



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



October 03-04, 2026

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS



St. Therese of Lisieux,
the Little Flower

O Little Thine
of the child of Jesus,
Please pick a rose for me
From the heavenly garden.
And send it to me
As a message of love.
O little flower of Jesus,
Ask God today to grant the favors
I now place with confidence
in your hands
(mention your request here).

Saint Therese,
Help me to always believe,
as you did,
In God's great love for me,
So that I might imitate
your "Little Way" each day.
Amen

HAVE YOU EVER STOPPED AND ASKED YOURSELF A VERY SIMPLE QUESTION: WHO AM I?

Not What do I do? Not What is my personality? Not What is my job? Not What have I accomplished? Not What do people think of me? But simply: Who am I? Because there is a difference between what we do and who we are. You may be a doctor, an engineer, a teacher, a business owner, a parent, a grandparent, a husband, a wife, or a priest. We may be successful, respected, busy, and accomplished.

But if tomorrow we lost our job, our title, our possessions, or even some of the things we have worked our whole life to build, would you still know who you are? **The Christian answer begins much deeper: we are a child of God.** Before we have achieved anything, God knew us. Before we were successful, God loved us. Before we made our mistakes, God was calling us. **And nothing we accomplish** can make God love us more, and nothing we fail at can make Him love us less. That is our true identity. And if that is who we are, then we have to ask another question:

Where does God fit into my life?

Look at our calendars. We make time for work. We make time for appointments. We make time for sports. We make time for vacations. We make time for dinners, birthdays, meetings, shopping, and entertainment. And there is nothing wrong with these things. But here is the question:

Have I made time for God?

Not just when it is convenient. Not just when I have nothing else planned. Not just when I am in trouble. Not just at Christmas or Easter. **But every weekend.**

Keep the Sabbath day holy. If God is truly at the center of who I am, then coming to church should not be something I fit into my schedule. It should be something I build my schedule around.

Put Sunday Divine Liturgy on your calendar the same way you put every other important commitment on it. And when something else comes up, instead of asking, "Can I make it to church?" perhaps we should begin asking: **"Can I schedule this around church?"**

Because we make time for what matters to us. And sometimes we say, "Father, I'm just too busy." **But the truth is, we are not necessarily too busy.** Sometimes we have simply allowed other things to become more important. Did we ever think about what happens when we stop coming to church. At first, we miss one Sunday. Then another. And slowly, something begins to happen. We become comfortable being away. Prayer becomes less familiar. The Gospel becomes quieter. The Eucharist becomes less central. And eventually, we can become busy with everything except the One who gave us everything.

Church is not simply a building we visit. It is home away from home. It is where we gather as God's family. It is where we hear His Word. It is where we bring our

burdens. It is where we receive forgiveness. It is where we encounter Christ in the Eucharist. It is where we remember who we are. And perhaps that is why coming to church every Sunday is so important.

We need one hour each week to remember who we are. The world spends the rest of the week telling us who we should be. Be successful. Make more money. Look younger. Have more. Do more. Compete. Keep up. Be noticed. But when we come before God, He reminds us: **You are My beloved child.** We don't have to prove ourselves here. We don't have to pretend. We don't have to have everything figured out. **Come home.** So, maybe today, don't ask yourself only: "What am I doing with my life?" We should ask something deeper:

"Who am I?" And then ask: "Does the way I live my life reflect who I say I am?" If I say that God is important to me, is He on my calendar? If I say that my faith matters, is Sunday Divine Liturgy a priority? If I say that I love Jesus, am I making time to be with Him? Because at the end of our lives, the most important thing will not be how full our calendar was. It will be what and Who we made room for.

So let us put church on our calendar. **Protect that hour.** Bring your family. Bring your children. Bring your grandchildren. Come even when you don't feel like it. Come when life is good. Come when life is difficult. Come when we have questions. Come when our heart is broken. Come when we are grateful. **Come home.** Because we are not simply someone who goes to church. We are a child of God and God's house should have a place in our life every week without any exceptions or excuses.

Abouna Jean

Rev. 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.

WELCOME SAYEDNA GREGORY

Welcome Sayedna Gregory to Our Lady of Purgatory Church. We are always happy to have you join us celebrating Divine Liturgy. You have been a blessing for all of us. May God grant you many more years shepherding His flock.

"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!

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.

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 pre-sale orders for kibbee must be in the office by Tuesday, October 20**, 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.

BAZAAR PREP DAYS

We will be preparing food for the Christmas Bazaar on the following days:

Thursday, October 22:

Kibbie day

starting @ 10:30 AM.

Tuesday, November 3:

Grape leaves day

Starting @ 10:30 AM

Thursday, November 5,

Maamool day

Starting @ 10:30 AM

If anyone can come and help with these, it would be greatly appreciated. Please join us for as long as you can. Thank you.

BLUE MASS AND DINNER

Our Lady of Purgatory Church is sponsoring our Second Annual Blue Mass and Dinner on Wednesday, October 28, 2026. This special Mass and dinner are to honor our men and women from the Police Department, Fire Department, First Responders, and Armed Forces.

Our Parish will prepare food along with local restaurants for this event. **If you would like to prepare/ donate a dish or donate water and/ or soda it will be greatly appreciated; there are sign-up sheets at the Church exits or you can call the office.**

We pray for all of our First Responders and thank them for service to our community.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING LEBANESE CONVERSATIONAL ARABIC?

We are considering offering informal Lebanese Conversational Arabic classes for parishioners who would like to learn how to speak and understand some of the beautiful language of our Maronite heritage.

The classes would focus on everyday conversation and practical expressions such as greetings, family, food, church, travel, and common phrases you can use in daily life. No previous knowledge of Arabic is necessary!

Whether you are Lebanese, married into a Lebanese family, have Lebanese roots, or simply want to learn more about our language and culture, everyone is welcome.

If you are interested, please contact the parish office or speak with Father Jean so we can determine interest and plan a convenient day and time. Come learn the language and connect more deeply with our Lebanese heritage!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

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

**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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Tuesday, October 6, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Shirley David requested by Family (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

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

Wednesday, October 7, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saints Sarkis (Sergius) and Bacchus).

Thursday, October 8, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Pelagia of Antioch).

Saturday, October 10, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Eulampius and His Sister Eulamoia, and Their Companions). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Selma A. Joseph requested by Family (FM). May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Michael J. David requested by the Macedo Family (FM). May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, October 11, 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Philip the Deacon, Feast of Saint Pope XXIII, Feast of the First Council of Nicaea). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Anissa ElKhoury requested by Nazha Barbour and Family (Memorial Mass). May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Atty. George M. Thomas requested by Reggie Thomas and Family. 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.

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.

LECTORS FOR OCTOBER, 2026

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).

WINE AND HOST

OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of October is offered for Joe and Tillie Thomas requested by Family.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jennifer Stachowicz, 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.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$	825.00
Festival Food Sale	\$	290.00
Memorial Donations	\$	150.00
Coffee Hour	\$	86.00
Candles	\$	187.00
Total	\$	1,538.00

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 Catholic Church



ANNUAL LEBANESE HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



Saturday, November 14, 2026
10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Sunday, November 15, 2026
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM



MONEY & BASKET

RAFFLES

DELICIOUS

LEBANESE FOOD

CARAVAN & SILENT

AUCTIONS

CRAFT TABLES

DESSERTS



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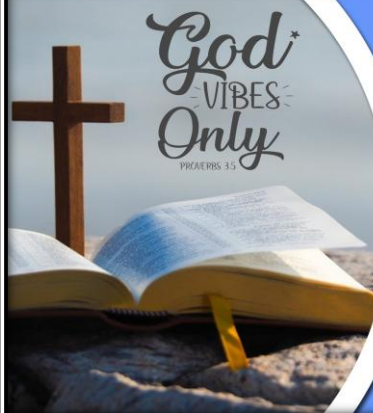
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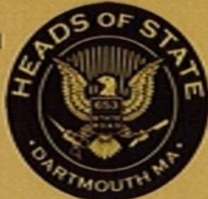


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