



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



August 8 -9, 2026

### TWELFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



Have you ever wondered why we light candles in the church and what is the meaning of the sanctuary candle that remains lit at all times?

When God first revealed Himself to Moses, He did so in a burning bush, a fire that burned but was not consumed (Exodus 3). Fire became a sign of God's holy presence. Later, as the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God led them by a pillar of fire at night. In the Temple of Jerusalem, the lamp before the Holy of Holies was kept burning as a sign that God dwelt among His people. When Christ came into the world, He fulfilled all of these signs. He is the true Light that no darkness can overcome. After His Resurrection and Ascension, He did not leave us alone. He remains with us in the Holy Eucharist. Therefore, the sanctuary lamp burning beside the tabernacle is much more than a reminder, it proclaims the astonishing truth that Emmanuel, "God with us," is truly here. The sanctuary candle is like a silent preacher. It never speaks, yet it proclaims twenty-four hours a day: "The King is

present."

Its flame reminds us that Christ's love never grows cold. While we sleep, work, celebrate, or suffer, Jesus remains faithfully waiting for us. Long after the last person leaves the church and the doors are locked, that little flame continues to burn, proclaiming that the Good Shepherd never abandons His flock. There is another beautiful symbolism. A candle gives light by consuming itself. As the wax melts away, it gives itself completely so that others may see. This reflects Christ, who gave Himself entirely on the Cross and continues to give Himself to us in every Eucharist. It also becomes a model for every Christian. We are called not merely to shine, but to spend ourselves in love for God and for others.

The flame also symbolizes the soul. A flame naturally rises upward, just as our hearts are meant to rise toward heaven. It reminds us that prayer is not simply saying words; it is allowing our hearts to be drawn upward into communion with God. This is why so many people light a prayerful candle. They know the candle has no magical power. Rather, it becomes a visible sign of an invisible prayer, a way of saying, "Lord, even when I must leave this church, let my prayer continue to rise before You."

**The sanctuary lamp also poses a question to each of us.** If Christ is truly present in the tabernacle, how should I enter His house? Do I rush in distracted, or do I recognize that I am standing before the Creator of the universe? The small red flame invites us to silence, reverence, and adoration. It calls us to genuflect, not as a routine gesture, but as an act of love before the living Lord.

We can also connect this beautifully to our own liturgical spirituality. In the Syriac

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle".*

*Saint Francis of Assisi*



tradition, Christ is often called the Light from Light and the Sun of Justice. Light is not merely an image of Christ, rather it is a participation in His divine life. Every lamp burning in the church reminds us that we are called to become what we receive in the Eucharist: people whose lives radiate the light of Christ. As St. Ephrem the Syrian beautifully expresses throughout his hymns, the Light of Christ enters the believer not only to illuminate the mind but to transform the whole person.

Perhaps the deepest meaning of the sanctuary candle is this: it is a symbol of God's unwavering fidelity. There are moments when our faith flickers, when our prayer grows weak, or when we feel alone. Yet the sanctuary lamp continues to burn. It silently tells us, "Even when your love falters, Mine does not. I am still here. I am waiting for you."

**That may be the greatest lesson of all.** Before we ever seek God, we discover that He has already been waiting for us. The sanctuary candle is the quiet witness to that divine patience and love—a tiny flame that points to the eternal Light who promised, "I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20).

**Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Jean Mattar Email:** [aboonaJean@gmail.com](mailto:aboonaJean@gmail.com)

**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.

## BANNS OF MARRIAGE

I publish the first Banns of Marriage between Christophe Chedid and Bianca Carreiro. If any of you know cause or just impediment why these two people should not be joined in Holy Matrimony, you are to declare it.

## WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Christine (Peter) and Jeff Rego, on the passing of Christine' Mother Annie Peter. We also extend our condolences to Annie's grandchildren Alexander, Jacob, and Matthew Rego. May Almighty God welcome Annie into His kingdom and may her soul rest in peace. Allah yerhamma.

## FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY (EID ALSAYDEE)

We will celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary on **Friday, August 14, at 7:00 PM.** Weather permitting, we will celebrate this Divine Liturgy outside in the Saint Sharbel Shrine. There will be dinner immediately following Divine Liturgy. The Social Committee is organizing this dinner which will be "bring a dish to pass." Please see Deacon Jean or Hiba Chdid if you would like to bring a dish to pass. Drinks and Coffee will be provided

## LUMINARIES FOR THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED MOTHER MARY

Our parish is pleased to continue the beautiful tradition of Luminaries for Mary for a second year. You are invited to purchase a luminary in honor of someone special or in memory of a loved one. The luminaries will be displayed near the St. Charbel Shrine during the **Vigil Liturgy on August 14**, serving as a beautiful tribute to Our Blessed Mother and to those who hold a special place in our hearts.

**Cost: \$10.00 per luminary**

To purchase a luminary or for more information, please contact:

**Jacques Barbour – (508) 725-6705**

**Amal Barbour – (508) 801-9685**

**Parish Office – (508) 996-8934**

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to sharing this meaningful tradition with our parish family once again.

## SPONSORSHIPS FOR FESTIVAL

Dear Parishioners and Friends of OLOP: The time is here to prepare for our 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Lebanese Festival. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and one that I look forward to with excitement as we welcome parishioners, neighbors, supporters from our sister churches, and many from the surrounding areas of New England. It is a time where we can show our impeccable hospitality, delicious food and desserts, and music and dancing to all. Sponsorships are the key to a successful festival, and I am asking for your help in this regard. I hope you will consider becoming a sponsor for our festival. I am also asking your help to ask businesses, family, and friends to become a sponsor as well.

As you may know, it takes a lot of work as well as resources to put on this three-day festival. Through sponsorships, we hope to cover the cost of our expenses so that we may yield more of a profit for the church that will help us sustain expenses throughout the year, help with the loans, and to build our parish so that we can financially sustain ourselves throughout the year.

Forms are available at all church exits. I have provided last year's expenses, so you have an idea of the cost of putting on this festival.

|                                         |                    |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Tent and Rental Expense:</b>         | <b>\$13,057.00</b> |
| <b>Entertainment:</b>                   | <b>\$ 4,650.00</b> |
| <b>Police Detail:</b>                   | <b>\$ 2,138.00</b> |
| <b>Printing and Advertising:</b>        | <b>\$ 1,318.00</b> |
| <b>Food Expense Meats/Staples:</b>      | <b>\$ 4,562.00</b> |
| <b>Supplies Plates/Plasticware/etc:</b> | <b>\$ 1,801.00</b> |
| <b>Overnight Security:</b>              | <b>\$ 774.00</b>   |

Please consider becoming a sponsor and asking businesses and friends to join us as well. I thank you for your support, assistance, and love for our parish. God bless you.

## SAVE THE DATES FESTIVAL PREP DAYS

We will be preparing grape leave and maamoul for the festival in the Church Hall. Your help is needed and greatly appreciated.

**Friday, August 21,**

**Grape leave day**

**starting @ 10:30 AM.**

**Thursday, September 3**

**Maamoul day**

**Starting @ 10:30 AM**



### Our Lady Of Purgatory Church

## 70<sup>th</sup> Lebanese Festival

*Food • Bar • Live Music • Raffles • Dancing • Hula • Desserts*

|                                                |                                                   |                                                |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Friday, September 11, 2026<br>5:00PM - 11:00PM | Saturday, September 12, 2026<br>12:00PM - 11:00PM | Sunday, September 13, 2026<br>12:00PM - 5:00PM |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|



Live Entertainment  
With Bashir El-Khoury Band



Ahmed Al-Khalil  
(Saturday)



Wood-Dr. Band  
(Saturday afternoon)




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## FESTIVAL BASKET RAFFLE DONATIONS

Once again, we will be having our Basket Raffle at the festival this year. This has been a great success for us and every year, because of you, our basket selection increases. If you can donate any theme baskets this year, please let Smitty Cabral or Lorraine David know. If you are unable to make one but would like to donate to have one made, we can do this as well. Once again, thank you for your generosity.

**The 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Our Lady of Purgatory Church Mahrajan**  
September 11 - 13, 2026



Be Part of One of the Fastest Growing Food and Culture Festivals on the SouthCoast by Being One of Our Event Sponsors.

Yes, I would like to support the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Mahrajan as a:

|                                                                      |                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Sponsor \$250.00<br>(2' x 2' Banner) | <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Sponsor \$2,500.00<br>(4' x 7' Banner)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Sponsor \$500.00<br>(3' x 2' Banner)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruby Sponsor \$5,000.00<br>(4' x 7' Banner)     |

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Please insert your message, or attach your business card or artwork:

Please make your tax deductible check payable to "Our Lady of Purgatory Church" or pay electronically at <https://bit.ly/4wE9z9r>. For more information please contact us at [officeshop@gmail.com](mailto:officeshop@gmail.com) or at (508) 996-8934.

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, August 8, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Dominic, Founder of the Order of Preachers, Feast of Saint Sixtus II).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Steven Espindola requested by Annemarie Espindola. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Gloria Mansour requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, August 9, 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Matthias).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mila Chdid requested by the Family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mansour Barbour requested by Norma Barbour and Family. May his soul rest in peace.

**Tuesday, August 11, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Clare of Assisi).**  
**From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration.**

**Wednesday, August 12, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Shaina).**

**Thursday, August 13, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Hippolytus of Rome).**

**Friday, August 14, 7:00 PM, The Assumption of the Virgin Mary Vigil, (Feast of Saint Micah the Prophet).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Charbel Baroody requested by Philip and Jano Baroody. May his soul rest in peace.

**Saturday, August 15, 4:30 PM, (Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Cathy Lemieux requested by Annemarie Espindola. May her soul rest in peace.

**Sunday, August 16, 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Roch).** Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Mary Thomas (Takla) and Joseph Peter requested by Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Mila Chdid by Hiba Chdid. 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 (CONFESSION)

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

## WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of August is offered for Charbel Baroody requested by Philip and Jano Baroody.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Denise Denault, Theresa Saab, Reggie Thomas, Beverly Landreth, Michael Morad, David Matos, Gayla Matos, Genevieve Tayeh, Nayeli Nassif, Maria Baptista, 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, Mariam David, Zita Drouin, Lucienne Rodrigues and Edmond Salameh. If anyone is missing, please contact the office.

## LECTORS FOR AUGUST, 2026

**Saturday, August 1,**  
Racheal Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

**Sunday, August 2,**

Ann Dupre / Joumana Chedid

**Saturday, August 8,**  
Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

**Sunday, August 9,**

John Barbour / Elie Abou Kheir

**Friday, August 14,**

**The Assumption of the Virgin Mary Vigil**

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, August 15,**  
Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

**Sunday, August 16,**

Cayla Barbour / Jano Baroody

**Saturday, August 22,**  
Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

**Sunday, August 23,**

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, August 29,**  
Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Mae Dickinson

**Sunday, August 30,**

Rana Choubah / Halim Choubah

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

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## WEEK OF AUGUST 01-02, 2026

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday Collection       | \$ 1,119.00        |
| July Online Giving      | \$ 784.33          |
| Festival Sponsorship    | \$ 1,950.00        |
| Festival Raffle Tickets | \$ 400.00          |
| Festival Donations      | \$ 250.00          |
| Donations               | \$ 100.00          |
| Luminaries              | \$ 30.00           |
| Memorial Donations      | \$ 50.00           |
| Candles                 | \$ 27.00           |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>\$ 4,710.33</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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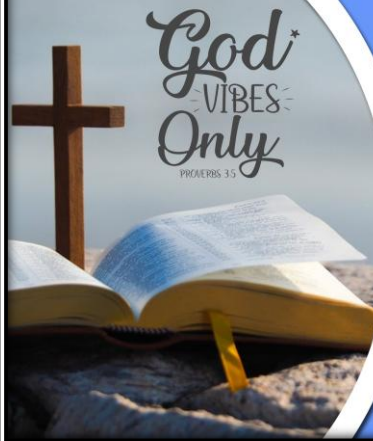
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