



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



October 17-18, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS



IS HOLINESS LUCK OR IS IT A CHOICE?

Holiness is not luck, nor is it something reserved for a few special people. **Holiness is a daily choice to allow God to transform our hearts and our lives.** Sometimes, we look at holy people and think they are different from us. We imagine they never struggled, never sinned, and never fell. But the truth is that holy people are not those who never fall; they are those who keep getting up and turning back to God.

Every day, God gives us the opportunity to choose. **We can choose anger or forgiveness, pride or humility, hatred or love, selfishness or generosity.** These small decisions, often made when nobody is watching, shape the person we become.

Holiness is not about appearing perfectly before others. It is about being sincere before God. It is found in the parent who prays for a struggling child, the person who forgives someone who has caused pain, and the sinner who humbly returns to God after years of being away.

Remember the prodigal son. He returned to his father not because he had become perfect, but because he decided to take the first step home. And his father welcomed him with open arms. This is how God loves us. He does not wait for us to become perfect before loving us. He invites us to return, to begin again, and to grow through His grace.

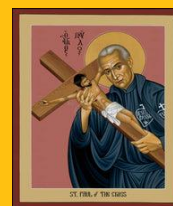
We cannot become holy by our own strength alone. We must cooperate with God's grace and choose to follow Him each day. When we fall, we must not surrender to discouragement. We must ask for forgiveness, rise again, and continue our journey.

Let us ask ourselves: If God gave us another twenty years of life, would we want to remain the same person we are today, or would we want to become the person He created us to be?

One day, we will stand before God. What will matter most will not be our wealth, our success, or the opinions of others, but how we loved, how we forgave, how we cared for those in need, and how faithfully we responded to His call.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"We ought to glory in nothing other than , the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are blessed and don't know it, you have Jesus Crucified with you".
Saint Paul of the Cross*



Do not wait until tomorrow to become closer to God. Begin today. Forgive someone. Help someone. Pray sincerely. Return to church. Make room for God in your heart.

Holiness is not luck. It is a daily choice, a gift of God's grace, and a journey toward heaven.

Choose God today, and tomorrow, choose Him again. For the greatest tragedy is not that we are imperfect, but that we waste the opportunities God gives us to change, to love, and to become holy.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

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

**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

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.

SECOND COLLECTION

As per the directive of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, there will be a second collection this weekend. This collection is for World Mission Sunday which helps missions around the world to continue to spread the word of Christ. Thank you for your generosity.

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 am 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.

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

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.

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!

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.**



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**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 24, 2026**

7:30PM - 12:30AM

**\$75/PERSON
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LITURGY INTENTIONS

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.

Tuesday, October 20, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Shallita).

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

Wednesday, October 21, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Hilarion of Tabatha).

Thursday, October 22, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint John Paul II). NO LITURGY.

Saturday, October 24, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Arethas (Hares) and His Companions). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Charbel Baroody requested by Charles Baroody. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph David and Sophie Correa requested by the family. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, October 25, 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Chrysanthus and His Wife). Remember Me In Your Kingdom. Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in the Book of Life. May all the souls in the Book of Life rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joe, Tillie and Bobby Thomas, Jennifer Stachowicz and Claire DaSilva requested by Family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Antonio, Cecilia and Stephen Borges requested by the Borges 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 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.

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, Michael Bruce, Beverly Parlapiano, Debbie Freedenberg, Efrangieh Daou, Sharon Conti, David Techlin, Peter Helmer, Renee Helmer, Jacob Rego, 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 OCTOBER, 2026

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).



WEEK OF OCTOBER 10-11, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,551.00
September Online Giving	\$ 1,718.02
Bazaar Donations	\$ 1,000.00
Bazaar Raffle Tickets	\$ 170.00
Kibbee Tray Sale	\$ 35.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 103.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 150.00
Total	\$ 4,727.02

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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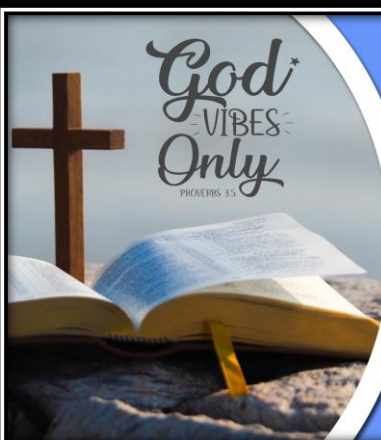
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