



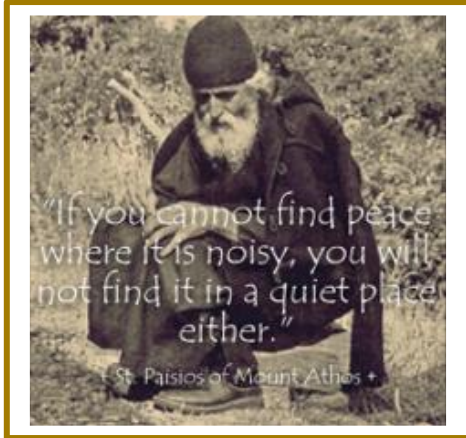
Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



August 29 -30, 2026

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



In the Maronite Divine Liturgy, when we say, "Peace be with you," it means much more than simply wishing someone a peaceful day. It is a profound Christian greeting and blessing rooted in Christ Himself.

WHAT DOES "PEACE" MEAN?

The peace we are speaking about is the peace of Jesus Christ, the peace He gave to His disciples after His Resurrection: "Peace be with you." John 20:19
Jesus appeared to His disciples who were frightened and confused, and His first words were not, "Why did you abandon me?" or "Where were you?" He said: "Peace be with you." That is important. Christ's peace comes even in the middle of fear, uncertainty, guilt, and suffering. In the Maronite Liturgy, when the priest says, "Peace be with you," he is not merely offering a greeting from himself. He is proclaiming Christ's peace to the people of God.

And when the people respond, "And with your spirit," they are recognizing the grace and ministry that God has given to the priest. **There is almost a beautiful exchange taking place:**

It reminds us that we are not coming to the altar as individuals disconnected from one another. We are coming as one Body in

Christ. And there is an even deeper meaning.

Before we approach the Eucharist, the Church calls us to reconciliation and communion.

We cannot truly receive Christ while deliberately holding hatred, resentment, or division in our hearts toward another person. That is why the peace is so powerful. When we say "Peace be with you," we are essentially saying: "I wish you the peace that only Christ can give. I forgive you. I seek forgiveness. I want to be reconciled with you. We belong to the same Body of Christ."

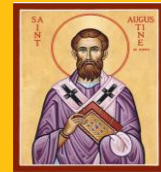
And then we approach the Eucharist not simply as people sitting in the same church, but as brothers and sisters united around the same Lord and the same altar. "When we say, 'Peace be with you,' we are not simply saying, 'Have a peaceful day.' We are saying, 'May the peace of the risen Christ live in your heart. May His peace heal what is wounded, reconcile what is divided, and remove whatever separates you from God and from one another.' And when we respond, 'And with your spirit,' we return that same blessing to the priest. In that moment, the peace of Christ moves from heart to heart, preparing us to receive Christ Himself in the Eucharist." That makes the "Peace be with you" one of the most beautiful moments of the Maronite Liturgy: before we receive the Body of Christ, we are reminded that we must become a people of Christ's peace.

Translated from Lebanese to English:

My Lord Jesus, O hidden mystery revealed in the Eucharist, Do not allow us to approach you with eyes that look only at the bread, without seeing your face. **Awaken our hearts,** so that we may realize that you are the center of our lives

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Peace is not sought in order to provoke war, but war is waged in order to attain peace."
Saint Augustine*



and transform them into a ray of light that embraces you in its depths and comes alive through your presence.

Open our eyes, just as you opened the eyes of the disciples of Emmaus, so that we may discover that you are the One who is present and who walks with us; and that you do not give us merely a gift from yourself, but rather **you give us Yourself, so that we may live through you and in you.** Make our longing for the Eucharist a longing for you, until your words are fulfilled in us:

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." **Remain in us,** and make our lives a fruit of this communion, a sacrifice from our lives and a witness to Your love in the world. **Amen. Pelias Maroun Gharios**

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

Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Jean Mattar Email: aboonajejan@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

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.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sam and Anna L'Hommedieu Thomas on the arrival of their baby girl Margot Evelyn, who was born August 20. We also congratulate Matthew and Cathy Thomas and their family as well as Anna's parents and family. May Almighty God keep Margot in His loving arms and protect always. Mabrook!

Congratulations to John and Danielle Kalife on the arrival of their baby boy John Maron Kalife, who was born August 22. We also congratulate Jimmy Kalife as well as Danielle's family. May Almighty God cradle John Maron in His loving arms and protect him always. Mabrook!

WITH THANKS AND GRATITUDE

I would like to thank Hyatt Thomas for her donation of stainless-steel tables and ice chest for our summer festival. May the soul of John Thomas rest in peace.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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: aboonajean@gmail.com
We would love to have you join us. God bless you all.

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.

SAVE THE DATES
FESTIVAL PREP DAYS
Thursday, September 3
Maamoul day
Starting @ 10:30 AM

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

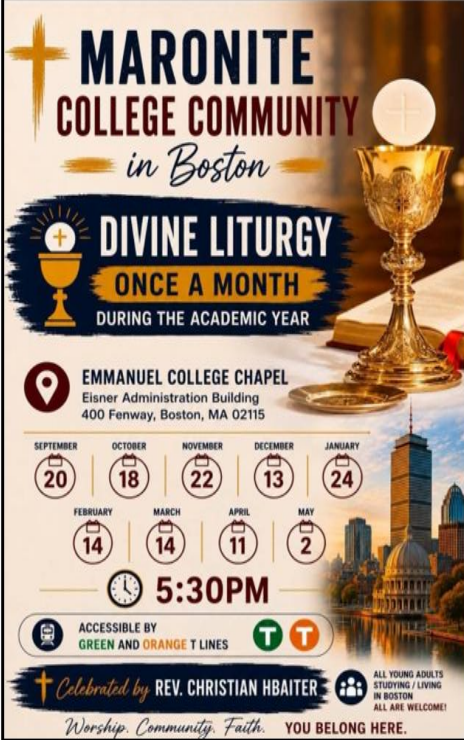
Tent and Rental Expense: \$13,057.00
Entertainment: \$ 4,650.00
Police Detail: \$ 2,138.00
Printing and Advertising: \$ 1,318.00
Food Expense Meats/Staples: \$ 4,562.00
Supplies Plates/Plasticware/etc: \$ 1,801.00
Overnight Security: \$ 774.00

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.

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.

TO ALL MARONITE COLLEGE STUDENTS IN THE BOSTON AREA



MARONITE COLLEGE COMMUNITY
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DIVINE LITURGY
ONCE A MONTH
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FEBRUARY 14 | MARCH 14 | APRIL 11 | MAY 2

5:30PM

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ALL YOUNG ADULTS STUDYING / LIVING IN BOSTON ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

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/4wEz9wz>
For more information please contact us at office@olpchurch.com or at (508) 996-8934.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph David requested by Family. May his 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.

Tuesday, September 1, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Simon the Stylite).

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

Wednesday, September 2, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Mammas the Great).

Thursday, September 3, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Theodore the Great).

Saturday, September 5, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Sharbel of Edessa and His Sister, Feast of Saint Teresa of Calcutta). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Isaac and Kaffa Abraham requested by Family. May Their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Chorbishop Joseph Lahoud requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, August 30, 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel). Liturgy is being offered for the souls J oseph T. and Alice Daher and the deceased members of their family (FM). May their souls 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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

LECTORS FOR AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER, 2026

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).



SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH
MAHRAJAN
LEBANESE FESTIVAL
SINCE 1971

LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2026

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
09/04	09/05	09/06
5PM-12AM	5PM-1AM	12PM-12AM



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



FOLKLORIC DANCE



RAFFLES



SOUVENIRS



KIDS ACTIVITIES



HOMEMADE LEBANESE CUISINE & PASTRIES

WEEK OF AUGUST 22-23, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$	999.00
Festival Sponsorship	\$	250.00
Festival Raffle Tickets	\$	200.00
Hall Donations	\$	500.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$	20.00
Candles	\$	130.00
Total	\$	2,099.00

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.



Our Lady Of Purgatory Church

70th Lebanese Festival

Food . Bar . Live Music . Raffles . Dancing . Dessert .

Friday, September 11, 2026 5:00PM - 1:00PM
Saturday, September 12, 2026 12:00PM - 11:00PM
Sunday, September 13, 2026 12:00PM - 5:00PM

Live Entertainment With Basim El-Khoury Band

Ahmad Al-Kaissi (Saturday)

Wood Dr. Hamid (Saturday afternoon)

Mitchell Kattounas (Friday)

Money Raffles Prizes \$1,000 - \$500 - \$200
Drawing Sunday, September 13, 2026, 4:00PM

NO OUTSIDE FOOD, DRINK OR HOOKAH

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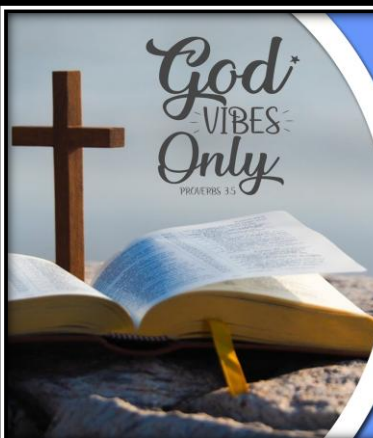
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you and miss you
even more with
each passing day.

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