



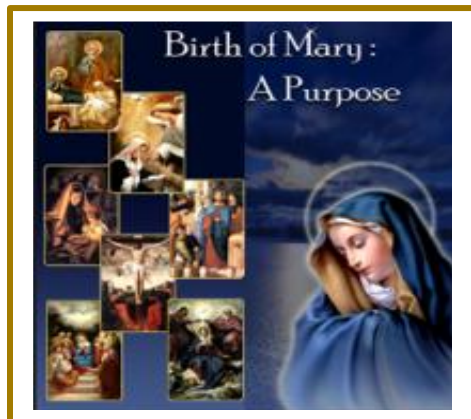
Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



September 05-06, 2026

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



LIFE IS LIKE A GAME OF CHESS

Some people play scratch tickets hoping that **luck** will change their life. Some play the lottery, waiting for the right numbers. Others gamble, taking risks and hoping fortune will be on their side. Backgammon has an element of chance. But chess is different.

In chess, you are constantly making choices. Every move matters. You cannot simply move a piece and say, "I didn't know what would happen." Your move has consequences. You have to think ahead: *If I move here, what will happen next? What am I opening? What am I leaving unprotected?*

Isn't that much like our life?

Every day, God places a "chessboard" before us. We are given choices: what we say, what we do, **whom we forgive**, whom we hurt, whether we pray, whether we help someone, whether we follow God's voice or our own desires.

Some moves we make are wise; others we regret. Sometimes we make a move that seems like a mistake, but God can use even that moment to teach us, humble us, and redirect us.

And there is another beautiful lesson: **in chess, you don't win by making one**

spectacular move. You win by making many faithful moves.

The same is true of holiness. We sometimes think we need to do something extraordinary for God. But perhaps holiness is found in the little moves we make every day:

- A prayer when we don't feel like praying.
- Forgiveness when we have been hurt.
- Patience when someone tests us.
- Charity when nobody notices.
- Going to confession when our pride tells us not to.
- Receiving the Eucharist with a sincere heart.
- Choosing God when temptation offers us an easier move. **The most important piece.**

And there is something else about chess: **you can have many pieces, but the king is the one you must ultimately protect.**

What if we looked at our spiritual life the same way?

God must be our King. We can have money, careers, possessions, friendships, accomplishments, and even success but if we lose sight of the King, we have lost the game that matters most. Jesus tells us: "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" Matthew 16:26 And perhaps the most comforting part is this:

God sees the whole board when we only see a few squares. We often become anxious because we don't understand why God is allowing something to happen. We see only the move in front of us. God sees the beginning, the middle, and the end. So, when life doesn't make sense, perhaps our prayer should be: **"Lord, I don't understand the move You are allowing right now, but I trust the One who sees the whole board."**

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will in all things. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ her son and the son of God!"
Saint John Paul II



And unlike chess, where eventually there is a winner and a loser, **God's desire is not to defeat us. He wants to save us.** He is not playing against us; He is walking with us.

So be careful with your moves. Think before you speak. Think before you act. Learn from your mistakes. Don't become discouraged when you lose a piece. And above all, **never take your eyes off the King.**

Because in the game of life, **the greatest victory is not getting everything we want, rather it is reaching the end and discovering that, through every move, we never stopped walking with Christ.**

SECOND COLLECTION FOR CUA AND THE MARONITE SEMINARY

As per the directive of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, there will be a second collection this weekend for the **Catholic University of America and the Maronite Seminary.** This money helps educate our seminarians throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity.

Rev. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Jean Mattar Email: 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

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.

FESTIVAL WEEK SCHEDULE

As we close in on the final week before the festival, I am asking for your help beginning on Wednesday, September 9. **We will be working all day and night on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, prepping food and setting up tables and booths in the hall and under the tent.** The tents will be set up on Wednesday, and the lighting and electrical work will be done on Wednesday and Thursday. Thank you in advance for your help with this, our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please join me and make this festival a great success. Our Lady of Purgatory, pray for us!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Christophe and Bianca Chedid who were married on August 30. We also congratulate Zakhia and Hiba Chdid and family as well as the Carreiro Family. May Almighty God bless your marriage and keep you in His loving arms. Mabrook!

CCD REGISTRATION

Registration for Maronite Heritage Days and First Communion is now under way. Registration forms were emailed this past week. Please sign-up your children for religious education. This ministry is being offered to help our children understand our faith. If you need a hard copy of the registration forms, please contact Hiba at the office via email officeolop@gmail.com or by calling 508-996-8934.

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.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of September is offered for Jean D'Arc ElKhoury requested by Jacques and Amal Barbour.

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.

OLOP Summer Lebanese Festival - Sponsorship Form

Yes, I would like to support the Summer Lebanese Festival as a:
 Bronze Sponsor ☐ \$ 100.00 Platinum Sponsor ☐ \$ 1000.00
 Silver Sponsor ☐ \$ 250.00 Diamond Sponsor ☐ \$ 2500.00
 Gold Sponsor ☐ \$ 500.00 Ruby Sponsor (Band) ☐ \$ 5000.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cel: _____

Please indicate how you want to be acknowledged on the Banner:

1- Family Name: _____

2- In Memory of: _____

3- Business Name: _____

MYO RETREAT

Registration and details have been emailed to you. If anyone is interested in attending this retreat, please contact me or Viviane Yazbeck.



LITURGY INTENTIONS

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, September 6, 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph T. and Alice Daher and the deceased members of their family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Tuesday, September 8, 6:00 PM, (Feast of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary).

From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration. NO ADORATION.

Wednesday, September 9, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Virgin Mary, Feast of the Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, Feast of The council of Chalcedon).

Thursday, September 10, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Pulcheria the Queen).

Saturday, September 12, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Cornelius the Centurion). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Hanna and Mariam Barbour requested by Norma Barbour and Family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Mary Saba requested by Family (FM). May Their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, September 13, 10:30 AM, (Celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Feast of Saint Christopher). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Mansour, Elias, Leila and Philomina Barbour requested by Norma Barbour and Family. May their souls rest in peace.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention by Smitty Cabral. 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.

CONFESSION

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

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.

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 SEPTEMBER, 2026

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).

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 29-30, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,427.00
August Online Giving	\$ 821.22
Festival Sponsorship	\$ 3,100.00
Festival Raffle Tickets	\$ 40.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 100.00
Total	\$ 5,488.22

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.

DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 7:00 PM after Divine Liturgy

CHORBIOSHOP JOSEPH F. LAHOUD PASTORAL CENTER 61 Rockwood Street Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

\$50

PER PERSON

\$25

CHILDREN UNDER 12 PER PERSON

FOR TICKETS CONTACT:

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KAREN NJEIM
857 222-9777

JACQUES BARBOUR
508 725 6705

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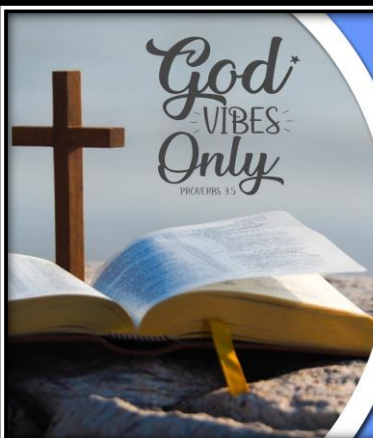
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