



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

August 22 -23, 2026

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



THE BATTLE FOR THE HUMAN HEART

المعركة على قلب الإنسان

Sometimes we think the war between God and the devil is something we read about in the Bible. A battle that happened long ago. But the greatest battlefield is not found in heaven or in history. It is found in the human heart. Every day, God whispers, "Come to Me. I love you. Follow Me." Every day, the evil one whispers, "You don't need God. Live for yourself. There is more happiness elsewhere."

That battle has never been more intense than it is today.

Our children and grandchildren are growing up in a world where a screen often speaks louder than a parent, where social media shapes identity more than Scripture, where popularity is valued more than holiness, and where truth is often replaced by opinion. Technology itself is not the enemy. It is a wonderful gift when used wisely. But when it becomes the loudest voice in our lives, it can slowly drown out the still, small voice of God.

The devil rarely comes dressed in darkness. He often comes wrapped in

convenience, distraction, comfort, and endless entertainment. He doesn't always try to make us hate God. Sometimes he simply keeps us too busy to love Him. As parents, grandparents, clergy, teachers, and leaders, we cannot simply complain about the darkness. We must become light. **Children learn far more from what we live than from what we preach.**

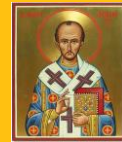
If they see us pray only on Sunday, they will think God belongs only in church. But if they see us pray every day, thank God before meals, forgive one another, open the Scriptures, and speak about God's goodness naturally in our homes, they will discover that faith is not a ritual, rather it is a way of life. Our grandchildren do not need perfect grandparents. They need grandparents who pray for them by name. Our children do not need parents who give them everything money can buy. They need parents who give them what money cannot buy: faith, hope, unconditional love, and an example worth following. As priests and clergy, our greatest sermons are not preached from the pulpit. They are preached in hospital rooms, at kitchen tables, in the confessional, in the way we greet people, in the compassion we show, and in the joy we radiate. People must see Christ before they hear about Him. Perhaps the greatest tragedy today is not that people reject God. It is that many have never truly encountered Him. How do we bring them back? Not by arguments alone. Not by anger. Not by condemning them. But by loving them with the love of Christ.

Invite them to church but also invite them into your life. Eat together. Put the phones away. Tell them your story. Tell them how God answered your prayers. Share your struggles. Let them know that faith is not about pretending to be perfect. It is about

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The Holy Scriptures were not given to us that we should enclose them in books, but that we should engrave them upon our hearts".

Saint John Chrysostom



discovering that God's mercy is greater than our weakness. Never underestimate the power of one faithful family. One grandmother praying her rosary. One grandfather blessing his grandchildren. One father kneeling beside his bed. One mother reading the Gospel with her children. One priest who refuses to grow tired of loving God's people. History has changed because of ordinary people who remained faithful. The devil wants our children to believe they are alone, unloved, and without purpose. God wants them to know they are His beloved sons and daughters, created for eternity.

The question is not whether this battle is real. It is. **The question is: whose voice will we help them hear?** May we become people whose lives point unmistakably toward Jesus Christ. And may future generations one day say, "I found my way to God because someone loved me enough to show me the light." As Jesus reminds us, "You are the light of the world." The world does not need brighter screens nearly as much as it needs brighter souls. Let us be those souls and let us lead our children and grandchildren home to God.

Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Jean Mattar Email: aboonaJean@gmail.com

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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.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

I publish the Third 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.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Join our Social Committee!

Dear parishioners,

We are looking for people who would like to share their time, ideas, and talents by joining our Church Social Committee. This is a wonderful opportunity to help bring our parish family together through fellowship, activities, and special events.

If you are interested in being part of this ministry or would simply like to learn more, please contact Abouna Jean Mattar at: 774-217-9232 or by Email at: aboonajejan@gmail.com

We would love to have you join us.

God bless you all.

FESTIVAL MEETING

We will have our final Volunteer Festival Meeting on **Tuesday, September 1, at 6:30**, in the church hall. I am asking all volunteers to please attend this meeting for final details and distribution of menus. I thank you in advance for your help and dedication to this major fundraising event.

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.

MOTHER MARY'S BLESSINGS TO ALL OF YOU

I would like to thank Jacques and Amal Barbour for making the luminaries in honor of our Blessed Mother Mary and for all the intentions offered by the parishioners and friends of OLOP. May all your prayers to our Lord Jesus, through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, be answered. Our Lady of Lebanon, pray for us!

SPONSORSHIPS FOR FESTIVAL

Dear Parishioners and Friends of OLOP: The time is here to prepare for our 70th 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. 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.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

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

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

**Friday, August 21,
Grape leave day
starting @ 10:30 AM.**

**Thursday, September 3
Maamoul day
Starting @ 10:30 AM**

WITH THANKS AND GRATITUDE

I would like to thank Norma Barbour and family for the generous donation of our new 30qt Hobart mixer and stainless-steel stand and table. This donation is a great addition to our kitchen and a big help for our special events. May the soul of Mansour Barbour 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, 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.

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.

The 70th 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 70th Annual Mahrajan as a:

☐ Bronze Sponsor (2' x 2' Banner) \$ 100.00	☐ Platinum Sponsor (7' x 2' Banner) \$ 1,000.00
☐ Silver Sponsor (2' x 2' Banner) \$ 250.00	☐ Diamond Sponsor (4' x 3' Banner) \$ 2,500.00
☐ Gold Sponsor (3' x 2' Banner) \$ 500.00	☐ Ruby Sponsor (4' x 3' Banner) \$ 5,000.00

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

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/2wE9e9z>
For more information please contact us at office@olo.org or at (508) 996-8934.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 22, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Symphorian). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Rachel David and the deceased members of their family requested by Joann, Anthony and Lorraine David. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, August 23, 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Isaac of Nineveh). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Thomas David requested by Mariam David and Family. May his soul rest in peace.

Tuesday, August 25, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Titus, one of the 72 Disciples). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Alphonso and Mabel Gabello and Nassar and Mariam Joseph requested by the Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

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

Wednesday, August 26, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint Zephyrinus).

Thursday, August 27, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Biyameen (Poemen) the Hermit).

Saturday, August 29, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Beheading of Saint John the Baptist). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Sophie Correa (40-Day Mass) requested by Steven and Sharon Couto and family. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, August 30, 10:30 AM, (Feast of the Blessed Estephan Ne'mee). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy. Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in the Book of Life. May all the souls in the Book of Life rest in peace.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention 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.

LECTORS FOR AUGUST / SEPTEMBER, 2026

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

Saturday, September 5,
Rachael Higgins
Intercessions: Anna & Halan Higgins

Sunday, September 6,

Ann Dupre / Jano Baroody

Saturday, September 12,
Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

Sunday, September 13,

John Barbour / Elie Abou Kheir

Saturday, September 19,
Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, September 20,

Cayla Barbour / Halim Choubah

Saturday, September 26,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

Sunday, September 27,

Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

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



WEEK OF AUGUST 15-16, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,020.00
Feast of the Assumption	\$ 623.00
Festival Sponsorship	\$ 1,450.00
Festival Raffle Tickets	\$ 60.00
Jet Ski Raffle	\$ 2,600.00
Luminaries	\$ 510.00
Donations	\$ 200.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 100.00
Host and Wine	\$ 75.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 38.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 55.00
Total	\$ 6,731.00

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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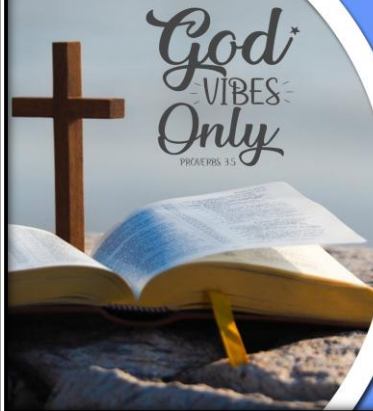
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