

Our Lady of Purgatory

Maronite Catholic Church

November 28-29, 2026

VISITATION OF THE VIRGIN TO ELIZABETH



The Humility That Goes Out to Serve. There is something very beautiful, yet deeply challenging, about the Visitation. Mary has just received the greatest news in human history. She has been chosen to become the Mother of God. She carries Jesus within her. She is blessed among women, full of grace, and entrusted with a mission unlike any other. And yet, what does Mary do?

She does not wait for people to come and congratulate her. She does not expect Elizabeth to come to her. She does not demand special attention because of the extraordinary blessing she has received. **Mary gets up, travels to the hill country, and goes to visit Elizabeth. And here is the beautiful question: Shouldn't Elizabeth have been the one to come to Mary?** After all, Mary is carrying the Son of God! Shouldn't the older Elizabeth have come to honor the younger woman who has been chosen for such a sacred mission? But Mary teaches us something completely different. **The greatest among us is the one who serves.** Mary understood that being chosen by God was not a privilege to be celebrated, but a responsibility to be lived. She could have said, "Look what God has done for me!" Instead, she says through her actions, "Who needs me? Where can I go? Whom can I serve?" Mary doesn't allow her blessing to become a reason to be served. She allows it to become a reason to serve. This is Christian humility: not thinking less of ourselves but thinking of others before ourselves.

Mary teaches us that love takes the first step. Mary didn't wait for an invitation. She didn't wait for Elizabeth to call. She didn't wait for someone to tell her what to do. **She went.**

How many relationships in our families, among our relatives, and even within our parish communities remain broken because everyone is waiting for the other person to make the first move? We say: Why should I call first? Why should I apologize? Why should I visit them? Why should I forgive when they hurt me? Why should I be the one to reach out? Mary teaches us that love does not keep score. Sometimes the holiest thing we can do is take the first step, even when we believe the other person should have taken it.

Mary carries Jesus and brings Jesus to others. This is perhaps the most important lesson. **Mary's visit was not simply a family visit. She was bringing Jesus to Elizabeth.** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child in her womb leaped for joy, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Mary did not simply bring herself into Elizabeth's home. She brought Christ. **And that is our mission, too.**

Humility is not about our position; it is about our heart. Mary was the Mother of God, yet she served. Elizabeth was older, yet she recognized the greatness of Mary's mission. Neither woman competed for importance. Neither asked who was greater. Neither worried about who should have visited whom. **Instead, they celebrated God's work in one another.** There is a little question we should ask ourselves today: **If Mary, the Mother of God, did not consider herself too important to visit Elizabeth, what makes us sometimes think we are too important to visit, call, forgive, or help one another?**

One sentence to remember: "We should not always ask who should make the first move; we should ask ourselves, if Christ were in my place, would He wait, or would He go?" **I know the answer. Do you?**

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb"!
Saint Luke 1:42

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.

LETTERS TO SANTA CLAUS

As we prepare for our annual Christmas Pageant and reception, I was told by the North Pole that Santa Claus may be coming to visit us. We have a mailbox for Santa Claus in the Church Hall.

If your children would like to write a letter to Santa, please have them do so and they can deposit the letter in the mailbox. Please be sure to include the address so that Santa can respond to them. I hope all of you will be able to come.

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.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Fr. Jean and I would like to wish you all a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving. As we reflect on the past year, we have so much to be thankful for. Fr. Jean and I would like you to know how thankful we are of each of you. We continue to spread the love of Christ every week as we gather for Divine Liturgy, through other outreach that we participate in, such as food drives, assistance to Lebanon, caroling to nursing homes, and much more. We also share our culture and hospitality to all people with our festival and Christmas Bazaar, as well as our weekly Fish Fry's and other events throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone who dedicates so much time and energy to showcase our Church and culture to the greater New England community. We will continue to thrive in the spirit of faith and kindness and show those around the wonderful community OLOP is.

May God continue to bless and protect you and your families and continue to bless this community to do His will and share His Church with everyone. And may God continue to bless this great country of the United States of America.

Happy Thanksgiving,

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.**

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

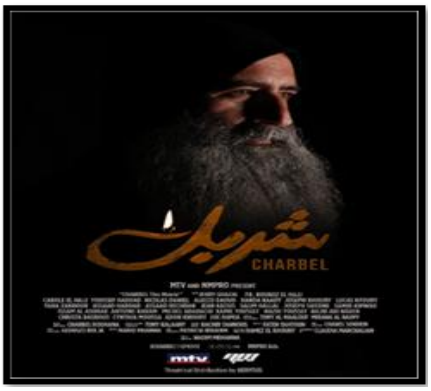
The following dates are for First Communion Classes to be held at the Convent:

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

SAINT CHARBEL THE MOVIE

The date is set for the long awaited movie, Saint Charbel. OLOP will have its showing on Saturday, **December 5, 2026, at 7:00 PM**, in the church hall. This beautiful story of our beloved saint is in Arabic with English subtitles so that everyone will be able to enjoy it.

Tickets **are $25.00** per person and will go on sale November 23. You may call or email the office at 508-996-8934 or officeolop@gmail.com



OLOP 3RD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

We will have our Third Annual Christmas Brunch on December 20, immediately following Divine Liturgy. We will have an array of food, American and Lebanese, for your enjoyment. If anyone would like to donate towards the minooshee, lahem bi ajeen, and spinach pies, please let Abouna Vince or Abouna Jean know. There will also be scrambled eggs, ham, tater tots, fruit, labnee, foul, and assorted pastries. Please join us as we celebrate the Birth of our Lord.

THANK YOU CHAIRPERSONS AND VOLUNTEERS

I would like to thank the Christmas Bazaar Committee and Volunteers for a wonderful job for the Christmas Bazaar. Your hard work once again showcased the hospitality and warmth of OLOP. Everyone who came enjoyed the food, pastries, and crafters. Thank you for your dedication and planning if this annual event.

Christmas Bazaar

Total Profit:	**$ 25,492.76**
Total Expenses:	**$ 4,426.46**
Total Profit:	**$ 21,066.30**

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



Save the dates!
2026/2027
Maronite Heritage Days

December 5 | 3-7pm
St. Anthony of the Desert Church, Fall River

January 9 | 3-7pm
Our Lady of Purgatory Church, New Bedford

February 13 | 3-7pm
St. Anthony of the Desert Church, Fall River

March 13 | 3-7pm
Our Lady of Purgatory Church, New Bedford

April 10 | 3-7pm
Our Lady of Purgatory Church, New Bedford

May 8 | 3-7pm
St. Anthony of the Desert Church, Fall River

Presented by the
Maronite Servants of Christ the Light
maroniteservants.org

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 28, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Stephen the Younger). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of John J. David requested by the Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph M. Thomas requested by Family. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 29, 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saints Saturninus and Sisinius). Remember Me In Your Kingdom Liturgy. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Milad and Josephine Chedid requested by Family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mark Thomas requested by Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for all the souls in the Book of Life. May their souls rest in peace.

Tuesday, December 1, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Nahum the prophet, Feast of Saint Charles de Foucauld).

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

Wednesday, December 2, 9:00 PM, (Feast of Habakkuk the Prophet).

Thursday, December 3, 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Francis Xavier).

Saturday, December 5, 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Saba the Hermit). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Dupre requested by the Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Amal Assaf requested by Rafic Abi Ramia and Family. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, December 6 , 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Nicholas / Zakhia).. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Julia Barber requested by Norma Barbour and Family. May her soul rest in peace.

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 CANDLES BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for special intention by Norma Barbour. 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, DECEMBER, 2026

Saturday, November 28,
Smitty Cabral
Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola
Sunday, November 29,
John Barbour / Hiba Chdid
Saturday, December 5,
Eric Tavares
Intercessions: Annemarie Espindola
Sunday, December 6,
Ann Dupre / Jano Baroody
Saturday, December 12,
Madeline Su
Intercessions: Smitty Cabral
Sunday, December13,
Cayla Barbour / Rana Choubah
Saturday, December 19,
Annemarie Espindola
Intercessions: Eric Tavares
Sunday, December 20,
Dickinson / Hiba Chdid
Saturday, December 26,
Rachael Higgins
Intercessions: Helen & Anna Higgins
Sunday, December 27,
John Barbour / Joumana Chedid

(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, 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.

CONFESSION

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

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 21-22, 2026

Sunday Collection	**$**	**1,883.00**
Memorial Donations	**$**	**400.00**
Total	**$**	**2,283.00**

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.



BARBERSHOP x LOUNGE
CHEDID Cuts
EST. 2022

CHRISTOPHE CHEDID
Owner/Licensed Barber
578 Dartmouth St.
South Dartmouth, MA 02748
chedidcuts@gmail.com
(508) 343 - 0009
@chedidcuts

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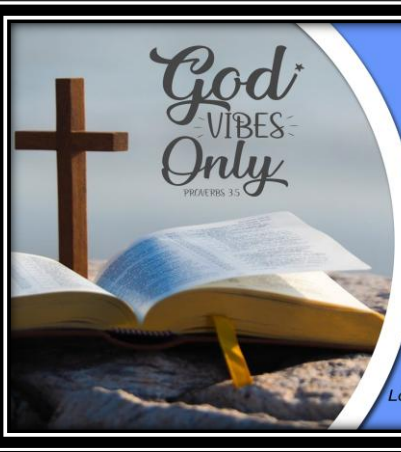

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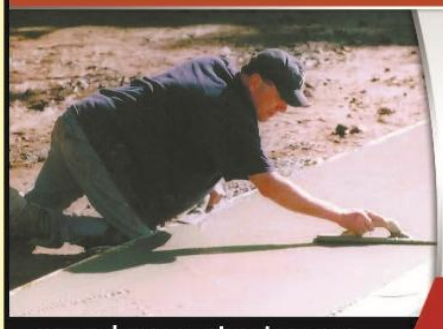
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