



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



February 8-9, 2025

# SUNDAY OF THE PRIESTS FEAST OF SAINT MARON

On this Sunday of the priests, we remember in a very special way all the priests who served this community of Our Lady of Purgatory, and all priests throughout the world. The priesthood is a calling to serve God's people. It is God's way of continuing His mission on earth by using us, imperfect instruments, to bring His people closer to Him.

As I reflect on my priesthood, I have a greater understanding that my mission does not stop at preaching the word of God, offering Divine Liturgy, being willing to listen to confessions at any time, doing what is best for the community, and helping those who are grieving. It goes beyond these duties.

A priest must serve with love, compassion, understanding, and without judgment. A priest must remember that each person must be met where they are in their journey and realizing that people are walking their road with not only joys, but with anxiety, conflicts, sadness, and grief. I can say that I have tried my best to meet these requirements, sometimes succeeding and sometimes falling short, but nonetheless, trying my best.

I leave you with this beautiful reflection on priesthood as we celebrate the Sunday of the Priest in the hopes that people will understand the calling of priests.

### REFLECTION ON PRIESTHOOD BY SAINT OSCAR ROMERO

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the Church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

#### This is what we are about:

We plant seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, Ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

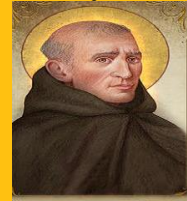
### MANY THANKS

I'd like to thank all who made the Feast of Saint Maron Hafli a great success. It was a beautiful evening that was the result of the Holy Spirit in every way you can imagine. May God bless those who prepared, worked, donated, and supported with many blessings. May God bless this beautiful community of OLOP.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"What tongue, human or angelic, may ever describe a power so immeasurable as that exercised by the simplest priest in Mass? Who could ever have imagined that the voice of man, which by nature hath not the power even to raise a straw from the ground, should obtain through grace a power so stupendous as to bring from Heaven to earth the Son of God?"*

*St. Leonard of Port Maurice*



### SAINT MARON'S DAY HAFLI

Ticket Sales	\$ 17,259.20
Raffle/Auction	\$ 5,941.90
Bar	\$ 3,204.77
Donations	\$ 2,500.00
Total Income	\$ 26,655.87

Food Expense	\$ 2,403.61
Entertainment	\$ 3,500.00
Bar Expense	\$ 279.96
Supplies	\$ 365.57
Total Expenses	\$ 6,549.14
<b>Total Profit</b>	<b>\$ 20,106.73</b>

### 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.

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.

## FEAST OF SAINT MARON



St. Maroun also known as Saint Maron, was a 5th century Syriac Christian monk who after his death was followed by a religious movement that became known as the Maronites. The Church that grew from this movement is the Maronite Church. St. Maroun was known for his missionary work, healing and miracles, and teachings of a monastic devotion to God.

St. Maroun, born in the middle of the 4th century in Syria, was a priest who later became a hermit, retiring to a mountain of Taurus in the region of Cyrrhus, near Antioch. His holiness and miracles attracted many followers and drew attention throughout the empire. St. John Chrysostom sent him a letter around AD 405 expressing his great love and respect and asking St. Maron to pray for him.

Maroun is considered the Father of the spiritual and monastic movement now called the Maronite Catholic Church. This movement had a profound influence in Lebanon. St. Maroun spent all his life on a mountain in Syria. It is believed that the place was called “Kefar-Nabo” on the mountain of Ol-Yambos, making it the cradle of the Maronite movement. The Maronite movement reached Lebanon when St. Maroun’s first disciple Abraham of Cyrrhus who was called the Apostle of Lebanon, realized that there were many non-Christians in Lebanon, so he set out to convert them to Christianity by introducing them to the way of St. Maroun. The followers of St. Maroun, both monks and laity, always remained faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church. St. Maroun’s feast day is celebrated on February 9th.

Maroun’s way was deeply monastic with emphasis on the spiritual and ascetic aspects of living, contrasted by the fact that the ‘Khoury,’ or ‘priest’ of the Maronite rite can marry. For St. Maroun, all was connected to God and God was connected to all. He did not separate the physical and spiritual world and used the physical world to deepen his faith and spiritual experience with God.

St. Maroun embraced the quiet solitude of the mountain life. He lived his life in the open air exposed to the forces of nature such as sun, rain, hail and snow. His extraordinary desire to come to know God’s presence in all things allowed St. Maroun to transcend such forces and discover that intimate union with God. He was able to free himself from the physical world by his passion and fervor for prayer and enter a mystical relationship of love with God.

### Mission

St. Maroun was a mystic who started this new ascetic-spiritual method that attracted many people in Syria and Lebanon to become his disciples. Accompanying his deeply spiritual and ascetic life, he was a zealous missionary with a passion to spread the message of Christ by preaching it to all he met. He sought not only to cure the physical ailments that people suffered but had a great quest for nurturing and healing the “lost souls” of both non-Christians and Christians of his time. This missionary work came to fruition when in the mountains of Syria, St. Maroun was able to convert a temple into a Christian Church. This was to be the beginning of the conversion to Christianity in Syria which would then influence and spread to Lebanon. After his death in the year 410, his spirit and teachings lived on through his disciples and today he lies in “brad” village to the north of Aleppo.

<https://steliachurch.org/wp/about-us/patron-saints/saint-maroun/who-is-saint-maroun>

## 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.

## 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, 886 Tucker Rd Dorchester from 4 to 7pm.

- Sunday February 23
- Sunday May 18

OPEN TO YOUNG ADULT WOMEN WHO ARE SINGLE (AGED 18 TO 39) AND DESIRE TO DISCOVER 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 St. Therese Maria Touna.

TO REACH OUT OR RSVP CONTACT:  
SISTER THERESE MARIA, NSCL  
CALL: 508-985-6945  
EMAIL: [SISTER@MARONITESERVANTS.ORG](mailto:sister@maroniteservants.org)  
WEBSITE: [MARONITESERVANTS.ORG](http://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 (AGED 18 TO 39) AND DESIRE TO DISCOVER 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](#) 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](mailto: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

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, February 8, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Zechariah the Prophet).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph P. Moses requested by his favorite cousin. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Peter and Raja Saba Bou Eassey 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.

**Saturday, February 15, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saints Faustinus and Jovita, Feast of the 21 Coptic Martyrs of Libya).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph M. Thomas requested by the Hitchings family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Betty Grenier requested by Annie Costa (FM). May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Rose David requested by the Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, February 16, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Theodore the Soldier).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Regis and Marthe Valois requested by Reggie Thomas and Family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Maria Pinto requested by Maria and Marco Sousa. May her soul rest in peace.

## WINE AND HOST OFFERING

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

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

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.

## 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.

## 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.

## LECTORS FOR FEBRUARY, 2025

**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)



## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 02/10-02/15/24

### Monday:

2 Timothy 1: 1-11  
Matthew 16: 24-28

### Tuesday:

2 Timothy 2: 1-13  
Matthew 18:1-5

### Wednesday:

2 Timothy 2: 14-26  
Matthew 20: 20-28

### Thursday:

2 Timothy 3: 10-17  
Luke 17: 7-10

### Friday:

2 Timothy 4:1-8  
Luke 22: 24-30

### Saturday:

Titus 1: 1-9  
John 13: 13-17

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

## WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1-2, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,155.00
Candles	\$ 49.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,204.00</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.**

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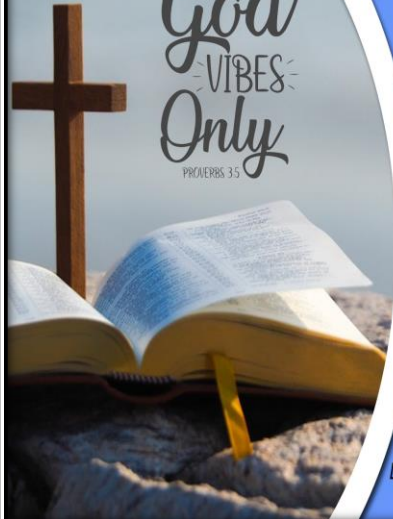
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*Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD's Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing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

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