

Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church

November 14- 15, 2026

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD

ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZECHARIAH



IF WE HAD TO PAY FOR EVERY WORD WE SPOKE?

Have you ever stopped to think about the value of a word? We spend our entire lives speaking. We say thousands of words every day. Some are spoken with love, some with anger, some without thinking, and some we wish we could take back. But imagine something for a moment. What if every word we spoke came with a price?

What if, every morning when we woke up, we had to pay for every word that came out of our mouths? Would we still gossip as much? Would we still criticize others? Would we still argue over things that don't matter? Would we still say things just to hurt someone? Would we still complain about our circumstances? Would we spend our words telling someone how wrong they are, or telling them how much they mean to us?

Perhaps we would become a little more careful. But let me take this thought one step further. What if we were born with a limited number of words?

Imagine that when we were born, God gave each of us a jar containing a certain number of words. We didn't know how many words were inside. We didn't know when the jar would become empty. And every time we spoke, one word disappeared forever.

Would we waste our words? Would we spend them saying:

"I hate you," instead of "I forgive you"? "You never do anything right," instead of "I appreciate you"? "Leave me alone," instead of "I need you"? "I'm too busy," instead of "Let's spend some time together"? "I love you," but only after someone is gone?

Would we save our most beautiful words for special occasions, not realizing that tomorrow might never come? And here is something even more important: What if the person standing in front of us today will not be standing there tomorrow? Would we speak differently?

Would we call our parents and tell them we love them? Would we embrace our children a little longer? Would we thank our spouses for the sacrifices they make? Would we reach out to the brother or sister with whom we haven't spoken in years? Would we apologize before pride steals another opportunity? Would we tell someone who is struggling that they are not alone? How many words have we wasted on arguments that we cannot even remember today?

And how many beautiful words have we left unspoken because we assumed we had more time? **What does Jesus teach us about our words?** Jesus tells us in Matthew 12:36:

"For every careless word that people speak, they will have to give an account on the day of judgment." Think about that. Jesus doesn't say that only our great actions matter. He reminds us that even our words matter. Because words are never just sounds. They carry something from our hearts. Consider the words Jesus spoke from the Cross.

While suffering, He said: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." He could have spoken words of anger. He could have condemned those who crucified Him. Instead, even in His final moments, He chose forgiveness. Imagine that! One sentence gave hope to a dying man. And to His mother, He entrusted her to the beloved disciple.

Even in His suffering, Jesus used His words to love, forgive, comfort, and give hope.

A question for each of us Perhaps the question isn't how many words we have left. Perhaps the question is: If today were the last day we could speak, what would

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man, and my wife is well along in years".

The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel, I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time".

Luke 1: 18-20

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.

we want our final words to be? Would we want our last words to be about money, disagreements, politics, complaints, and things that ultimately don't matter?

Or would we want them to be: "I love you." "I'm sorry." "Thank you." "I forgive you." "God bless you." "I'm proud of you." "You matter to me." "I'm praying for you." And perhaps the most important words of all: "Lord, have mercy on me."

One final thought My brothers and sisters, we don't know how many days God has given us. We don't know how many conversations we have left with the people we love. But we do know that every day gives us another opportunity to speak life into someone's heart.

And if we cannot say something that will build someone up, perhaps silence is the most beautiful word we can offer. Because sometimes silence prevents a wound, but sometimes a single word can save a life.

We may not have to pay for our words with money, and we may not have been born with a limited number of them. But we have been given something far more precious than words: We have been given a limited amount of time in which to speak them. So let us spend our words wisely. Let our words be a reflection of Christ. Let our words be a blessing to those who hear them. And when the day comes that our voices fall silent, may the words we leave behind continue to speak of love.

"If God told you tonight that you had only 100 words left in your entire life, who would receive those words, and what would you say to them?" Sometimes the most powerful part is not what we say, but what we will begin saying silently in our own heart.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE

We extend our condolences to Karen Harb and Ann Harb Raymond, the daughters of Robert Harb who passed away October 21. May Almighty God welcome Robert into His kingdom and may his soul rest in peace. Allah yerhammo.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

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

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

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.**

ANGEL PROGRAM

Will you consider being an Angel for our Children's Christmas Pageant? The proceeds of the Angel Program will benefit the children's pageant, and the other half will be sent to **Caritas Lebanon and Tele Lumiere**. Please fill out a form that is located at the entrances of the Church. Thank you for your generosity.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Our Church will be sponsoring an annual Thanksgiving Food Drive to help families in need in our community. I ask you all to bring **non-Perishable** food or **canned goods** items such as gravy cans, sweet potatoes cans, corn and vegetable cans, mashed potatoes boxes, stuffing boxes, cranberry sauce, pies and frozen turkeys. Your kindness and generosity have helped many families in the past, and I thank each of you once again in these efforts. Please have all items here no later than **Sunday, November 22**, as this will be the day to deliver the food to the needy. God bless you and God bless Our Lady of Purgatory Parish.

UPCOMING MARONITE HERITAGE MEETINGS

Saint Anthony of the Desert, Fall River
Saturday, December 5,
from 3-7PM

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.

OLOP DINING BOOKS ON SALE

They're back and better than ever. The **2027 OLOP Dining Books** are here and include tickets for:

Saturday, January 23, 2027,
Ham & Bean Supper,
Friday, February 12, 2027,
Fish Fry,
Friday, February 26, 2027,
Fish Fry,
Friday, March 12, 2027,
Fish Fry,
Saturday, April 17, 2027,
Taste of Italy,
and a $7 Gift
Certificate to the March 20-21, 2027,
Palm Sunday Bake Sale.

It's a **$110.00** value for sale for **only $95.00** – for a limited time. Please see Fr. Vince, Fr. Jean, Hiba or Matt Thomas for more information. You can also call the **OLOP Office 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!

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 14, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Philip). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Leo and Virginia Farhat requested by Sean, Marie and Keira McLaughlin. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Elizabeth Grenier requested by Annie Costa (FM). May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 15, 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Gurias, Samonas, and Habib the Deacon). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Fouad and Helen Yamine requested by Family. May their souls rest in peace.

Tuesday, November 17, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Gregory the Wonderworker). From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration.

Wednesday, November 18, 9:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Romanos (Raymond), Feast of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne).

Thursday, November 19, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint Pontian).

Saturday, November 21, 4:30 PM, (Feast of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Octavia David requested by the Family (1 year Anniversary). May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 22, 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of Our Lady, the Virgin Mary). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Amal Assaf (40-Day Mass). requested by Family May her 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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Please know that confession is available before liturgies. You may also call to set up an appointment.

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.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

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 NOVEMBER, 2026

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,
Chritine ElKhoury / Jano Baroody
Saturday, November 28,
Smitty Cabral
Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola
Sunday, November 29,
John Barbour / Hiba Chdid
(If you are unable to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson).

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

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 07-08, 2026

Sunday Collection	**$**	**1,491.00**
Second Collection	**$**	**138.00**
Bazaar Raffle Tickets	**$**	**90.00**
Memorial Donations	**$**	**1,100.00**
Coffee Hour	**$**	**18.00**
Total	**$**	**2,837.00**

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.



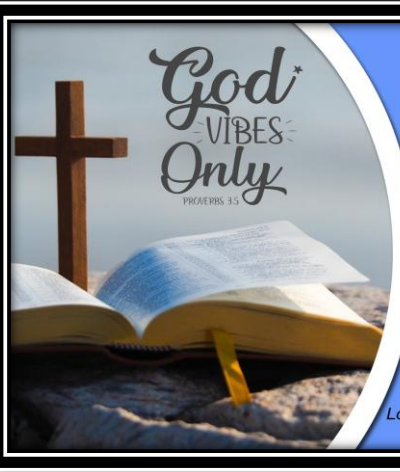
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EST. 2022

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