

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. DEACON ROBERT SPENCER

REV. DEACON PAUL LEONARCZYK

January 19, 2014 – the 29th Sunday After Pentecost

**The Commemoration of our venerable father Macarios the Egyptian;
and of our holy father Arsenios, Archbishop of Corfu**

THE SUNDAY OF THE TEN LEPERS

Parish Advisory & Finance Council:

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

Parish Secretary: ROBIN ANDERSON

Sunday School Coordinator: MARTHA DAGHER

Cedars Society President: MARYLOU LAZOS

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

HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION: Sunday 10 AM & 12:45 PM, 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.

Please remember to contact the church if a loved one is in the hospital and would like a visit from the priest. The hospitals do not always notify the church!

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

The Kontakon of Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (1st Tone)

O Christ Our God, who through Your birth have sanctified the virginal womb and have blessed the arms of Simeon, You have come today to save us. When wars prevail, keep Your people in peace and strengthen our public authorities in every good, for You alone are the Lover of Mankind.

THE PROKIMENON:

HOW GREAT ARE YOUR WORKS, O LORD!

IN WISDOM YOU HAVE WROUGHT THEM ALL!

Bless the Lord, O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord my God!

Today's Readings: Colossians 3: 4-11 and Luke 17: 12-19

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of George Saide (25th), Nassery Noufel (1st),
John Nassoura(39th), Karen Kfoury (5th), Fred Jadda (16th), and Albert Hykil (8th)

Sunday, 11:00 AM:

For the unity of faith of all Christians throughout the world

Next Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Lillian Franggos (24th), Georgette Attalla (56th),
George Salim (28th), Saleemy Thomas (33rd), Joseph LaJeunesse
(10th), Juliet Anton (7th), Susan Wihby (45th), and Selma Wehbe (22nd)

Next Sunday, 11:00 AM:

For the repose of Michael Duquette who departed from this life on Jan. 17,
by Betty Ashooh and Family

For the repose of Gerald Harper by his wife Lucille Harper



Please pray for the release of Greek Orthodox Archbishop Paul Yazigi and Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim who were abducted on April 22 when gunmen stopped their vehicle near the battleground northern city of Aleppo, where both are based. Please pray also for their deacon who was driving their car and was shot and killed in the attack.



COME AND TAKE THE BLESSED WATER!

On January 6 we commemorated the Lord's Baptism with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and the Great and Solemn Blessing of Water. Some of the blessed water is still reserved so that you can drink it. You may also bottle some of the water and take it with you for the sanctification of your homes. It is traditional for the parish priest to visit the homes of his parishioners during the coming weeks, and to bless their homes with this sacred water. If

you would like Father Tom to bless your home, please notify him by filling out one of the cards available in the back of the church, or by leaving a phone message at the rectory.

There will be a meeting of the Parish Advisory Council on Monday, Jan. 27 at 7:00 PM

“The Lord again reproved...those lepers who were cleansed, when He loved the one who was thankful, but was angry with the others as ungrateful. For they did not acknowledge their Deliverer, but thought more of the cure of the leprosy than of Him who healed them: ‘But one of them when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell on his face at the feet of Jesus giving Him thanks; and he was a Samaritan.

“And there was more given to him than to the rest; for being cleansed from his leprosy, he heard from the Lord *Arise, go thy way, thy faith hath saved thee* (Luke 17:19). For he who gives thanks, and he who glorifies, have kindred feelings, in that they bless their Helper for the benefits they have received. —*St. Athanasius of Alexandria*

Upcoming events:

Chicken shawarma and fries will be served up by the parish youth group next Sunday following the Divine Liturgy! Plan on staying for lunch, having some great food, and enjoying good company. Thank you for supporting our youth group.

A turkey dinner is being planned for Sunday Feb. 9. Mark the date and watch for more details!

Attendance Last Saturday 4: 30 PM: 19 Sunday 11:00 AM: 148

Last Weekend's Collection: \$ 1,352.⁰⁰

The average Sunday envelope offering last week was \$31.⁵⁴

The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ 346,376.⁶⁶

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

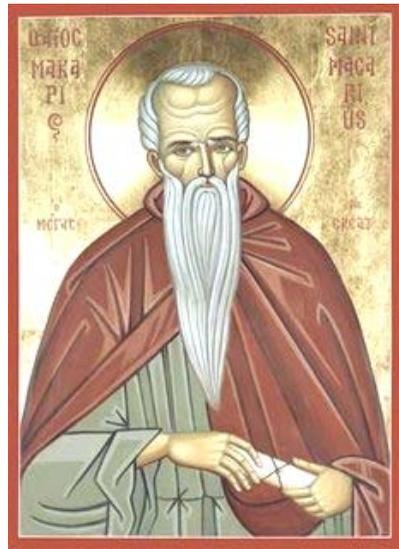
Weekday services will be held in the basement chapel

Wed., Jan 22	7:00 PM	Vespers
Thurs., Jan. 23	8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy: For the health of Marie Dargie
Sat., Jan 25	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The Sunday of Zacchaeus
Sun., Jan. 26	10:15 AM	Sunday Orthros
Sun., Jan. 26	11:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: The Sunday of Zacchaeus

Saint Macarios of Egypt was born in Upper

Egypt and a late tradition places his birthplace in the village of Shabsheer (Shanshour), around 300 A.D. One of St. Macarius' great features was "wisdom". His friends and close kin used to call him "Pidar Yougiron" which meant the "old young man" or "the young man with the elders' wisdom."

At the wish of his parents he entered into marriage, but was soon widowed. Shortly after, his parents departed as well. Macarios subsequently distributed all his money among the poor and needy. He found a teacher in an experienced Elder, who lived in the desert not far from the village. The Elder accepted the youth, guided him in the spiritual science of watchfulness, fasting and prayer, and taught him the handicraft of weaving baskets. Seeing his virtues, the people of his village brought him to the bishop of Ashmoun. Ten years after going into the desert he was ordained to the holy priesthood.



While at the desert, he visited Anthony the Great and learned from him the laws and rules of monasticism. When he returned to the Scetic Desert at the age of forty, he presided over its monastic community for the rest of his life, and served as a counselor for thousands.

An enemy of Arianism, Macarios was exiled to a small island in the Nile with Macarus the Younger by Lucius of Alexandria, a heretic of the era. Eventually he returned to the desert, and Macanus, considered the pioneering hermit, spent six decades in the wilderness.

Macarios died in the year 391. After his death, the natives of his village of Shabsheer stole the body and built a great church for him in their village. Pope Michael V of Alexandria brought the relics of Saint Macarios back to the Nitrian Desert on 19 Messori. Today, the body of Saint Macarios is found in his monastery, the Monastery of Saint Macarios the Great in Scetes, Egypt.

Saint Arsenius, Archbishop of Kerkyra (Corfu), was a native of Palestine and lived in the ninth century. He led a strict ascetic life, and was a highly educated man and renowned spiritual writer. He was glorified by wisdom, and by the constantly defended his flock from the wrath of the emperor Constantine (979-1028).

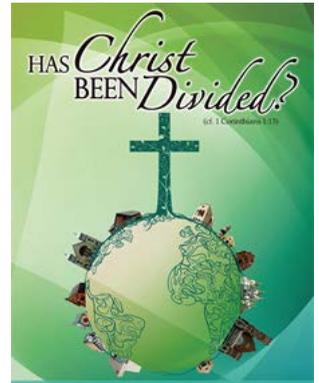
Because of his great virtue, St Arsenius was consecrated as Archbishop of Kerkyra. He became a defender of widows, a father to orphans, and a comfort for the sorrowful, and so God rewarded him with the gift of miracles. He fell asleep in the Lord toward the end of the ninth century. His relics were placed in the cathedral at Kerkyra, and many miracles and healings took place at his tomb.

St Arsenius composed the Canon chanted during the Sanctification of Oil, a Panegyric on the Apostle Andrew, and a Discourse on the Suffering of the Great Martyr Barbara. Several of his letters to St Photius (February 6) still survive.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: January 18-25

The 2014 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place from January 18-25 under the banner of the theme: "**Has Christ Been Divided?**" (*cf. 1 Corinthians 1:13*). The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has a history of over 100 years, in which Christians around the world have taken part in an octave of prayer for visible Christian unity. By annually observing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper "that they all may be one" (*cf. John 17:21*).



Being mindful that this year we join the Orthodox in a common celebration of Lent and Easter (April 20), let us remember to join with all of our separated brothers in prayer this week in asking God to bring unity to His Church.

Eastern Catholic Churches: ENCOUNTER 2014!

The Eastern Catholic Bishops of the U.S. invite you, your family and friends to participate in ENCOUNTER 2014 of the Eastern Catholic Churches "ENCOUNTERING JESUS CHRIST!" ENCOUNTER2014 promises notable speakers, Prayer Services according to the various Churches of the East, opportunity to meet, discuss and share among members of the many Eastern Churches, visit vendors and purchase Eastern Christian books, icons, crosses, etc. ENCOUNTER 2014 will be held at the Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel, Orlando, FL Jan. 30-31 (Clergy Days); Jan. 31-Feb. 2 (Main Conference). For information, conference registration, hotel reservations, go to: www.Encounter2014EasternCatholicChurches.org or for brochures, call: 570-294-2910.

Join us for a once in a life time opportunity!

Melkite Holy Land Pilgrimage with Fr. Mark Melone and Deacon Sabatino Carnazzo

For more information, please call Deacon Sabatino Carnazzo at 703-504-8733 or visit <http://www.catholicheritagetours.com/iccds> Registration deadline is January 15, 2014.

Support the Bishop's Appeal!

The annual Bishop's Appeal officially ended in all the parishes of the Eparchy on 31 December. However, **donations to the Appeal will continue to be received and credited to your parish until 31 January for anyone who makes an end-of-year, tax-deductible donation.** Donation cards and envelopes are available in the narthex. Your donation means so much to so many! May God bless you and yours in the New Year.

Give a lasting gift for future generations of Melkites in America by remembering the Melkite Catholic Church in your will. Simply add the following statement to your last will and testament: ***I hereby bequeath to the Melkite Eparchy of Newton the following sum: \$_____.*** Contact Bishop Nicholas personally to inform him of your generous bequest: 3 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132.

The Leprous Nature of Man



CHRIST'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE TEN LEPROUS offers several points on which we can reflect. We see that Christ heals, that He heals foreigners as well as Israelites, and that the only one who glorifies God is that foreigner, a Samaritan. Christ's response to the Samaritan, however, is complicated and merits our attention.

According to St Luke, when the Samaritan returns glorifying God, Christ responds, "*Arise, go your way; your faith has made you well*" (Lk 17:19 New King James Version).

Is Christ referring to the original healing in which all ten lepers were cleansed or does the Samaritan receive something else because he came back glorifying God?

Some popular English versions offer interesting alternative translations which suggest an answer. "*Thy faith hath made thee whole*" says the original King James Version. The New American Bible and the Jerusalem Bible translate this phrase "*Your faith has saved you.*"

The Greek verb in this sentence is *sesoken*, a form of the word *sozon* which we regularly translate in our prayers as "save." It may be translated as "heal," "make whole" or "save" depending on the context. In such a case it is wise to consult the Tradition for the best interpretation. Early Church commentators on this passage suggest that the Samaritan received more than the physical healing of his disease: he found salvation. As St Athanasius wrote, "This one was given much more than the rest. Besides being healed of his leprosy, he was told by the Lord, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you'" (Festal Letter 6).

In his *Explanation of the Gospel of St. Luke* Blessed Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria writes that "This miracle also signifies the common salvation that came to the whole human race. For the ten lepers represent all of human nature – it was leprous with wickedness, carrying about with it the ugliness of sin, passing its life outside the heavenly city on account of its uncleanness, and standing afar off from God." The complete healing of mankind is, in fact, what we refer to as "salvation."

It is not uncommon for people to be asked by some Christians (usually Evangelicals or Pentecostals), "Are you saved?" By this they generally mean something like, "Have you personally appropriated the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ?" Their point is similar to that made by Blessed Theophylact. The ten lepers all were cleansed but only one personally appropriated what Christ had done by returning and glorifying God.

What Does It Mean to Be Saved?

When Western Christians talk about salvation they often think of it as described in the fourth-fifth centuries by St Augustine and in the eleventh century by Anselm of Canterbury. In their view all mankind was unrighteous and unclean through the original sin of Adam. It was necessary that mankind make atonement through a well-pleasing sacrifice. That sacrifice was made on the cross, by which Christ offered Himself for the sins of Adam and of the entire human race.

As this view was developed, the West focused increasingly on the cross. Christ's death was the sacrifice offered to atone for sin and ransom mankind. Some saw the cross as an instrument of the Father's wrath originally meant for us, now taken out on His Son! Others thought of Christ's death as a ransom paid to the devil in whose power mankind had fallen. These views took Western Christians further and further from the thinking of the early Church.

The Eastern Fathers had a different view of sin and salvation. Instead of atonement and sacrifice they stressed the loss and restoration of relationship with God as the heart of the question of sin and redemption. The original sin of Adam was a break in relationship with God. Adam declines to heed God's warning and eats of the tree, determining for himself what is good rather than heeding God. Going it alone, Adam no longer "walked with God" but hid from Him (Gen 2).

In Christ, God enters the world to become one with mankind once more and, through this complete and eternal union with Him, to deliver it from eternal death. The Son of God becomes like us in all things except sin and in Him God and man are perfectly united. Once again God is fully in communion with a Man, the Lord Jesus, and through Him with all mankind.

Since being human means to endure suffering and death, Christ shared in those things as well. What was unique about Christ is that He did not remain in death but, once He had experienced it, He triumphed over it.

The Lepers: an Icon of Salvation

As Blessed Theophilact observed, the lepers represent all humanity, scarred by their common affliction but still dear to Christ. "He healed the whole leprous nature of man, when, for every man's sake, He took flesh and tasted of death."

Without a doubt all ten welcomed their cleansing from leprosy; they accepted the gift but ignored the Giver. Only one returned to Christ, glorifying God. He not only received the blessing of health, he also enjoyed a relationship with the Healer. He welcomed, not only the cleansing from leprosy but also the presence of the One who brings wholeness and salvation to all who accept Him in their lives. His physical healing is the prelude to his communion with Christ in which is his – and our –salvation.

To Whom Was the "Ransom" Paid?

St Gregory the Theologian asks this question to demolish what he felt were false ideas about our salvation.

"To whom and why is this blood poured out for us and shed – the great blood of God, the High Priest and Victim? We were in the power of the Evil One, sold to sin, and had brought this harm on ourselves by sensuality. ... If the price of ransom is given to none other than him in whose power we are held, then I ask, to whom and for what reason is such a price paid?

"If it is to the Evil One, then how insulting is this! The thief received the price of ransom; he not only receives it from God, but even receives God Himself. He receives so large a price for his tyranny that it was only right to have mercy on us.

"If to the Father, then, first, in what way? Were we in captivity under Him?... And secondly, for what reason? For what reason was the blood of the Only Begotten pleasing to the Father, who did not accept even Isaac, when offered by his father, but exchanged the offering, giving a lamb instead of the reasonable victim?"

-45th Oration on Holy Pascha

Please remember to pray for the health and protection of Genevieve Allen, Elizabeth Ashooh, Elsie Ashooh, Louise Ashooh, Al Auclair, Alice Auclair, Erin Baroody, Michael Baroody, Ted Baroody, Betty Bilodeau, Anthony Blando, Helena Burkush, Danielle Caron, Meghan Connors, Lucy Corriveau, Julie Cullen, Theresa Cullen, Jamileh Dagher, Nicholas Daniak, Lynn Dargie, Marie Dargie, Sher Farrow, Declan Finn, Julie Fregeau, Mary Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, Christine Freitas, Anne Gallagher, Loretto Gauvin, Nick Haddad, Jean Hannoush, Lucille Harper, Howard Jabaley, Laura Jorba, Virginia Kearney, Shirley Lanoue, Roger Lawrence, Sadie Grace McCallum, Miriam McCallum, James McCloskey, Susan Merrill, Margaret Mitchell, Alfred Nasr, Afef Nasr, Blaise Notter, Steven O'Leary, Denis O'Keefe, Helen Baroody Payne, Josephine Paquette, Virginia Pichette, Jean Poleatewich, Sheila Quinn, Deborah Roberts, Adam Rubin, Robert Siwik, Nassim Sleiman, Salwa Sleiman, Tarrant Smith, Catherine Waldron, 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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