



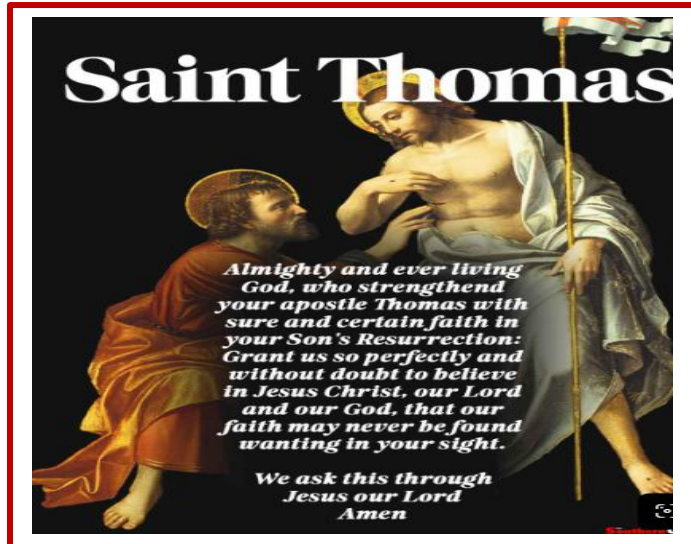
Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



October 10-11, 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS



DRIVE CAREFULLY — WHAT IS YOUR PRIORITY?

Every time we get behind the wheel, we see a little picture of life. We are told, "Drive carefully. Watch the road." Why? Because not everyone drives the way we do. Someone may suddenly change lanes without a signal. Someone may cut us off. Someone may be distracted, impatient, or simply unaware of us.

And sometimes, that is exactly how life is. People will change lanes without warning. Plans will change. Someone may disappoint us. Something unexpected may suddenly appear in our path. We cannot control how everyone else drives, but we can control **how we drive**. We can slow down. We can be patient. We can pay attention. We can avoid unnecessary anger. And most importantly, we can keep our eyes on the road.

But there is another road we are travelling the road of life. And on this road, we can become so busy that we forget where we are going.

We fill our days with work, responsibilities, appointments, phones, entertainment, money, worries,

arguments, and things that seem urgent. We say, *"I don't have time."* Yet somehow, we find time for everything that keeps us busy—and sometimes very little time for the One who gave us the time.

So, we have to ask ourselves a simple but powerful question: **Who is my number one priority?** Is it God? Not second. Not when everything else is finished. Not only when we need something.

But **first**. Because if God is not first, eventually something else will take His place.

The tragedy is that we can spend so much time focusing on things that do not last, while neglecting the One who gives meaning to everything that does.

We worry about yesterday, which we cannot change. We worry about tomorrow, which we cannot control. We become distracted by what other people are doing. We become consumed by things that steal our peace. And meanwhile, God is quietly saying: **"Come back to Me. I am here."**

Maybe today God is asking us to slow down. **To put down the phone.** To turn off the noise.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

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



To stop chasing things that leave us empty. To make time for prayer. To come home to church.

To bring our children with us. To receive the Eucharist. To sit quietly before God and remember what really matters. Because one day, each of us will reach the end of this road.

And when we look back, we may realize that some of the things we thought were so important were never important at all. What will matter is **how much we loved, how much we forgave, how much we gave, how much faith we lived, and whether we kept God at the center of our journey.**

So, drive carefully, not only on the highway, but on the road of life. Watch for the unexpected lane changes. Don't let someone else's mistake make you lose your peace. Don't spend your entire journey looking in the rearview mirror. And don't become so distracted by everything around you that you forget your destination. **Keep your eyes on the road. Keep your heart with God.** Because the most important destination is not where we are going in this life. It is **where we are going for eternity.**

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 condolences to MaryAnne (Joseph) Saade, Genevieve Thomas Tayeh, Bruce (Sandra) Thomas, Peter (Faten) Thomas, John Paul Thomas for the loss of their mother Hayat Thomas who passed October 5. We also send our sympathy to her grandchildren, great grandchildren and her siblings.

Condolences will be received at the family home in Taunton on Thursday, October 8th from 5 PM to 9 PM. Address: [3 Dean St, Taunton, MA.](#)

Visitation will take place on Monday, October 12th from 1 PM to 4 PM. O'Keefe-Wade Funeral Home. Address: [70 Washington St, Taunton, MA.](#)

The Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated on Tuesday, October 13th at 10 AM at Saint Anthony Church. Address:

[126 School St. Taunton, MA.](#)

May Almighty God welcome Hayat into His Kingdom and may her soul rest in peace. Allah Yerhama.

And also, we extend our condolences to Nazha (Tanios) Barbour for the loss of her mother Anisa who died in Lebanon. We also send our sympathy to her grandchildren, great grandchildren and her family. May Almighty God welcome Anisa into His Kingdom and may her soul rest in peace. Allah Yerhama.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN – THE 2026 OLOP CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!

Calling all children between the ages of 2 and 16 years old! It's time to start preparing for the 2026 OLOP Christmas Pageant. We'll begin practices for the 2026 OLOP Christmas Pageant on Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 11:45 in the Church. Practices will last approximately 1 hour and so it's a great opportunity for the children to have some fun while Mom & Dad are having a cup of coffee and some tasty treats at the Coffee Hour. This year's Christmas Pageant will be presented on Saturday, December 12, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the Church followed by a reception in the Parish Center. The Children will also be singing at the OLOP Christmas Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 14, 2026. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at officeolop@gmail.com or (508) 996-8934.

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!

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.

BLUE MASS NEEDS LIST

5 cases of water

4 Cases Coke

3 Cases Coke Zero

2 Cases Orange Soda

2 Cases Sprite

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

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.

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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Tuesday, October 13, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saints Carpus and Pappylus, and their companions). NO LITURGY. From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration.

Wednesday, October 14, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Isaiah the Monk).

Thursday, October 15, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Teresa of Avila, Doctor of the Church). NO LITURGY.

Saturday, October 17, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saints Cosmas and Damian). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Kenyon and Daher Families requested by Family. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, October 18, 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Luke the Evangelist). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Margueritte Chedid requested by Family. May their souls rest in peace.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

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

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Thomas and Annie Farris and the deceased members of their family. 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 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, 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 OCTOBER 03-04, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 986.00
Lebanese Market	\$ 60.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 25.00
Candles	\$ 50.00
Total	\$ 1,121.00

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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Milad Maalouf

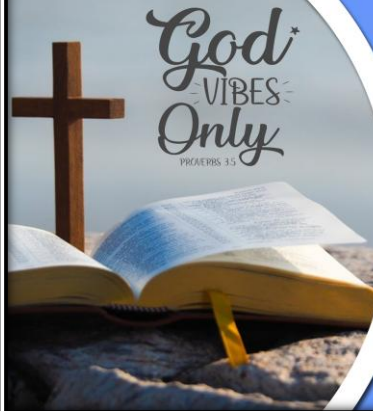
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