



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



February 1-2, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

PILGRIMS OF HOPE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Three Minutes with God: Meditations on Hope

Will what I do during my lifetime make any difference? Maybe in the present, but what about years from now? Will the good fruit of love and justice I have borne really last? Jesus gave us the answer to that question: Yes! If our life is connected by faith, hope, and love, we will bear "fruit that will last" (John 15:16). So, you and I do what we discern to be God's will for us in each moment; we do our duties as best we can, and we do them as much as possible out of a motive of love for God and others. God not only guarantees good, nourishing fruit from our labors, but fruit that, by his power, will last and nourish others in the years ahead.

Enjoy these reflections on hope!

Have Hope

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, preserve in prayer."—Romans 12:12

Why do those people with real, genuine faith seem to be people of peace, people with peace? Because faith in God's unconditional love gives them hope. What is real hope? It's trust that God is right there, close, involved in our lives. One of the saints wrote: "Faith brings what seems hopeless within our reach, then added, "The person of faith is not one who believes that God can do everything, but the one who believes that he or she can obtain everything from God."

The Bible reveals the absolute unconditional and irrevocable love God has for his children. This is shown in Christ who both died and rose again for us. St. Paul wrote: "He loved me and gave himself for me." Through faith our hearts

hold on to that truth and find great trust in God. The more I believe in his love for me, the more I enjoy God's presence. If you believe in God's unconditional, personal love for you, then you believe you can obtain everything from God. That's faith! Faith is the mother of hope, real hope, and from hope peace is born in the human soul.

Prayer: Lord, strengthen my hope in you. Amen.

Hope Brings Life

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."—Jeremiah 29:11

The brilliant French philosopher Gabriel Marcel wrote: "I almost think that hope is for the soul what breathing is for the living organism. Where hope is lacking, the soul dries up and withers." Hope is a virtue that is critical for survival in life. We don't last long without it. Without hope we die physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Living involves hope. In his book *Man's Search for Meaning*, Viktor Frankl observed other prisoners in a Nazi concentration camp. He noted that those who had hope in being rescued lived on. Those who gave up died. Be alive! Have hope in something real. And the most real thing is the presence and providential plan of God for you.

Prayer: Lord, help me to grow in belief of your presence and plan for me. Amen.

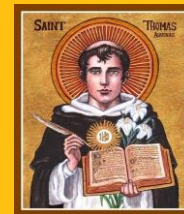
Love Breeds Hope

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."—John 15:12

We place some of our hope in other people—family members, friends, coworkers, or neighbors. That feeling of

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"For our sake He was presented to the Lord that we may learn to offer ourselves to God."
Saint Thomas Aquinas



hope and expectation brightens our life. And others are also placing some of their hope, trust, or confidence in you and me. Usually we know, or at least sense, what they hope for from us: a listening ear, compassion, a smile, or something we can actually give them. Our response to fulfill their hope is one word: love. Yes, it is love that moves our mind and heart to answer the hope they place in us. And if we can't totally fulfill their hope, our love itself will fill the gaps. Love and pray for those who place some hope in you. They won't be disappointed because they will sense your love for them.

Prayer: Lord, inspire me to love so that you can inspire the hope others need. Amen.

Rejoice in Hope

"Happy are they who make the Lord their trust."—Psalm 40:4

Hope is essential for survival. I knew a Catholic nun who was physically challenged. She told me that she had applied to seventeen religious orders, and the eighteenth accepted her application.

Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon

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

She persevered. She had hope based on the call she felt from God. She survived the refusals. She had hope because she prayed to our loving Father in heaven. Prayer strengthens hope in God's hand when all else seems hopeless. She lived Psalm 71: "For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. Upon you have I leaned from my birth." Like that nun, we should persevere in prayer to our loving heavenly Father to reinforce our hope for the future. It's all in his loving hands.

In the Hebrew Scriptures the Jewish people were called the "People of Hope." Pick up the Jewish book of prayer, the Psalms, and meditate on the messages of hope found there. For example, "But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like the weaned child that is with me. O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time on and forevermore" (Psalm 131:2-3). With prayer comes hope. With hope comes life! **Prayer:** Father, help me to truly abandon with the greatest trust every moment of my life into your loving hands. Amen.

The Anchor of Hope

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."—Hebrews 11:1

The writer of the Book of Psalms sums up his reason for hope in Psalm 56:9-11: "This I know, that God is for me. In God, whose word I praise, ... in God I trust; I am not afraid." There you have it. The person who believes and trusts in God, in my observation, has far less fear because he or she senses God's presence, care, and protection. In the Scriptures, hope is visualized as an anchor. By hope we are anchored to Christ, so we don't go adrift. He comes to us spiritually to be our anchor amid the storms of life. Be open to him.

Prayer: Lord, it is so easy for me to drift. Be my anchor. Amen.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit-blog/meditations-on-hope/>

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

I received the sad news that Matthew Higgins passed away this past weekend. Matthew is the brother of Daniel and Rachael Higgins. We extend our deepest sympathy to Dan and Rachael and their children as well as Dan's family. May Almighty God welcome Matthew into His kingdom and may his soul rest in peace. Allah yerhammo.

NEW LIFE SAVING DEVICES IN THE CHURCH HALL

Our Lady of Purgatory Church has purchased two life saving devices that are in the Church Hall. The first is called LifeVac which is used when someone is choking. There is a child mask and an adult mask. It is here for emergencies; God forbid a situation should arise.

The second is an AED Defibrillator which is used when someone's heart stops. This machine gives step-by-step instructions when in use and can help resuscitate a person suffering from a cardiac emergency.

These life saving devices are here in case of emergencies. It is my hope that these will never be needed, however, having experienced the need to help someone at my previous assignment, I thought it prudent to have them should a situation arise.

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.

The next monthly devotion for the St. Joseph Sodality will be Sunday, Feb 9, at 10:00 am.

We will be having our annual meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Church Hall.

If you have any questions, please contact Jacques Barbour, 508 725 6705, Rana Choubah.

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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



2024 TAX CONTRIBUTION LETTERS

If you would like a letter from the Church for your 2024 tax contributions, please call or email the Church office and we will prepare this letter for your tax records. This can only be done for those who use envelopes and/or pay with checks as these are the only way we can record them in our system. Thank you for your support.

SAVE THE DATE SHAWARMA SUNDAY

SHAWARMA SUNDAY will be held on Sunday, February 23, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Tickets will go on sale beginning February 1.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of February is offered in memory of Shirley Azar by Family.

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, 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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 1, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Pionius and His Companions). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Nick and Helena Kenyon requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of David David requested by family (FM). May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, February 2, @ 10:30 AM, (Presentation of Christ in the Temple). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Louise Dupre requested by Family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Anna Thomas requested by the Mello Family. May her soul rest in peace.

Saturday, February 8, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Zechariah the Prophet). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Peter and Raja Saba Bou Eassey requested by Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Rose David requested by family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, February 9, @ 10:30 AM, (Presentation of Saint Maron). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Abouna Boutros Nasr requested by Jean and Joumana Chedid and Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Louis Chedid requested by Anthony and Marcelle David. May his soul rest in peace.

LECTORS FOR FEBRUARY, 2025

Saturday, February 1,
Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

Sunday, February 2,

Ann Dupre / Jano Baroody

Saturday, February 8,

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, February 9,

Rana Choubah / Haljm Choubah

Saturday, February 15,

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, February 16,

Cayla Barbour / Joumana Chedid

Saturday, February 22,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, February 23,

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

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

Come & See

MARONITE SERVANTS OF CHRIST THE LIGHT

~2025 JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE~

Prayer & Supper

Join the sisters for Maronite Evening Prayer (Ramsho) and Supper at our Mother of the Light Convent, 856 Tucker Rd Dartmouth from 4 to 7pm:

- Sunday February 23
- Sunday May 18

OPEN TO YOUNG ADULT WOMEN WHO ARE SINGLE (AGES 18 TO 39) AND SEEKING TO DISCERN THEIR VOCATION WITH THE MARONITE SERVANTS.



Monthly Discernment Group

If you are seeking to learn more about prayer and exploring God's call for your life and fellowship with the sisters and other women discerning their call please contact Vocation Director, Sr. Therese Maria Touma.

TO REACH OUT OR RSVP CONTACT:
SISTER THERESE MARIA, MSCL
CALL: 508-965-6945
EMAIL: SISTER@MARONITESERVANTS.ORG
WEBSITE: MARONITESERVANTS.ORG



Discernment Retreat Weekend

Join us for a "Come & See" Discernment Retreat Weekend at our Convent:

- June 6-8, 2025
- September 5-7, 2025

The retreats offer an opportunity to listen to the Lord, rest in His Love, and spend time with Sisters on the journey of discernment of a call to religious life.

OPEN TO YOUNG ADULT WOMEN WHO ARE SINGLE (AGES 18 TO 39) AND SEEKING TO DISCERN THEIR VOCATION WITH THE MARONITE SERVANTS.



Dear Brother Priests, Deacons, Subdeacons, Consecrated Men and Women, and Lay Faithful:

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life is coming up — Sunday February 2nd. Join us in praying for all the men and women religious who have generously and courageously given their lives in service of the Church including our own Maronite Monks of Adoration and Maronite Servants of Christ the Light. In this Jubilee of Hope, the [Maronite Servants of Christ the Light](http://MaroniteServantsofChristtheLight.org) will be offering different opportunities for single young adult women (ages 18-39) to "Come and See" and pray with the Sisters. The Sisters would love to grow their mission and continue to serve the children, youth, young adults, elderly and families in our Eparchy.

The Sisters will be hosting two "Prayer and Supper" opportunities on February 23 & May 18; and two Come and See Retreat opportunities, June 6-8 and September 5-7. Please spread the word in your bulletins and announcements, and share this flyer with young women in your parishes. We appreciate your help to plant seeds of vocations to religious life with our children, youth, young adults and families.

If you have any questions about prayer resources, or you know a young woman

interested in learning more about the journey of discernment, contact Sister Therese Maria, Vocation Director at sister@maroniteservants.org.

Let us pray that young women in our parishes will be inspired by God and open to receiving this beautiful calling and the gift of consecrated life.

+ Gregory

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 JANUARY 18-19, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,975.00
Second Collection	\$ 193.00
Lebanese Market	\$ 11.00
Donations	\$ 400.00
Total	\$ 2,579.00

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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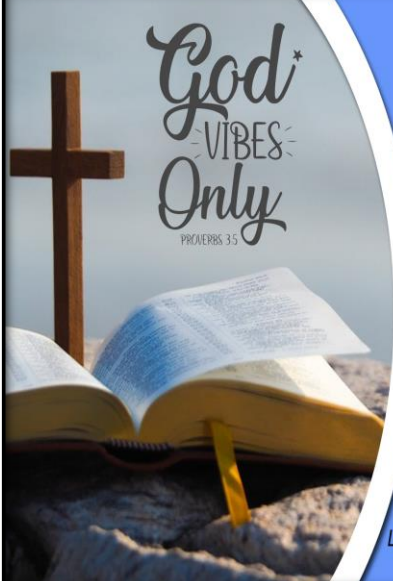
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Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD's Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing day.

Joseph & Marie Kenyon

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