



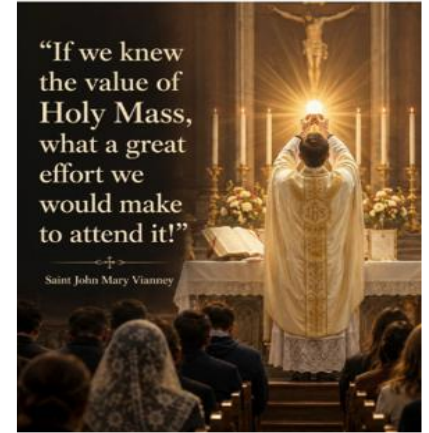
Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



July 4-5, 2026

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



Saint John Mary Vianney said, "If we truly knew the value of the Holy Mass, what a great effort we would make to attend it." What does it mean?

These words are often attributed to the saints because they understood something that we so easily forget. The Holy Mass is not simply an obligation, a weekly tradition, or another event on our calendar. It is heaven touching earth. It is the moment when Christ Himself gathers us around His altar, speaks His Word to our hearts, and gives us His very Body and Blood. There is no greater gift this side of eternity.

Imagine receiving an invitation from someone you deeply love, a parent you have not seen in years, a child returning home, or a dear friend who wants to spend precious time with you. We would rearrange our schedules, cancel appointments, and make every effort to be there. Yet every Sunday, Jesus says to us, "Come. I have prepared a place for you. I want to feed you. I want to strengthen you. I want to be with you."

The tragedy of our time is not that churches are closed. It is that so many hearts have closed themselves to the incredible gift waiting inside them.

We live in a society that is busier than ever

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY AMERICA

Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty O God our Creator,

from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel

to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.

Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened;

give us courage in making our voices heard

on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation,

so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome— for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us— this great land will always be “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

<https://www.catholicdigest.com/faith/prayer/five-prayers-for-the-united-states/>

ORDINATION OF DEACON JEAN MATTAR

Deacon Jean will be ordained on July 25, 2026, at 5:00 PM, at Our Lady of Purgatory Church. We are asking that everyone **please RSVP by July 11**, so that we may be prepared accordingly. Thank you for your understanding.

MANY THANKS

I would like to thank Rob and Kenny Macedo for their generous donation for the paint for the hall. This was a great help to the Church. God bless you and your family.

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

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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.

but often emptier than ever. Children are scheduled for sports, music lessons, travel teams, and endless activities. Adults are consumed by work, errands, and entertainment. None of these things are bad in themselves. But when we consistently replace God, we unintentionally teach our children a painful lesson: *everything else is more important than the One who gave us life.* Children learn far more from what they see than from what they are told. If they hear us say, "God comes first," but see us skip Mass because we are tired, traveling, or simply inconvenienced, we will believe our actions, not our words. On the other hand, when parents faithfully bring their children to Mass, even when we are restless, even when life is busy, we are teaching a lesson no classroom can ever replace. We are saying, "Jesus matters. Our relationship with Him is worth every sacrifice."

Parents are the first church their children ever know. Before children learn prayers from a catechist, they learn faith by watching Mom and Dad kneel, pray, sing, receive Holy Communion, and place God at the center of family life. Those memories become anchors that often remain long after childhood.

Every generation worries about the future of the Church. The future is not built only through programs or buildings. It is built every Sunday when families walk through the church doors together.

Yet many people stay away. Sometimes life becomes busy. Sometimes sports, work, or other commitments slowly replace worship. Sometimes the reason is deeper. Someone may have been hurt by a priest, disappointed by a deacon, frustrated with a parish decision, or offended by something that was said or done.

Those hurts are real and should never be ignored. Priests and deacons are human. We make mistakes. We have weaknesses. We sometimes fail to meet the expectations people rightly have of us. We ask forgiveness whenever our words or actions have become a stumbling block.

But we must also remember this important truth: **the clergy are only instruments. Christ is the One who acts.** The priest does not die on the cross for us. The deacon does not give us eternal life. Jesus does.

If we stop coming to church because of a priest or a deacon, who truly loses? It is

not the Church that is deprived, it is our own hearts that are deprived of the Eucharist, our children who lose the witness of faith, and our families who miss the grace that only Christ can give. Never allow the imperfections of God's servants to become an excuse to walk away from the perfect love of God Himself. If Judas betrayed Jesus, Peter denied Him, and the apostles themselves struggled, then we should not be surprised that those who serve the Church today are also imperfect. Our faith has never rested on the holiness of a minister. It has always rested on the holiness of Christ.

The Eucharist is not a reward for having a perfect week. The Eucharist is the strength we need because we have not had one. The Eucharist heals wounded hearts, restores hope, forgives venial sins, deepens our love, and reminds us that we never walk alone. In a world filled with anxiety, loneliness, and division, there is no greater medicine than Christ Himself.

Perhaps the greatest question each of us can ask is not, "Do I have to go to Mass?" but rather, "How could I willingly miss the greatest encounter of my week?"

If we truly understood what happens at every Holy Mass, we would not ask whether we have time for God. We would wonder how we ever lived without Him.

May every Sunday become not an obligation to fulfill, but a joyful homecoming, a family gathered around the table of the Father, where Christ nourishes our souls and prepares us to live His love in the world. For there is no place on earth where heaven comes closer than at the altar.

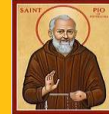
By: Deacon Jean Mattar



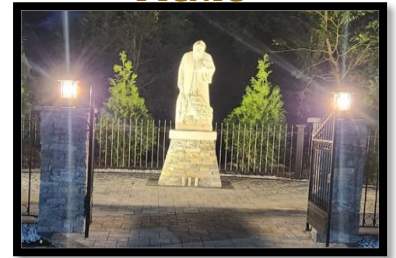
QUOTE OF THE WEEK

It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without Holy Mass.

Saint Padre Pio



FEAST OF SAINT SHARBEL PICNIC



The Feast of Saint Sharbel will be celebrated on Sunday, July 19. Weather permitting, we will celebrate Divine Liturgy at the shrine. Immediately following Divine Liturgy, we will have brunch. This year, we are asking people to bring a dish to pass as the following weekend we will celebrate Deacon Jean's Ordination to the Priesthood. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Church or you may contact the church office. Saint Sharbel, pray for us!

CONGRATULATIONS MYO



I would like to thank Viviane Yazbeck for taking our MYO to the National MYO Conference this past week in Ohio. The youth had a wonderful time spiritually as well as socially. Every year the National MYO Team puts together an incredible program to bring our youth closer to Jesus and to build friendships that last forever. As an extra bonus this year, our MYO competed in the basketball tournament and came in First Place! We are so proud of you.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 4, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Andrew the Hymnographer, Bishop of Crete).

Sunday, July 5, 10:30 AM, Celebration of Saint Macarius of the Cross. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Saba Mike Barckett and Joseph and Mary Coury requested by the Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Tuesday, July 7, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Thomas the Hermit). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Sam Akeekke and Najebe Kazen (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration.

Wednesday, July 8, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Procopius). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Florence Dyer (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

Thursday, July 9, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Pancras). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Michael and Ann David (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Saturday, July 11, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Benedict, Abbot). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Cara Pimentel requested by Norma Barbour and Family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Anthony Cabral requested by Lou and Smitty Cabral. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, July 12, 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saints Rufina and Secunda, Feast of Saint Susanna of Rome). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George F. Thomas requested by the Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being for the soul of Charbel Baroodly requested by Charles Baroodly. May his soul rest in peace.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Denise Denault, Theresa Saab, Reggie Thomas, Beverly Landreth, Michael Morad, David Matos, Gayla Matos, Genevieve Tayeh, Nayeli Nassif, Maria 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, Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Theresa John, Angela Scorza-Anderson, Annie Peter, Mariam David, Zita Drouin, Lucienne Rodrigues and Edmond Salameh. If anyone is missing, please contact the office.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of July is offered for the living and deceased members of the Daher and David Families requested by Mariam David and Family.

LECTORS FOR JULY, 2026

Saturday, July 4,

Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

Sunday, July 5,

Cayla Barbour / Jano Baroodly

Saturday, July 11,

Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, July 12,

Ann Dupre / Elie Abou Kheir

Saturday, July 18,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, July 19,

Rana Choubah / Halim Choubah

Saturday, July 25,

TBA

Sunday, July 26,

TBA

(If you are unable to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson).

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Ivone Choubah. 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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

WEEK OF JUNE 27 -28, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$	1,347.00
Second Collection	\$	307.00
Kibbee Trays Sale	\$	385.00
Host And Wine	\$	75.00
Donations	\$	100.00
Coffee Hour	\$	115.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$	10.00
Candles	\$	322.00
Total	\$	2,661.00

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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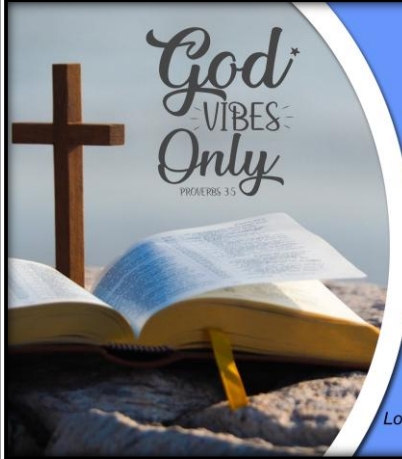


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Joseph & Marie Kenyon

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.

Your Loving Children

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