



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



October 24-25, 2026

SUNDAY OF CHRIST THE KING



Exaltation of the Holy Cross

DO WOMEN CRY MORE THAN MEN? AND WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE VIRGIN MARY?

Have you ever wondered why women often seem to cry more easily than men? Is it simply the way God created them, or is there something deeper behind their tears?

From a scientific perspective, differences in hormones, biology, and social upbringing can influence how men and women express their emotions. But from a spiritual perspective, tears invite us to reflect on the depth of the human heart and the mystery of love.

God did not create women to cry because they are weak. Tears are not a sign of weakness; they can be an expression of love, compassion, tenderness, and vulnerability. The more deeply we love someone, the more deeply we can feel their suffering. A mother cries when her child is hurting. A wife cries when her husband is suffering. A daughter cries when she sees her parents growing old.

Sometimes, a woman cries not because she cannot handle life, but because she feels the pain of those she loves so deeply. Women do not all express emotions in the same way, and men experience these same feelings, too. Yet many women have

learned to express their emotions through tears, while many men have been taught to hide them. Neither response makes one stronger or more loving than the other.

There is a beautiful connection here with God Himself. Although God is neither male nor female, Scripture often uses the image of a mother's tenderness to help us understand His compassion. God tells His people in Isaiah 49:15 that even if a mother could forget her child, He would never forget them. What a beautiful reminder that the tenderness we see in a mother's heart points us toward the boundless tenderness of God.

And this brings us to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Imagine Mary standing beneath the Cross, watching her Son suffer and die. She could not take away His pain. She could not stop the soldiers. She could not change what was happening before her eyes. She could only remain beside Him, loving Him with all her heart.

Mary teaches us that sometimes the greatest expression of love is not being able to take away another person's suffering but refusing to abandon them in it.

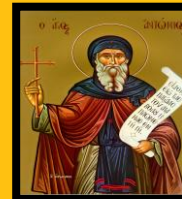
The Gospels do not explicitly tell us that Mary wept at the foot of the Cross, but her sorrow is unmistakable. The prophecy of Simeon had prepared her heart for this moment: a sword would pierce her soul (Luke 2:35). The Church honors her as Our Lady of Sorrows because she shared so deeply in the suffering of her Son.

Mary's tears remind us that faith does not mean we will never cry. Faith means that even when we cry, we continue to trust God. Her sorrow was not the end of the story. The Cross was followed by the Resurrection. What appeared to be defeat became the path to victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The devil is afraid of us when we pray and make sacrifices. He is also afraid when we are humble and good. He is especially afraid when we love Jesus very much. He runs away when we make the sign of the Cross".

Saint Anthony of the Desert



Jesus Himself wept. He wept at the tomb of Lazarus, showing us that tears are not contrary to holiness or strength. Sometimes, they are the most honest prayer we can offer when words are no longer enough.

Perhaps, then, the deeper lesson is not that women were created to cry more than men, but that God created the human heart capable of loving so deeply that sometimes words cannot express what it feels, and tears must speak instead.

In Mary, we see that a heart filled with love may also be a heart acquainted with sorrow. Yet when that sorrow is united with faith, it does not lead us away from God. It can bring us closer to Him.

And perhaps the next time we see a woman crying, instead of asking, "Why is she crying so much?" we should ask ourselves, "What might her heart be carrying that her words cannot express?" Because behind some tears is a pain we cannot see, a love we may never fully understand, and a prayer that only God can hear.

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

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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.

MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE

We extend our condolences to the family of Claire DaSilva who passed away on October 12, 2026. Claire is the husband of Gilberto DaSilva, the mother of Eric Ouellette (Shanna), Kimberly Pontes (Jeremy), Kristin Botelho (Daniel), and Steven DaSilva (Sandra), and the sister of Joseph (Bernice) Thomas, and Michael (Marueen) Thomas. May Almighty God welcome Claire into His kingdom and may her soul rest in peace.

We also extend our condolences to the family of Amal Assaf passed away on October 15, 2026. Amal is the sister of Fowzi (Carol) Assaf, Hiam Salibi, Walid (Morweena) Assaf, Besma Karam, Suesue (Milad) Maalouf, and aunt to many nieces and nephew's. May Almighty God welcome Claire into His kingdom and may her soul rest in peace.

UPCOMING MARONITE HERITAGE MEETINGS

**Saturday, November 7,
from 3-7PM**

**Our Lady of Purgatory Church
Saturday, December 5,
from 3-7PM**

Saint Anthony of the Desert, Fall River 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 at: **(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

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

**November 3, November 17,
December 15, January 12,
First Penance: February 6.**

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.

BAZAAR PREP DAYS

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

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.

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, 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.

Tuesday, October 27, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saints Capitolina and Eroteis of Cappodacia). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Sultana Sadek, Peter, Julia and Rose Thomas requested by Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

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

Wednesday, October 28, 12:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Terence and His Companions). Liturgy is being offered in honor of all our men and women from the Police Department, Fire Department, First Responders, and Armed Forces. May God bless and protect them.

Thursday, October 29, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Anastasia of Rome).

Saturday, October 31, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Epimachus). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Maria Nunes requested by Annemarie Espindola. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 1, 10:30 AM, (Feast of All Saint). Liturgy is being offered for all the soul of Hayat Thomas requested by the Family(40- Day Mass). May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Virginia Farhat requested by the Family. May her soul 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 special intention. 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 24,

Annemarie Espindola

Intercessions: Smitty Cabral

Sunday, October 25,

Cayla Barbour / Rana Choubah

Saturday, October 31,

Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, November 1,

The Thomas Family

(If you are unable to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson).



WEEK OF OCTOBER 17-18, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,681.00
Second Collection	\$ 205.00
Bazaar Donations	\$ 175.00
Bazaar Raffle Tickets	\$ 348.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 400.00
Host and Wine	\$ 75.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 65.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 10.00
Total	\$ 2,959.00

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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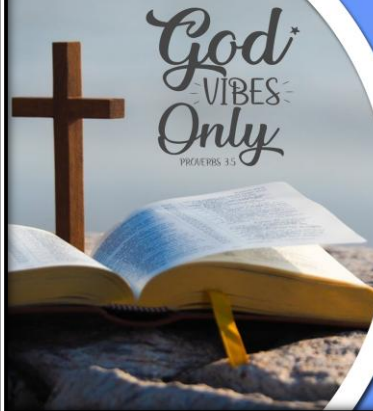
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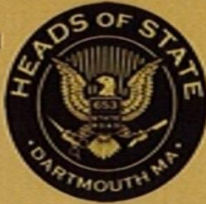
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