



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



September 26-27, 2026

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS



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 —

Have you ever wondered what the Seraphim and Cherubim are we hear during the Divine Liturgy? In the Bible and Christian tradition, **Seraphim and Cherubim are different kinds of heavenly beings who serve God**, especially in His presence. They are often misunderstood because religious art has portrayed them differently over the centuries.

Seraphim: The **Seraphim** are described most clearly in **Isaiah 6:1-7**, where Isaiah has a vision of God in the Temple.

They have **six wings**:

- Two cover their faces in reverence before God.
- Two cover their feet.
- Two are used to fly.

They cry out: **"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"**

One of the Seraphim touches Isaiah's lips with a burning coal from the altar, symbolizing **purification and the removal of sin**. The word *seraphim* is associated with **"burning ones."** Their imagery therefore points toward the **fire of God's holiness and love**.

Cherubim: The **Cherubim** appear in several places in Scripture, including **Genesis, Exodus, Ezekiel, and Revelation**. They are particularly associated with **God's throne and His glory**.

In Genesis, after Adam and Eve leave Eden, **cherubim guard the way to the Tree of Life** (Genesis 3:24). In Exodus, God commands that figures of cherubim be placed above the **Ark of the Covenant**, with their wings overshadowing the mercy seat (Exodus 25:18-22).

Ezekiel's visions describe extraordinarily powerful heavenly creatures associated with God's glory. They are not the little winged babies that later became common in artwork. Then, what is the difference between the two?

Seraphim	Cherubim
Associated with God's holiness	Associated with God's glory and throne
Cry out "Holy, Holy, Holy"	Surround/serve the divine throne
Six wings in Isaiah's vision	Described with complex, symbolic forms
Associated with purification/fire	Associated with guarding and God's presence
Isaiah 6	Genesis, Exodus, Ezekiel, Revelation

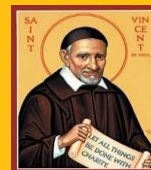
And there is something beautiful about both: **The Seraphim teach us to stand before God in awe: "Holy, Holy, Holy."**

The Cherubim remind us that God's

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Where is the heart that loves? On the thing it loves. Therefore, where our love is, there our heart is held captive. It cannot leave it; it cannot be lifted higher, it cannot go either to the right or the left; see, it is fixed. Where the miser's treasure is, there is his heart and where our heart is, there is our treasure."

Saint Vincent De Paul



presence is sacred and must be approached with reverence.

For a priest, there is a especially powerful connection: **during the Divine Liturgy, when we join the angels in proclaiming God's holiness, we are not simply saying words about heaven, rather we are participating in the worship of heaven**. The Church understands the earthly liturgy as joining the heavenly liturgy. That is one reason the **"Holy, Holy, Holy"** is such a profound moment in the Qorbono.

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.

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

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Office Email: officeolop@gmail.com

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!

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

The Saint 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.

WITH THANKS AND GRATITUDE

I would like to thank all our volunteers and sponsors for a wonderful 70th Annual Festival. Everyone has commented on how much they enjoyed the festival this year and how incredible our hospitality is at Our Lady of Purgatory Church. Our hard work has paid off in more ways than we can imagine. Every year we build upon our successes and things that need to be corrected. This is part of the process in making our festival's more successful. I am so proud of this community. Mabrook!

Festival Income:

Bar Sales:	\$ 3,961.00
Festival Baskets:	\$ 2,090.00
Festival Desserts:	\$ 3,075.00
Festival Donations:	\$ 7,911.00
Festival Food Sales:	\$ 34,623.94
Festival Misc.	\$ 1,696.00
Festival Kid's Games:	\$ 519.00
Festival Market:	\$ 810.00
Festival Presale Raffles:	\$ 750.00
Festival Raffle Sales:	\$ 1,550.00
Festival Saj:	\$ 3,103.00
Festival Sponsorships:	\$ 26,496.01
Festival Knafe/Ice Cream:	\$ 1,936.00
Total Income:	\$ 88,520.95

Festival Expenses:

Festival Bar Expenses:	\$ 588.54
Festival Cleaning Expenses:	\$ 1,225.00
Festival Dessert Expenses:	\$ 405.58
Festival Entertainment:	\$ 5,800.00
Festival Equipment Expense:	\$ 243.10
Festival Food Expense:	\$ 4,407.49
Festival License/Permits:	\$ 450.00
Festival Police Detail:	\$ 1,900.80
Festival Printing:	\$ 1,045.09
Festival Raffle Winnings:	\$ 1,700.00
Festival Tent/Table Rentals:	\$ 16,144.00
Festival Overnight Security:	\$ 744.00
Festival Supplies Expense:	\$ 1,361.70
Festival Games:	\$ 725.63
Gift Shop:	\$ 682.00
Total Expenses:	\$ 37,422.93

TOTAL PROFIT:	\$ 51,098.02
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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.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Our Annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on **Saturday, November 14, and Sunday, November 15**, in the Church Hall. Mark your calendars so that you can join us for these 2 days. Great food, raffles, vendors, and performances from your children will make this event truly special.

NEEDED GIFTS FOR THE CARAVAN AUCTION, BASKET RAFFLES, SILENT AUCTION AND THE KID'S ZONE GAMES FOR THE CHILDREN



Items needed include: Electronics, housewares, giftware, tools, gift cards, gift baskets, sporting event tickets, jewelry, toys, sporting goods etc.

We also need small children's gifts for the game tables such as: Books, coloring books and crayons or markers, small cars and trucks, dolls, stuffed toys, puzzles models, games etc.

We need gifts of various values from \$2-\$25, \$25-\$50 and \$50 and up.

If you wish to donate but have no time to shop, you can donate the money and we will shop for you. All help in any amount is greatly appreciated.

KIBBEE PRE-ORDER

Baked Kibbee presale is now available. **The kibbee trays are \$35.00 each. All presale orders for kibbee must be in the office by Tuesday, October 19**, so that we can prepare accordingly. You may order by using the order forms or contact **the Church office** at: officeolop@gmail.com or (508) 996-8934.

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**.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Tuesday, September 29, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Romanos (Cyriacus), known as Rohanna the Cantor).

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

Wednesday, September 30, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Gregory the Illuminator).

Thursday, October 1, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Doctor of the Church).

Saturday, October 3, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Dionysius the Areopagite, Feast of Saint Théodore Guérin). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Sarkees and Frousema Peters and the deceased members of their family requested by Joann, Anthony and Loraine David. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Charbel Baroody requested by Charles Baroody. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, October 4, 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of George Morad requested by the Family (FM). May his soul rest in peace.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Charbel Baroody by Philip and Jano Baroody. 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.

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, MA. I hope many of you will be able to support their efforts. God bless the work you do for the Church.



LECTORS FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2026

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).

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,522.00
Eparchial Assessment	\$ 90.00
CCD Registrations	\$ 400.00
Festival Sponsorship	\$ 250.00
Festival Raffle Tickets	\$ 40.00
Festival Food Sale	\$ 42.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 300.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 47.00
Total	\$ 2,691.00

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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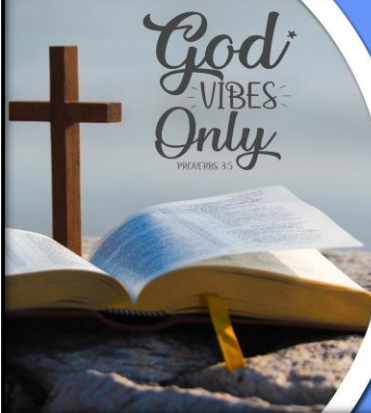
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