



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



December 21-22, 2024

GENEALOGY SUNDAY MERRY CHRISTMAS



MY CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO YOU

This time of the year allows most, if not all of us, time to reflect on what is important to us. A time to reflect on the people in our lives that God has placed before us. A time to be grateful for the blessings God has bestowed upon us, and most importantly, a time to realize, even in this busy world we live in, the great gift of our Lord, the Word made Incarnate.

This time of the year allows us to breathe and discover the joy that our Lord's birth brings. How can we measure the magnitude of God's love for us? In a world that has become more secular and materialistic, His birth brings us back to reality, to the simplistic, humble beginnings of our redemption.

How can it be that this little boy, born in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes, surrounded by grazing animals and

shepherds tending their sheep, can bring this much joy to us? It's simple! God kept His promise to bring to mankind a Savior who will come and save us from our sins. And this came to fruition on December 25, the birthday of our King!

This season of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord brings so much joy and hope. It is a time where the spirits of people are overcome with peace and love. A time when we celebrate the greatest love story known to mankind.

As we celebrate this great love story, may we take more time to appreciate the gift we have been given--- a gift that compares to nothing that Bloomingdales or Macys can offer. Rather it is a gift of unconditional love, a gift of the forgiveness of our sins, a gift of eternal life in the basking light of God's radiant face. This is the true meaning of Christmas.

As I reflect myself, God has blessed me in

more ways that I could have ever imagined. Every parish I have served and the people I have served have brought so much joy to me. And it reminds me that God has a plan for all of us. A plan that we might not have expected or wanted, but a plan that was necessary and a plan that would show us how to love, how to minister, how to bring others to the love of Christ. You have been that blessing to me.

My wish for all of us is that we take this time to truly appreciate the true meaning of this glorious day. To take the time to tell our family and friends how much they are loved. To take the time to worship our King and to thank Almighty God for giving to us the Prince of Peace, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear

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.

a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."

It is in this spirit that I wish you and your family a most blessed and joyous Christmas filled with Christ's love, peace, hope, and joy. Emmanuel, Emmanuel!

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



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 Acushnet 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.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA SCHEDULE

Beginning December 15, we will begin our Christmas Novena. The schedule is posted below. I hope to see you for this beautiful prayer service.

Friday, December 20,
Divine liturgy begins at 6:30 PM,
Novena will begin at 7:00 PM
Saturday, December 21,

Divine liturgy begins at 4:30 PM,
Novena will begin at 5:30 PM
Sunday, December 22,

Divine liturgy begins at 10:30 AM,
Novena will begin at 11:30 AM
Monday, December 23,

Divine liturgy begins at 6:30 PM,
Novena will begin at 7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGIES SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Vigil,
Tuesday, December 24,
Divine Liturgy will begin at 5:00 PM
Christmas Morning,
Wednesday, December 25,
Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:30 AM
Thursday, December 26,

Felicitations of the Virgin Mary,
Divine Liturgy will begin at 6:00 PM

WELCOME BABY BRADY BISKADUROS

Congratulations to Justin and Bertha (Baroody) Biskaduros on the arrival of your little boy Brady Biskaduros. We also congratulate his grandparents Gaby and Amal Barroody, Uncle Johnny Baroody, and the entire Biskaduros family. May Almighty God cradle Brady in His loving arms and protect him always. Mabrook Mabrook!

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

"My prayer for you is that when Christ comes to you in Christmas, He may find in you a warm home, warm love like that of a heartfelt of love, like that of a simple shepherd who was the first one chosen to see Christ."

Saint Mother Theresa of Calcutta



WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of December is offered in memory of Estephan Diab by Jacques and Amal Barbour.

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

Live Entertainment by
Rami Badr
&
Bochir Khoury Band

Dance Floor Seating: \$100.00 (All Ages)
General Seating: \$75.00
Children (8-17): \$40.00
Children (under 8yrs.): No Charge

Cash Bar & Mezza @ 7:00 PM
Dinner Served @ 8:00 PM

For Ticket Sales Contact:
Church Office: (508) 996-8934
Sousou Maalouf: (508) 916-1523

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 21, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Julian). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nazira (Mary N.) Saba requested by Annemarie Espindola. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Dave and Mary Sullivan requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, December 22, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Anastasia). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Laurette Bou Ramia requested by the Family (40-Day Mass). May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Fred Thomas, Joao, Fernanda and Edigio Baptista, Mena Carvalho requested by Fernanda Thomas. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Margueritte Chedid requested by Bashir and Christine ElKhoury. May her soul rest in peace.

Monday, December 23, @ 6:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Eugenia). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Renato Pastore. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Laurette Bou Ramia requested by Mariam David and Family. May her soul rest in peace.

Tuesday, December 24, @ 5:00 PM, Vigil of the Glorious Birth.

Wednesday, December 25, @ 10:30 AM, The Glorious Birth of Our Lord.

Thursday, December 26, @ 6:00 PM, Felicitations to the Virgin Mary. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nan Farhat requested by her family. May her soul rest in peace.

Saturday, December 28, @ 4:30 PM, The Adoration of The Magi. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Wadih Boutros Roupheal Gebrayel requested by Joann, Anthony and Lorraine David. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in Purgatory requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Progressive Lebanese American Club (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, December 29, @ 10:30 AM, Finding of Our Lord in the Temple. Remember Me In Your Kingdom. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Thomas David requested by Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Alda and Joao Pinto requested by Maria Sousa and Family. May their souls rest in peace.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Joe T. Nader by Joann Longden. 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.

LECTORS FOR DECEMBER

Saturday, December 21,

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna and Helen Higgins

Sunday, December 22,

John Barbour / Joumana Chedid

Tuesday, December 24,

Matthew Thomas / Hiba Chdid

Wednesday, December 25,

Mae Dickinson / TBA

Saturday, December 28,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, December 29,

Rana Choubah / Halim Choubah

Tuesday, December 31,

Annemarie Espindola / Gaby Baroody

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

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 DECEMBER 14-15, 2024

Sunday Collection	\$	1,573.00
Christmas Donations	\$	100.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	100.00
Coffee Hour	\$	630.00
Candles	\$	53.00
Total	\$	2,456.00

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.

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

Pls call the office at 508-996-8934 or email the office at officeolop@gmail.com for tickets.

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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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