



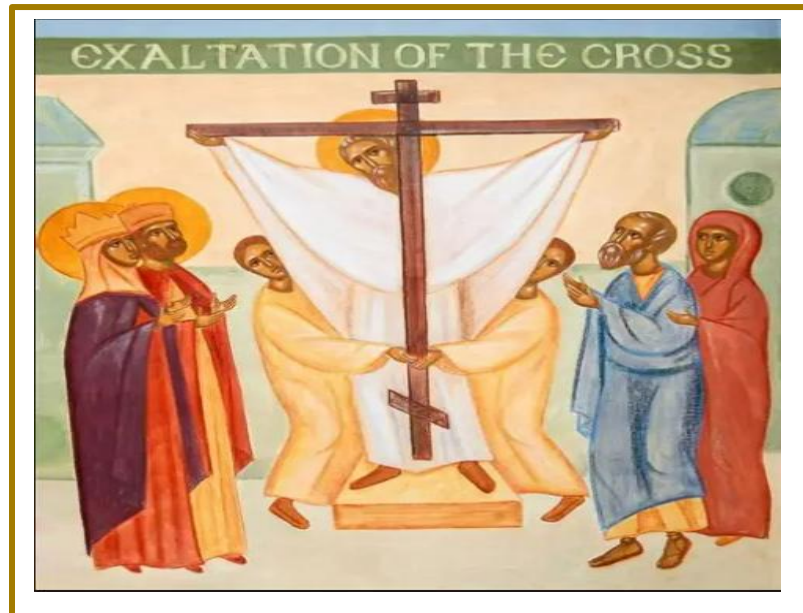
Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



September 12-13, 2026

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



The Cross is one of the greatest mysteries of our faith. At first glance, it looks like an instrument of suffering, defeat, and death. Yet for Christians, we look at the Cross and see **victory, love, and resurrection.**

Jesus did not choose the Cross because He loved suffering. He chose it because **He loved us.** The Cross reveals how far God is willing to go to bring us back to Himself. Jesus stretched out His arms upon the Cross as if to embrace the whole world and say: *"There is no distance you can go, no sin you can commit, and no suffering you can carry that is beyond my love."*

We often want God to remove our crosses. And sometimes we pray, *"Lord, take this suffering away."* That is a natural prayer. But the Cross teaches us another prayer: **"Lord, if this cross cannot be removed, give me the grace to carry it with you."**

Our crosses can be many things: illness, disappointment, family struggles, loneliness, grief, uncertainty, forgiveness that is difficult to give, or simply the daily sacrifices that no one sees. The Christian does not carry these crosses alone. **Christ carries them with us.**

And this is the hope of the Cross: **the Cross is never the final word.** Good Friday leads to Easter. Death leads to Resurrection. Suffering, when united with Christ, can become a path toward new life.

Perhaps today we should not only look at the Cross hanging on our walls or around our necks. We should ask ourselves:

What cross am I carrying right now? And have I invited Jesus to carry it with me?

The Cross reminds us that God can take the darkest moment of our lives and

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Whoever entrusts himself to the Cross of Jesus, receives the mercy of God and finds healings from the deadly poison of sin".

Pope Francis



transform it into something beautiful. What appears to be defeat in our eyes can become victory in God's hands.

So, when we exalt the Holy Cross, we are not exalting suffering. **We are exalting the love of Christ revealed through suffering.** We are proclaiming that love is stronger than hatred, forgiveness is stronger than sin, and life is stronger than death.

"We adore Your Cross, O Lord, and we glorify Your holy Resurrection."

May we never be ashamed of the Cross. May we embrace it with faith, carry it with courage, and always remember that **every Cross carried with Christ has an Easter waiting beyond it.**

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.

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.

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Rachael Morad who passed away this past week. May Almighty God welcome her into His kingdom and may her soul rest in peace. Allah yerhamma.

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.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES BEGIN

First Communion classes will begin on Tuesday, September 15, at 6:30 PM, at Maronite Servants of Christ the Light Convent, 856 Tucker Road, Dartmouth, MA. The dates are listed below.

The following dates are for First Communion Classes to be held at the Convent:

September 29, October 6, October 20, November 3, November 17, December 15, January 12, First Penance February 6.

Maronite Heritage Days will be announced very soon. I will notify you of those dates as they become finalized.

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.

MYO RETREAT

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



2nd ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER FOR MARONITE SERVANTS OF CHRIST THE LIGHT

The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light will hold their 2nd Annual Benefit Dinner on **Friday, October 2, 2026**, at Saint Anthony of the Desert Church, 300 Eastern Avenue, Fall River, Massachusetts. I hope many of you will be able to support their efforts. God bless the work you do for the Church.



LITURGY INTENTIONS

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 Gabriel Sr. and his son Thomas Gabriel Sr. requested by Connie Hayes. 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.

Tuesday, September 15, 9:00 AM,
(Feast of Saint Shaina, , Feast of Saint Sassin). **NO LITURGY.**
From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM,
Eucharistic Adoration. **NO ADORATION.**

Wednesday, September 16, 9:00 AM,
(Feast of Saint Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage). **NO LITURGY.**

Thursday, September 17, 9:00 AM,
(Feast of Saint Sophia and Her 3 Daudhters). **NO LITURGY.**

Saturday, September 19, 4:30 PM,
(Feast of Saint Januarius). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Daniel Tavares requested by Helena Tavares and Family (1 year Anniversary). May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Sandy Patoak requested by Joann David. May her souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Marie Kenyon requested by Family. May Their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, September 20, 10:30 AM,
(Feast of Saint Eustarius and His Wife and Children). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Hardin family Society. May their souls rest in peace.

CONFESSION

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

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention by Joann David. 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.

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).



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ANNUAL

Fundraiser

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KAREN NJEIM
857 222 - 9777

JACQUES BARBOUR
508 725 6705

Please join us!

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 05-06, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 928.00
Eparchial Assessment	\$ 100.00
Second Collection	\$ 224.00
Festival Sponsorship	\$ 3,550.00
Festival Raffle Tickets	\$ 80.00
Weddings Donations	\$ 500.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 100.00
Total	\$ 5,482.00

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.



70th Lebanese Festival

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

Friday, September 11, 2026 5:00PM - 11:00PM	Saturday, September 12, 2026 12:00PM - 11:00PM	Sunday, September 13, 2026 12:00PM - 5:00PM
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Live Entertainment
With Bashir El-Khoury Band



Mitchell Kalloumas
(Friday)



Ahmad Al-Kassir
(Saturday)



Ward Dr. Nassif
(Saturday afternoon)




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

NO OUTSIDE FOOD, DRINK OR HOOKAH

4251 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, MA 02745

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Milad Maalouf

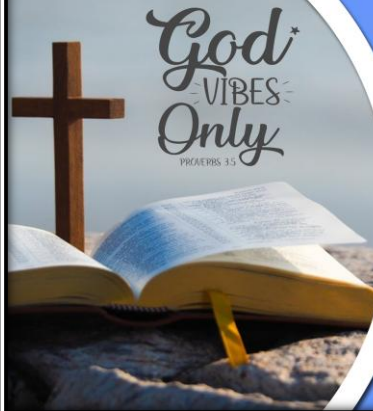
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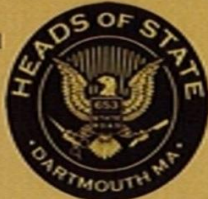
401-837-0664

Tuesday & Thurs

1-6pm

Saturday

1-5pm



Zakhia Chedid

774-444-3337

Monday,

Wednesday &

Friday

1-6pm

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Monday & Friday..... 9-12:30pm

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Saturday..... 9-4 pm

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hearing your
laugh. We Love
you and miss you
even more with
each passing day.

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