



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



December 7-8, 2024

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



WHAT IS THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION?

In the Gospel of Luke an angel visits a young woman in Nazareth named Mary and asks if she will bear the Messiah. Mary says yes. Then, presto! Mary becomes pregnant with Jesus. This is known as the immaculate conception, right?

Wrong. Even though many Catholics connect this story in Luke's gospel with the term *immaculate conception*, the doctrine itself refers to something different. It still refers to Mary, but it is not about how Mary became pregnant with Jesus. It is about how Mary's mother became pregnant with her—deemed immaculate due to the absence of transmitting original sin.

In the 19th century the church faced a theological conundrum. If St. Augustine and the subsequent millennia of tradition were correct that sexual intercourse transmitted original sin, then Mary while in the womb would be stained by original sin. If Mary was stained by original sin, then she could not have carried the sinless

Son of God in her womb without exposing him to original sin. And if Jesus was born with original sin, then he could not serve as the appropriate sacrifice on the cross to atone for a wounded world—as required by St. Anselm's atonement theory, which guided the logic of many 19th-century theologians. So, if Jesus was exposed to original sin, there would be no possibility of salvation for humankind.

Rather than revise the doctrine of original sin, Pope Pius IX and his theologians proposed another solution: the immaculate conception of Mary. By doing this, they protected the sinlessness of Jesus—and thus the possibility of salvation for humankind—and further elevated the most venerated and beloved of all the saints: Mary of Nazareth. Moreover, in a context in which many of the church's European leaders felt attacked by the Enlightenment and the intellectual tools of modern reason, they did not have to concede ground to the rational logic of modernism that was later condemned in 1864 by Pius IX's *Syllabus of Errors*.

Hence, Pope Pius IX declared doctrine of

the immaculate conception in his 1854 apostolic constitution *Ineffabilis Deus* (Ineffable God). Later, it was grandfathered into the First Vatican Council's declaration of papal infallibility in 1870. It is one of only two teachings to be declared *ex cathedra*, or infallibly, by a pope. The other is Mary's bodily assumption into heaven that was declared by Pope Pius XII in 1950.

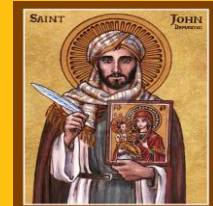
Today, Catholics remember that Mary conceived Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary's courageous assent to a strange pregnancy and her yes to God and God's plan are important to commemorate and venerate, but the doctrine of the immaculate conception does not refer to Mary's pregnancy with Jesus. It refers to when Mary herself was conceived by her parents and God intervened to stop the transmission of original sin.

<https://uscatholic.org/articles/202204/what-is-the-immaculate-conception/>

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The day of the Nativity of the Mother of God is a day of universal joy, because through the Mother of God, the entire human race was renewed, and the sorrow of the first mother, Eve, was transformed into joy."

Saint John Damascene



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 |

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEACON JEAN

We would like to wish Deacon Jean Mattar a very happy and joyous birthday. May Almighty God grant you many more years of good health, happiness, and service to the Lord. Thank you for everything you do to serve this community.

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 will go on sale December 21, 2024. Please contact Sousou Maalouf or the Church Office.

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

PREPARATION FOR FIRST PENANCE & FIRST COMMUNION

Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30pm, at the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light Convent at 856 Tucker Road, Dartmouth, MA. Sr. Mary Emily will instruct the children, and at least one parent is requested to stay and will be with one of the Sisters for the session. Reach out to register at- sister@maroniteservants.org or call Mother Marla Marie 202-213-7700.

Fall 2024 Dates Tuesdays
December: 10/17

OLOP CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

We will have our 1st Annual Christmas Brunch on Sunday, December 15, after 10:30 Divine Liturgy. There will be an array of Lebanese and American food items for all of you to enjoy. Please mark your calendars now.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

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

Sunday, December 15,

Novena will begin at 10:00 AM

Monday, December 16,

Divine liturgy begins at 6:30 PM,

Novena will begin at 7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 17,

Divine liturgy begins at 6:30 PM,

Novena will begin at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, December 18,

Divine liturgy begins at 6:30 PM,

Novena will begin at 7:00 PM

Thursday, December 19,

Divine liturgy begins at 6:30 PM,

Novena will begin at 7:00 PM

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

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

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for the soul of Bruce Axon by Norma Jean Barbour and Family. 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.

WE ARE ALMOST THERE



As we approach the end of 2024, we must look back on our journey with pride and awe. December 8 will mark our one-year anniversary at our new home, and I am so proud of what we have accomplished as a community.

We have sold the Lebanese Center, the former rectory, and will be closing on the former Church on Franklin Street on December 12. That will leave us with 2 parking lots to sell. After the sale of the Church, we will still owe the Diocese of Fall River \$240,000.00 of the original \$1.6 million purchase price for the property. We will continue to pay our monthly loan to the Knights of Columbus. Our Capital Campaign is now at \$390,000.00, which is still \$260,000.00 of our Goal. If we can raise this \$260,000.00 by December 31, we will be able to pay off the Fall River Diocese, which will allow them to waive the accrued interest from the past 20 months. This will mean that the loan from Fall River will have been interest free. As you can see, our goal is to pay them off by the end of the year.

Many of you have contributed to the Capital Campaign and I thank you all for your generosity towards our goal. Now I am asking those who have not contributed, who are willing and, in a position to do so, to please consider helping us reach our goal. There are many items in the Church which can be dedicated in memory of a loved one for your donation.

Over the past year, your comments and enthusiasm have reinforced my belief that this move was for the future good of this community.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 7, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Ambrose, Doctor of the Church). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Anne Shady requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Julia Barber requested by Norma Barbour and Family. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, December 8, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of The Immaculate Conception, Conclusion of the Second Vatican Council). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Dupre requested by Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of David Sylvia requested by Yvonne Sylvia (FM). May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Saeed, Mantaha and Steve Morad and Claire Branco requested by Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Saturday, December 14, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Nemtallah El-Hardini). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Kevin and Nancy McCarthy requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Elias Arnaout requested by Ida Farhat. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, December 15, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Eleutherius and His Mother). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Estephan Diab requested by Jacques and Amal Barbour. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George, Tillie and Mark Moses requested by Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

IN OUR PRAYERS

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.

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.

LECTORS FOR DECEMBER, 2024

Saturday, December 7,
Annemarie Espindola
Intercessions: Mae Dickinson
Sunday, December 8,
Ann Dupre / Gaby Baroody
Saturday, December 14,
Eric Tavares
Intercessions: Smitty Cabral
Sunday, December 15,
Mae Dickinson / Jano Baroody
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)

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 Achnusnet 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.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30- DECEMBER 1, 2024

Sunday Collection	\$	1,184.00
Online Giving	\$	674.33
Lebanese Market	\$	55.00
Angel Program	\$	85.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	60.00
Coffee Hour	\$	52.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$	10.00
Candles	\$	108.00
Total	\$	2,228.33

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 CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Traditional Lebanese and American Brunch
to celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus

Sunday, December 15,
(Immediately following the 10:30 Divine Liturgy)

OLOP Community Center

Please RSVP to: officeolop@gmail.com
so that we can prepare accordingly.

There is no charge for this event.

There will be a special visitor for our children
as well.

I hope all of you can attend this new tradition at
OLOP!

Merry Christmas



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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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