



OUR LADY OF THE CEDARS CHURCH

A MELKITE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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REV. THOMAS P. STEINMETZ, Pastor

RT. REV. ANDRE ST. GERMAIN (retired)

REV. ROGER BOUCHER - Weekend Ministry

REV. THEOPHAN LEONARCZYK, Eparchial Chancellor

"Enter the Church and repent ... for here is the physician, not the judge. Here one is not investigated, one receives remission of sins." (St. John Chrysostom)

Sept. 25, 2016

The First Sunday After the Cross

The Commemoration of our Holy and Venerable Mother Euphrosyne

THE 19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Parish Advisory & Finance Council:

KEN MONTY (*PRESIDENT*), RICHARD ASHOOH, ROBERT ANDERSON, ROBIN ANDERSON, MARY CULLEN, MARTHA DAGHER, MARYLOU LAZOS, TERRI LEONARCZYK, MATTHEW LOMANNO, PAUL MANSUR, NAJWA MOUSSOBA, PAUL ST. GERMAIN, AND CHRISTELLE SLAYBE

Parish Secretary: ROBIN ANDERSON

Cedars Society President: MARYLOU LAZOS

Sunday School Coordinator: MARTHA DAGHER

N.A.M.Y. Advisor: ROBIN ANDERSON

HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION: Before or after any service, or by appointment;

HOLY MYSTERY OF CHRISTIAN ILLUMINATION: Please contact the clergy in advance to arrange for the required baptismal instructions;

HOLY MYSTERY OF CROWNING: At least six months prior to the proposed wedding, please contact the clergy to arrange for the required interview and instructions;

HOLY MYSTERY OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please contact the pastor at any time when this sacrament is needed;

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK: Anyone too infirm to attend our services may receive Communion in the home. Please advise the clergy whenever this sacrament is needed.

THE ORDER OF TODAY'S LITURGY

The Troparion of the Resurrection (2nd Tone) Page 51

The Troparion of the Dormition of the Theotokos (1st Tone): Page 16

Kondakion : "O Never Failing Protectress of Christians": Page 17

THE PROKIMENON:

MY STRENGTH AND MY COURAGE IS THE LORD,
AND HE HAS BEEN MY SAVIOR!

The Lord has chastised me through His teaching, yet He has not delivered me to death!

Today's Readings: 2 Corinthians 11: 31 – 12: 9 and Luke 5: 1-11

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Elias Baroody (52nd), Paul Spencer (27th),
Karemi Elias (27th), and Miriam Nahra (34th)

Sunday, 11:00 AM:

For the repose of Salwa Sleiman,
by Mr. & Mrs. Theoharis Lazos

Next Saturday (Oct. 1), 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Caroline Freije, Peter Freije, Elizabeth Freije,
Gus Labrie & Carolyn Ciocca, by Grace Freije

Next Sunday (Oct. 2), 11:00 AM:

For the repose of Mariam Nahra (34th), Columbine Higgins (24th),
Nazem Wehbe (6th), Toufil Kalil (26th), Helen Baroody (41st), John Nedder (28th),
John Habib (24th), and Jennie Nassoura (6th),

**There will be a meeting of the Parish Council
on Tuesday, Oct. 4, at 7:00 PM**

THE BISHOP'S APPEAL BEGINS:

Today, all the parishes of our eparchy throughout the U.S. kick off the annual Bishop's Appeal to meet the critical financial needs of our Melkite Church in America and to support our persecuted brothers and sisters in need in the Middle East. Bishop Nicholas calls upon us all to take personal financial responsibility for our beloved Melkite Church by making a generous stewardship commitment. When you receive your personal letter from Bishop Nicholas in the mail please respond as generously as you possibly can. We need 100% participation from all the members of our parish!



The Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God

Divine Liturgy for this Feast will be offered on Friday, Sept. 30, at 7 PM for as we seek the divine protection and right direction for our nation.

The feast day celebrates the appearance of the Mother of God at Church of Blachernae in the tenth century. At the time, the people in the City of Constantinople were threatened by a barbarian invasion. St. Andrew of Constantinople along with his disciple St. Epiphanius, and a group of people, saw the Mother of God, St. John the Baptist, and several other saints and angels during a vigil in the Church of Blachernae, nearby the city gates. The Blachernae Palace church was where several of her relics were kept. The relics were her robe, veil, and part of her belt that had been transferred from Palestine during the

fifth century. The Theotokos approached the center of the church, knelt down and remained in prayer for a long time. Her face was drowned in tears. Then she took her veil off and spread it over the people as a sign of protection. After the appearance of the Mother of God, the danger was averted and the city was spared from bloodshed and suffering.

Saturday Kitchen: Next Saturday!

Meat & spinach pies will be available from the Saturday Kitchen next Saturday morning. Please call in your order in advance at 625-9966. Any help you can offer that morning will be greatly appreciated!

Sunday School begins next Sunday!

Parents, students, and teachers are asked to meet in the church at 10 AM for the prayers of blessing of the new school year. After the prayer of blessing, the students will accompany their teachers to the classrooms.

Sunday School is Cool



Attendance - Last Saturday 4:30 PM: 18 Sunday 11:00 AM: 72

Last Weekend's Collection: \$985.⁰⁰

The average Sunday envelope donation: \$27.¹⁶

The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ 83,312.¹¹

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

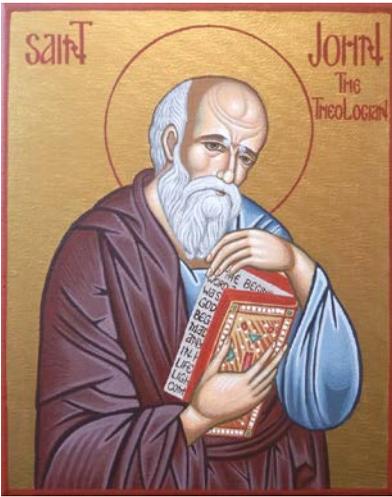
Wed., Sept. 28 7:00 PM Vespers

Fri., Sept. 30 7:00 PM **Divine Liturgy: The Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God**

Sat., Oct. 1 4:30 PM **Divine Liturgy: The 20th Sunday After Pentecost**

Sun., Oct. 2 10:15 AM **Sunday Orthros**

Sun., Oct. 2 11:00 AM **Divine Liturgy: The 20th Sunday After Pentecost**



Sept. 26: The Commemoration of the Passing of the Apostle and Evangelist, John the Theologian

This Apostle John was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and was the son of Zebedee and Salome, and the brother of James the elder. First a fisherman by trade, he became an Apostle and the beloved Disciple of Christ. Only he of all the Disciples followed Him even to the Cross, and was entrusted with the care of our Savior's Mother, as it were another son to her, and a brother of Christ the Teacher. After this, he preached throughout Asia Minor, especially in Ephesus. When the second persecution against the Christians began in the year 96 during the reign of Domitian, he was taken in bonds to Rome, and there was cast into a vat filled to the brim with boiling oil. Coming forth there from unharmed, he was exiled to the island of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation. Returning again to Ephesus after the death of the tyrant, he wrote his Gospel (after the other Evangelists had already written theirs) and his three Catholic Epistles.

The last years of his life, the holy Apostle John spent in strict asceticism. He ate only bread and water, did not cut his hair, and dressed in simple linen garments. Because of his old age, he did not have the strength to preach the word of God even in the environs of Ephesus. At that time he taught only the bishops of the Church and inspired them to teach the people the Gospel unceasingly, and especially to keep in mind and to preach the first and principal commandment of the Gospel: the commandment of love. When the holy apostle became very weak, the blessed Jerome relates, his disciples carried him to the church, but he was no longer able to give long sermons. He then reduced his teaching to the unceasing repetition of "Little children, love one another." One day when his disciples asked him why he repeated this to them incessantly, John replied with the following words: "This is the Lord's commandment; and if ye keep it, it is enough."

St John fell asleep in the Lord when he was more than a hundred years old. He far outlived the other eyewitnesses of the Lord, and for a long time he remained the only remaining eyewitness of the earthly life of the Savior. He was laid to rest according to his wishes, in a cross-shaped grave outside of the city of Ephesus. The Church also celebrates the memory of the holy Apostle John the Theologian on May 8. Each year on that day a fine dust arises from the grave of the holy Apostle John. This dust is gathered up by believers and used to heal the sick.

The eagle, symbol of the lofty heights of his theological thought, is the iconographic symbol of the Evangelist John the Theologian. The appellation "Theologian" is bestowed by Holy Church only to St John among the immediate disciples and Apostles of Christ, as being the seer of the mysterious Judgments of God.



“Depart from me, O Lord”

ST LUKE’S GOSPEL GIVES US an interesting insight into the character of St Peter. We read there that, meeting the disciples - who had spent a fruitless night fishing - the Lord Jesus encouraged them to throw their nets in again.

“Simon answered, ‘Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.’ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to

break. ... When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, ‘Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!’ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken” (Lk 5:5-9).

Simon had encountered something he did not understand and judged – rightly, as it happened – that it must have been an experience of God’s power. His first reaction was to shrink away from Jesus. He felt deeply inadequate before the holy; he didn’t belong in Jesus’ company and felt that he would be consumed by this contact for which he was so unprepared.

The Fear of God

This sense of utter inadequacy before the Lord is what the Scriptures call “the fear of God.” “Fear of God” is a phrase we hear repeatedly in our Liturgy. In the Great Litany the deacon invites us: “For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.” The phrase is repeated when the deacon invites us to receive Communion: “Approach in the fear of God, with faith, and with love.” We are the ones who have entered “this holy house” and are invited to the Lord’s Table. Do we do so with the fear of God? And just what kind of fear is it?

The English author C.S. Lewis wrote that fear of God is not like fear of a wild animal. It is not terror that God is out to get us. Nor is it panic that we will be punished once God catches sight of us, like a schoolmaster looking for the culprit who is disturbing the class. The fear of God, which is praised as a virtue in both Old and New Testaments, is rather the sense of our inadequacy before God that destroys any false sense of self-confidence or self-righteousness we may have once we glimpse the truly holy.

St Peter, like many of the first disciples of the Lord Jesus, was a sincerely observant Jew. He kept the Law as best he could, observed the Sabbath and the holydays and the rest; but Peter sensed the difference between these “icons of holiness” (if we can invent such a term) and the real thing (the Lord Jesus).

Many of us were raised in the Church and grew up amid its “icons of holiness.” We may have learned the “right answers” expounded in the catechism. We may have learned prayers, practices, principles of morality and the meaning of many elements of our Church’s life but never truly experienced the presence of God. If so, we may find it difficult to appreciate the concept of the “fear of God.” But we then run the risk of believing that we understand God because we know

when and how we are to fast or what the Church teaches on this or that matter. But a relationship with God is more than a matter of ritual or doctrine or anything we may feel we possess. As we read in the Sermon on the Mount, “*Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’*” (Mt 7:22-23).

The Beginning of True Wisdom

“*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; knowledge of the Holy One brings understanding*” (Prov 9:10). Not only is fear of God described in Scripture as a virtue, it is praised as the key to true wisdom. In our culture wisdom is often considered the product of how much information we have acquired. In the spiritual life, however, information alone does not make one wise – particularly physical knowledge gained by the senses. As the twentieth-century Serbian saint, Nikolai of Zicha noted, “If someone were to know the number of stars in the heavens and the names of the fish in the sea, the amount of grass in the field and the habits of the beasts in the forest but would not have the fear of God, his knowledge is as water in a sieve. Before his death, his knowledge makes him a greater coward than the completely ignorant.” The depression and despair many in the intellectual elite feel at the approach of death confirms the saint’s teaching. True understanding comes from experiencing our inadequacy in the face of God’s greatness and learning to rely on His compassion.

The Two-fold Fear of God

As with everything in the spiritual life, fear of God is not static: it grows and develops as our experience matures. St Maximos the Confessor expressed it this way:

“Fear of God is of two kinds. The first is generated in us by the threat of punishment. It is through such fear that we develop, in due order, self-control, patience, hope in God and detachment; and it is from detachment that love comes.

“The second kind of fear is linked with love and constantly produces reverence in the soul, so that it does not grow indifferent to God because of the intimate communion of its love. The first kind of fear is expelled by perfect love when the soul has acquired this and is no longer afraid of punishment” (*First Century on Love*, 81-82).

Our fear of God, then, is like a child’s perception of its parent. At first an errant child fears what his parent will do to him when his disobedience is discovered. Later he grows to fear hurting his parent’s feelings, showing ingratitude or being separated from the parent. Fear of God is not meant to disappear as we grow to love God but to develop into that mature realization of the love of God despite our weaknesses, which we call true worship.

Fear of God and Humility

There is a humility that comes from the fear of God, and there is a humility that comes from the fervent love of God. One person is humbled because of his fear of God; another is humbled because of his joy.

“The person humbled from fear of God is possessed of modesty in his members, a right ordering of his senses, and a heart contrite at all times. But the man humbled because of joy is possessed of great exuberance and an open and insuppressible heart”

(The Ascetical Homilies of St. Isaac the Syrian)

Parish Mission in Nashua



Immaculate Conception Parish at 216 East Dunstable Rd., Nashua, NH invites you to a Parish Mission with Fr. Larry Richards Mon. to Thurs., Oct. 17 to 20, 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Fr. Larry hosts the radio shows “The Reason for Our Hope” and “Open Line” on EWTN, and the show “Changed Forever with Father Larry Richards” on Relevant Radio. He can also be heard on 1060AM Catholic Radio. He will speak about God’s love, prayer, confession, and healing, among other topics. No need to register. Child care will be available **upon request**. We hope you can attend all nights! Contact: Eileen Bowes at 603-888-0608, eileen@iccnashuanh.org , <http://www.iccnashuanh.org/father-larry-richards> .



40 Days for Life kickoff rally and prayer vigil

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God’s power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion. The mission of the campaign is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40 day campaign of prayer, fasting, and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God’s favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion.

The Fall 2016 campaign runs from September 28 - November 6. The Kickoff Rally will be held on Monday, Sept 26 at 7 PM. All are invited for an evening of prayer, music, and refreshments at Ste. Marie Parish Hall, 378 Notre Dame Avenue, Manchester, as we begin the next prayer vigil in Manchester.

The guest speaker will be Ovide Lamontagne, former General Counsel for Americans United for Life and the choir from Northeast Catholic College will perform.

RSVP to 40daysforlifemanchester@gmail.com or call Beth at 978-226-3240.

New Hampshire Right To Life invites you to its Annual Benefit Banquet, Thursday, Oct. 6th. Reception at Executive Court Banquet Facility, Manchester 5:30-6:30PM, Dinner and Speaker: 6:45-9:15 P.M. Guest Speaker is Father Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life, Pastoral Director of both the Silent No More Awareness Campaign and Rachel’s Vineyard, the world’s largest ministry for post abortion healing, and President of the National Pro-life Religious Council.

Advanced reservations only. Cost: \$60 per person/\$600 per table [10] Mail payment to: NHRTL/Banquet, 8 N. Main St., Concord, 03301. Please include name, address, and telephone, or reserve online at nhrtl.org/banquet2016



Please remember to pray for the health and protection of Genevieve Allen, Olivia Aragon, Elizabeth Ashooh, Elsie Ashooh, Al Auclair, Alice Auclair, Erin Baroody, Michael Baroody, Anthony Blando, Helena Burkush, Fr. Michael Carl, Danielle Caron, Michael Cavanaugh, Meghan Connors, Sarah Cullen, Theresa Cullen, Jamileh Dagher, Sher Farrow, Declan Finn, Julie Fregeau, Mary Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, Christine Freitas, John Gallagher, Loretto Gauvin, Bonnie Gomez, Gail Fisher, Nick Haddad, Jean Hannoush, Lucille Harper, Laura Jorba, Virginia Kearney, Shirley Lanoue, Susan Latvis, Roger Lawrence, Diana Lebel, Peggy Leclar, Sadie Grace McCallum, Miriam McCallum, Susan Merrill, Alfred Nasr, Afef Nasr, Blaise Notter, Steven O'Leary, Denis O'Keefe, Ellen Osgood, Josephine Paquette, Sheila Quinn, Deborah Roberts, Adam Rubin, Fr. Andre St. Germain, Deniese Sherburne, Tarrant Smith, Mary Stephen, Catherine Waldron, Laura Weingast, and Iris Angelina Velasquez.

If you are visiting our church, our parish family is delighted to welcome you here! Please give us the chance to get to know you by joining us for some coffee, pastry, and conversation in the church hall following the Divine Liturgy. If you would like to know more about the Melkite Catholic Church, check out the brochure entitled *“Welcome to this Holy House,”* located on the table in the back of the church.





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