



Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church



October 31-November 01, 2026

CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH



CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH THE BEGINNING OF THE MARONITE NEW LITURGICAL YEAR

Theme: "Come Back Home"

Today, as we celebrate the Consecration of the Church, I want to begin with a simple question. What is a church? Is it a building made of stone? Is it an altar, beautiful icons, candles, pews, and stained-glass windows? Is it a place we visit for an hour on Sunday before returning to our busy lives? No, my brothers and sisters. The church is so much more than that.

The church is the place where heaven touches earth. It is where the Word of God speaks to our hearts, where Jesus gives Himself to us in the Eucharist, where sinners find mercy, where the broken find healing, where the lonely discover they are not alone, and where we come to remember who we truly are.

This weekend as we celebrate the Consecration of the Church, perhaps God is asking each one of us a question: "My child, you have consecrated this building to Me, but have you consecrated your heart?" Because we can have the most beautiful church in the world, but if our hearts are far from God, we have missed the very reason this church exists.

God does not want only a building. He wants us.

Jesus reminds us that we are not simply people who visit God's house. We are called to become a dwelling place for Him. **Think about that for a moment.**

The God who created the heavens and the earth, the God who holds the stars in place, the God who knows every human heart, desires to dwell within you. And yet, how often do we make room for everything except Him? We make room for work. We make room for appointments. We make room for family gatherings, celebrations, shopping, vacations, and all the responsibilities of daily life.

We find time for the things we consider important. But sometimes, when Sunday comes, we tell ourselves, "I'm tired today. I'll go next week." And next week becomes the week after. And the week after becomes a month. And slowly, without even realizing it, we begin to live as though we can manage life without the One who gave us life.

My dear friends, I say this not to judge anyone, but because I believe God is calling us to something deeper. We do not come to church because God needs our presence. We come because our soul needs His presence. We do not come because God is counting how many Sundays we attend. We come because He knows how easily the world can make us forget what matters most. We come because we need to hear His Word when the world fills our mind with noise.

We come because you need His forgiveness when your heart is heavy. We come because we need the Eucharist, because no human success, no amount of money, and no worldly achievement can take the place of Jesus Christ.

The church is a home, not a museum for

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Saints are not supermen who are born perfect, but rather are ordinary people who followed God with all their heart".
Pope Francis

saints. Because Jesus never said, "Come to Me when you have fixed your life." He said, in essence, "Come to Me, and let Me help you begin again." So, as we begin this new liturgical year, let our message be simple:

Come back home. Not because we need to fill the pews. Not because we want to increase our numbers. But because there are souls out there who have forgotten how deeply they are loved. And perhaps God is asking us to be the reason someone finds the courage to return. Not through criticism. Not through guilt. Not through arguments. **But through love.**

What happens when we consecrate our own hearts? Today, we consecrate a church to God. But what would happen if each of us made a personal consecration? What if we said:

"Lord, consecrate my eyes, so I may see the suffering of others." "Consecrate my ears, so I may listen to someone who has nobody to talk to." "Consecrate my mouth, so my words may heal rather than wound." "Consecrate my hands, so I may serve rather than simply receive." "Consecrate my heart, so I may forgive the person I have been holding against Me."

And finally: "Lord, consecrate my life, because I do not want to belong only to this world. I want to belong to You."

The greatest reason to come home As a Maronite Catholic community, we gather

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

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

around the altar to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. And at the center of that celebration is not the priest, the choir, the building, or even the community itself. **At the center is Jesus Christ.**

The same Jesus who was born in Bethlehem. The same Jesus who touched the leper, forgave the sinner, welcomed the stranger, and wept at the tomb of His friend Lazarus. The same Jesus who stretched out His arms on the Cross and gave His life for us. And the same Jesus who gives Himself to us in the Holy Eucharist. **Every Divine Liturgy is an invitation to encounter Him.** Think about it: the world tells us that we must earn love, prove ourselves, and hide our weaknesses. But at the altar, Jesus offers Himself to us.

That is why Sunday Mass should never become merely another appointment on our calendar. We make appointments for our health because our bodies matter. We make appointments for our work because our responsibilities matter. We make appointments for the people we love because our relationships matter. Then why would we not reserve time for the One who gives meaning to our lives, sustains our souls, and promises us eternal life? One hour with Jesus is not a burden to add to our week.

A new liturgical year, a new beginning for each and every one of us. Come back home

Today, Jesus is not asking us to build Him a more beautiful house. He is asking us to open the doors of our hearts. He is asking us to make His house a home for the weary, the wounded, the forgotten, and the searching. And perhaps, above all, He is asking us to listen to His voice. A voice that does not condemn us, does not give up on us, and the voice that keeps calling us. And what does that voice say? "My child, I have been waiting for you. Come back home."

May this new liturgical year be the year we come closer to Jesus, the year our families return to the Eucharist, the year we become more patient and forgiving, and the year our parish becomes a home where every person can encounter the love of God.

UPCOMING MARONITE HERITAGE MEETINGS

Our Lady of Purgatory Church
Saturday, November 7, from 3-7PM
Saint Anthony of the Desert, Fall River
Saturday, December 5, from 3-7PM

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.**

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:

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

FALL BACK AND CHANGE YOUR CLOCK



This is a friendly reminder to change your clocks for one hour this Sunday, November 1st, at midnight. You will get an extra hour of sleep so we will see everyone on time at the Church.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of November is offered for John, Malvena and Joseph David requested by Joann, Anthony and Lorraine David. May their souls rest in peace.

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

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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 31, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Epimachus). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Virginia Farhat requested by the Family. May her soul rest in peace. 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 Saints). 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 soul of David Farra requested by the Family. May his soul rest in peace.

Tuesday, November 3, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saints Akepsimas, Joseph and Aithalas). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph Saseen, John and Sophie Kalife, Julia, Alex and Nicholas Kalife requested by Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

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

Wednesday, November 4, 9:00 PM, (Feast of Saints Vitalis and Agricola).

Thursday, November 5, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Asya the Righteous).

Saturday, November 7, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Hieron). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Hayat Thomas requested by Rafic Abi Ramia and Family. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 8, 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel). Liturgy is being offered for all the soul of Mansour Barbour requested by Norma Barbour and Family. May his soul rest in peace.

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.

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.

LECTORS FOR OCTOBER, 2026

Saturday, October 31,
Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, November 1,
The Thomas Family

Saturday, November 7,
Rachael Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

Sunday, November 8,

Rana Choubah / Halim Choubah

Saturday, November 14,
Eric Tavares

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

Sunday, November 15,

Ann Dupre / Joumana Chedid

Saturday, November 21,
Mae Dickinson

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

Sunday, November 22,

John Barbour / Hiba Chdid

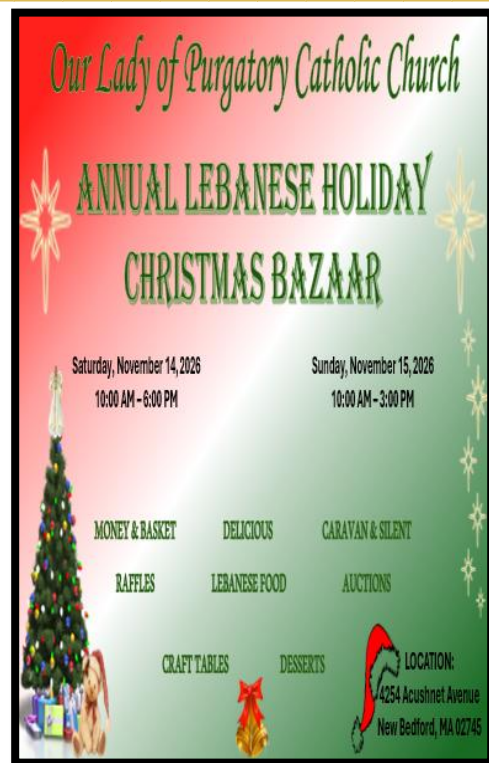
Saturday, November 28,
Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola

Sunday, November 29,

Chritine ElKhoury / Jano Baroody

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



WEEK OF OCTOBER 24-25, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,393.00
Bazaar Raffle Tickets	\$ 260.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 40.00
Host and Wine	\$ 75.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 25.00
Total	\$ 1,793.00

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.



Maronite Servants of Christ the Light

With gratitude to God for His abundant blessings,
Mother Marla Marie & the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light
cordially invite you to join us in celebrating the

Perpetual Profession of Vows of Sister Emily Mary Lattouf

The Profession will take place within the
Divine Liturgy Celebrated by

His Excellency, Bishop Gregory J. Mansour
Bishop of the Eparchy of Saint Maron

Monday, December 7, 2026
the Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception
7:00 PM

Our Lady of Purgatory Church
4254 Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford, MA

Reception will follow in the Hall

Please keep Sister Emily Mary in your prayers as she prepares for this commitment.

RSVP by November 27th

to Mother Marla Marie via email or telephone
Email: sister@maroniteservant.org -or- Telephone: 508-996-1753

To make a gift in honor of Sr. Emily Mary, go to maroniteservants.org or mail to:
Maronite Servants, 856 Tucker Rd, Dartmouth, MA 02747

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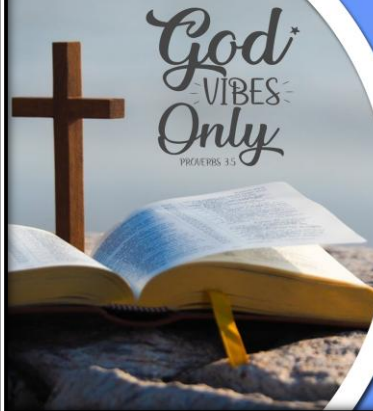
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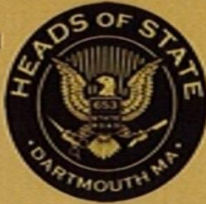
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