia and Hiba Chdid and Family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Chomak Family requested by the family. May their souls rest in peace.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of January is offered in memory of Mansour Barbour by Norma Jean Barbour and Family.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

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

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.



LECTORS FOR JANUARY, 2025

Saturday, January 4,
Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna and Helen Higgins

Sunday, January 5,

Ann Dupre / Gaby Baroody

Saturday, January 11,

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

Sunday, January 12,

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

Saturday, January 18,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, January 19,

Rana Choubah / Jano Baroody

Saturday, January 25,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Mae Dickinson

Sunday, January 26,

Cayla Barbour / Joumana Chedid

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

OUR LADY OF PURGATORY
Maronite Catholic Church
1st Annual Ham & Bean Supper
6pm Saturday, January 18th, 2025
OLOP Community Center

Ham, beans, coleslaw, homemade cornbread, beverages and dessert!

Tickets: \$15 Adult
Children under 10 free
Please call the office at 508-996-8934 or email the office at officeolop@gmail.com for tickets.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 28-29, 2024

Sunday Collection	\$	3,225.00
Christmas Offering	\$	50.00
Donations	\$	650.00
Memorial Donations	\$	100.00
Candles	\$	37.00
Total	\$	4,062.00

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.

FUN FAITH FELLOWSHIP
JANUARY 17TH
7-9pm
MYA KICKOFF EVENT 2025!

Calling all Young Adults ages 18 to 39 to come join us at Our Lady of Purgatory Church Hall, 4254 Achusnet Ave New Bedford for an interactive discussion and dinner with Fr. Vince as we brainstorm for future events. To join the MYA or RSVP please contact Fr. Vince at 508-996-8934.

BARBERSHOP x LOUNGE

CHEDID Cuts

EST. 2022



CHRISTOPHE CHEDID
Business Owner



100 State Rd
Dartmouth, MA 02747

774.255.0099
@ : Chedidcuts



SCAN ME

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



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

SALON PERSIA

308 THAYER STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI

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

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

401-831-9536 • WWW.SALONPERSIA.COM



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



Complete Automotive Repair
Foreign / Domestic
State Inspection Station

We Sell Diesel Fuel

Counseling ASSOCIATES

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

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




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

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