



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



September 19-20, 2026

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS



Two things destroy the spirit of a human being and steal our peace: **living yesterday and living by comparing ourselves with others.**

The past can become a prison when we continually replay what we did, what someone did to us, what we should have said, or what we wish we could change. And worrying about others can rob us of our own life. *What do they think of me? Are they doing better than me? Why don't they appreciate me? What will they say?* But the most important thing in life is **not what happened yesterday or what someone else is doing. It is what we do with the moment God has given us today.**

What matters most? At the end of our lives, I do not think we will ask:

"Did everyone approve of me?"

"Did I have more than the person next to me?"

"Did I win every argument?"

"Did I have a perfect past?"

We will ask much deeper questions:

Did I love? Did I forgive? Did I give? Did I make someone's life better? Did I stay close to God? Did I recognize the blessings I was given?

Jesus tells us, *"Do not worry about tomorrow"* (Matthew 6:34). He also Teaches us to forgive and move forward.

The Christian life is not about pretending the past never happened; **it is about refusing to let the past control the present.**

How do we strip these two things from our lives?

1. Give the past to God.

Learn from it, repent where necessary, forgive where necessary and then release it. You cannot drive forward while constantly staring into the rearview mirror.

2. Stop measuring your life against someone else's.

God did not create you to be a copy of another person. Their journey is theirs. Yours is yours. Comparison makes us either proud or discouraged; gratitude makes us peaceful.

3. Ask yourself one question each morning:

"What can I do today that will bring me closer to God and make someone's life a little better?" Then do that.

4. Replace worry with gratitude.

When your mind starts going backward or looking sideways, deliberately looking upward. Say: *"Lord, thank You for what I have, forgive what I have done, and guide me in what I am about to do."*

5. Remember that your life is temporary.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Making the sign of the Cross- as we will do during the Blessing- means saying a visible and public "Yes" to the one who died and rose for us, to God who in the humility and weakness of his love is the Almighty, stronger than all the power and intelligence of the world."

Pope Benedict XVI



We spend so much energy worrying about things that, five or ten years from now, may mean absolutely nothing. What lasts is love, faith, relationships, kindness, forgiveness, and the good we leave in another person's heart.

Perhaps the deepest freedom is this:

Yesterday is God's mercy. Tomorrow is God's providence. Today is God's gift.

So do not live in yesterday. Don't live in someone else's life.

Live today with God, with gratitude, and with love.

Because in the end, **life is not about having everything. It is about recognizing what truly matters before the time God has given us passes.**

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 |

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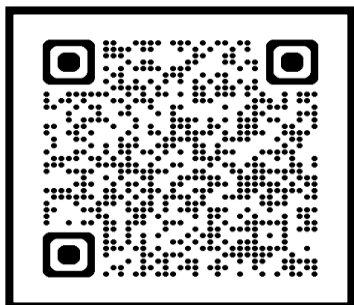
OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

"THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW!"

Hearing God's call in a world where there is so much noise is never easy. Nonetheless, we know there are men in our parishes called to the priesthood. Can we help them hear this call?

Let us increase our efforts to discern with them, to the best of our abilities, and put them on the right path. In this way we will be privileged to accompany men who show signs of a vocation to the priesthood, as well as promote the beauty of the priesthood in all that we do.

The Office of Vocations of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon and the Eparchy of Saint Maron, will be holding a discernment weekend from Friday November 6th to Sunday November 8th at the Maronite Seminary, in Washington DC. If you know of anyone discerning a vocation to the priesthood, or would like to know more, please email the Seminary at: Maroniteseminary@comcast.net or register by scanning the following QR Code



They will be able to experience a weekend in the life of a seminarian by joining us for Liturgy, Adoration, meals, prayers and hanging out. This weekend is a great opportunity for them to come and see what a weekend in the life of a seminarian is like!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

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.

FR. VINCENT OUT OF TOWN

Fr. Vincent will be out of town. Please contact Fr. Jean or Hiba for any emergencies. Fr. Jean will be in the office during my leave. God bless all of you.

SAINT JOSEPH SODALITY DAY TRIP OCTOBER 17

The St. Joseph Sodality invites all parishioners to join a day trip to the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA on Saturday, October 17. The day will be filled with spirituality, fun, and fellowship. You are welcome to drive separately, or join the group transportation, with the cost determined based on the number of people who sign up. If you would like to attend, please contact Rana or Jano.

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.

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 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 soul of Sandy Patoak requested by Joann David. May her soul 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.

Tuesday, September 22, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Phocas and His Companions). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Peter and Raja Saba Bou Eassey requested by Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

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

Wednesday, September 23, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Jonah the Prophet).

Thursday, September 24, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Thecla, the First Woman Martyr).

Saturday, September 26, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint John the Evangelist). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Emanuel Pinarreta requested by Lourdes Oliveira. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Annie Peter requested by Family (40-Day Mass). May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, September 27, 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul). Remember Me In Your Kingdom. Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in the Book of Life. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Jean D'Arc ElKhoury requested by the Family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Thomas Family requested by Mrs. George J. Thomas (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

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

IN OUR PRAYERS

Norma Barbour, Denise Denault, Theresa Saab, Reggie Thomas, Hayatt 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/OCTOBER, 2026

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

Saturday, October 3,
Rachael Higgins
Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, October 4,
Ann Dupre / Jano Baroody

Saturday, October 10,
Eric Tavares
Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

Sunday, October 11,
John Barbour / Elie Abou Kheir

Saturday, October 17,
Smitty Cabral
Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, October 18,
Mae Dickinson / Hiba Chdid

Saturday, October 24,
Annemarie Espindola
Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

Sunday, October 25,
Cayla Barbour / Rana Choubah

Saturday, October 31,
Mae Dickinson
Intercessions: Eric Tavares
(If you are unable to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson).



**FRIENDS OF
REMEMBER ME IN YOUR KINGDOM**

ANNUAL
Fundraiser

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
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FOR TICKETS CONTACT:

ZEINA FREIHA
781 789-0432

KAREN NJEIM
857 222 - 9777

JACQUES BARBOUR
508 725 6705

Please join us!

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,218.00
Eparchial Assessment	\$ 20.00
Festival Sponsorship	\$ 4,550.00
Festival Raffle Tickets	\$ 50.00
Festival Donations	\$ 65.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 50.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 10.00
Total	\$ 5,963.00

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 MERCY
MARONITE CHURCH**
341 JUNE STREET
WORCESTER, MA 01602



**Annual
MIDDLE EASTERN
FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 26**
11:00AM
to
11:00PM

**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 27**
11:30AM
to
6:00PM

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
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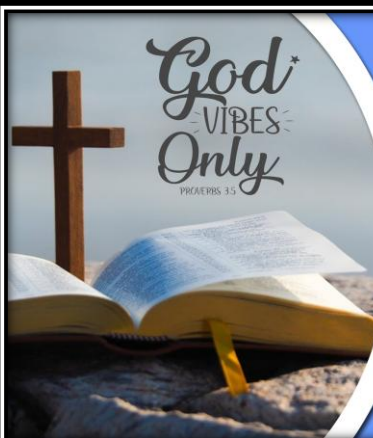
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laugh. We Love
you and miss you
even more with
each passing day.

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