



# OUR LADY OF THE CEDARS CHURCH

**A MELKITE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

140 MITCHELL STREET, MANCHESTER, NH 03103

TEL # (603) 623-8944 FAX # (603) 645-6017

Email: [oloc.church@comcast.net](mailto:oloc.church@comcast.net)

Website: [www.olocnh.org](http://www.olocnh.org)

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)*

**Nov. 27, 2016**

**The Thirteenth Sunday After the Cross**

**The Commemoration of our Holy Great Martyr James the Persian**

**THE 28<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Parish Advisory & Finance Council:**

KEN MONTY (*PRESIDENT*), RICHARD ASHOOH, ROBERT ANDERSON, ROBIN ANDERSON, JOHN CULLEN, MARTHA DAGHER, TIM ERMATINGER, KEN KOMISAREK, MARYLOU LAZOS, PAUL MANSUR, NAJWA MOUSSOBA, JOE NEHME, MOE PARE, 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tone) Page 52

The Troparion of the Dormition of the Theotokos (1<sup>st</sup> Tone): Page 16



## The Kondakion of the Pre-festive Period of the Nativity

Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth to the Eternal Word of God in an ineffable manner. Rejoice therefore, O universe, when you hear this news, and glorify, with the angels and the shepherds, Him who shall appear as a new child, being God from all eternity.

### THE PROKIMENON:

**SING PRAISE TO OUR GOD, SING PRAISE!  
SING PRAISE TO OUR KING, SING PRAISE!**

*All you peoples clap your hands! Shout to God with cries of gladness!*

**Today's Readings: Colossians 12:1-18 and Luke 18: 18-28**

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

### Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Gerald Harper (12<sup>th</sup>), Habib Solomon (53<sup>rd</sup>), Leo Lajoi (45<sup>th</sup>), Joseph Garrity (21<sup>st</sup>), Philip Ashooh (22<sup>nd</sup>), Nicholas Ashooh (66<sup>th</sup>), Walter Marchand (30<sup>th</sup>), Halim Zeady ((42<sup>nd</sup>), and Ernest Nedder (41<sup>st</sup>)

### Sunday, 11:00 AM:

For the repose of Anna Deschuiteneer (40 day Memorial),  
by her family

For the repose of Eleanor Leonarczyk (9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary),  
by Fr. Theophan and family

### Next Saturday (Dec. 3), 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Freida Stephen (8<sup>th</sup>), Joseph Attalla (28<sup>th</sup>),  
and Latifa Nassoura (31<sup>st</sup>)

### Next Sunday (Dec. 4) 11:00 AM:

For the repose of Margaret Hikel Hunt (2 year Memorial), and  
Walter Hunt, Jr., Edward and Hannah Nahil Hikel, Anthony Paul and Eddie Hikel, Jr.  
by their family

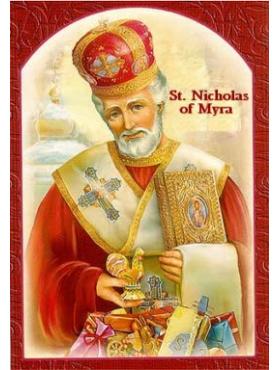




**Many thanks** to those who donated food to the food drive last week. About twenty bags of groceries were donated, and were cheerfully and enthusiastically received at Blessed Sacrament Church for distribution to the poor.

**Next Sunday:**  
**The St. Nicholas Day Dinner!**

Our annual St. Nicholas Day Dinner will take place next Sunday after the Divine Liturgy. The menu for the dinner is: roast beef au jus, potatoes, candied baby carrots, and brownie sundaes. **And who knows what other special guest might show up on St. Nicholas Feast Day?**



Tickets are \$10 for adults, children under 12 are free. Tickets will be available at the door.

**The Nativity Fast begins on Saturday, Dec. 10!**

**Sunday School will resume next Sunday, December 4.**

**Saturday Kitchen – and Christmas Pastries:**  
**Next Saturday!**

Meat pies, spinach pies, kibbeh –and this month, Christmas pastries - baklava and ghyrbe (Almond butter cookies) - will be available from the Saturday Kitchen next Saturday morning. Pastries are \$10 per tray. You can call in your order in advance at 625-9966.

**There is a second collection this weekend for the mortgage.**

**Attendance - Last Saturday 4:30 PM: 18      Last Sunday 11:00 AM: 93**

**Last Weekend's Collection: \$ 960.<sup>00</sup>**

*The average Sunday envelope donation: \$30.<sup>36</sup>*

*The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ 82,831.<sup>27</sup>*

**SERVICES FOR THE WEEK**

Tues., Nov. 29	8:30 AM	Weekday Orthros
Wed., Nov. 30	7:00 PM	Vespers
Thurs., Dec. 1	8:30 AM	Weekday Orthros
Sat. Dec. 3	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The 29 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost
Sun., Dec. 4	10:15 AM	Sunday Orthros
Sun., Dec. 4	11:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: The 29 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

## The Nativity Fast begins on Dec. 10!

The Pre-Nativity Fast was created to prepare us for the twofold celebration of the Lord's Nativity and Theophany. These feasts are two sides of a single coin. On the Nativity we celebrate our joy at God's arrival, and on Theophany we experience the beginning of Christ's revelation to us of the mysteries of God, in particular the Mystery of the Trinity.

This Fast began to be observed in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. It developed into a 40-day period beginning on November 15, the day after the feast of St. Philip, and is often referred to as "St. Philip's Fast." The Melkite Church has reduced the length of the Fast to fourteen days, and begins the Fast on December 10. During this Fast, the faithful are encouraged to strive towards holiness and are particularly encouraged to fast and pray on the Paramony of Christmas and Theophany (usually the day before the feast).

The guidelines for fasting for the Pre-Nativity Fast are far more lenient than Great Lent. In general, abstinence from meat, dairy products, and oil throughout the Fast is still recommended, but the amount of food is not as restricted as the Lenten Fast. For example, one might choose to eat only small amounts of food on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, while eating a more satisfying amount on the other days of the week. Traditionally on the Sundays of this Fast, fish is permitted.

We should be careful, however, not to approach the question of fasting too legalistically or rigidly. These guidelines are exactly that — guidelines — and not rules. You are free to decide for yourself how you will observe the Fast. Adequate preparation can never be counted in "days fasted." Instead, ask yourself: "How well am I progressing toward holiness?"

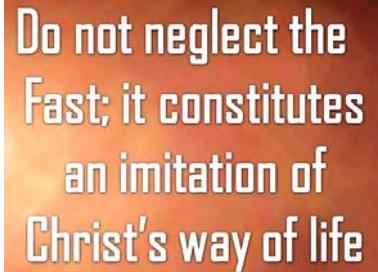
The reason that we fast and pray is to overcome what our tradition calls "passions" - anything that has control over us: overeating, smoking, watching too much television, misuse of sexuality, gossiping, lying, etc. All of these captivate the soul and distort the image and likeness of God within us. We fast and pray in order to regain control over these passions and to avoid becoming slaves to them.

We also fast and pray in order to draw closer to God. Every Christian —not just the clergy, or a select pious few —is called to undergo theosis, to be illumined and transfigured by God. This takes spiritual effort and fasting is a key means by which this occurs.

This period of preparation also means more than just abstaining from food. It should be a time of kindness and joy, marked by abstinence from hurting others, and from deceit, gossip, anger, quarrelling, and all other vices which arise from the tongue. During this Fast we should allow more time for prayer, for attending church service, and for acts of charity to others.

It may seem very difficult to keep this Fast today. In our culture, the pre-Christmas period is a time for merriment and parties. But the Church is calling us to reflect on the true and deeper meaning of Christmas, that God the Son and Word emptied Himself to take flesh as a man.

This penitential season is an invitation by the Church to empty ourselves in imitation of Christ, so that we might receive on Christmas day God's greatest gift: His only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas will have a special meaning for us if our preparation for Christ's birth is a time of growth in spirit, an effort to improve our lives of faith and love for others.



Do not neglect the  
Fast; it constitutes  
an imitation of  
Christ's way of life

St. Anthony the Great



## Our parish has an App!

The new parish app can be downloaded at the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store! If you have a smart phone or tablet, the new app will keep you up to date on things going on in the church, send you reminders, allow you post things, and to chat with one another. Just search for “Our Lady of the Cedars Church,” download the app, and keep up with what is going on!

---

## Vocation View

The Gospel shows a beautiful vocation story. Christ invites a young man to follow Him and join in His ministry. Notice that worldly concerns have become too central in his life, and impedes his response – though his desire to do so is obviously there. Paul reminds us that the devil is constantly trying to keep us from surrendering to God’s plans. Pray that many will be strong enough to respond to Christ’s invitation to the priestly ministry. It is an invitation, and will not be “forced” – but we can help possible candidates by our prayers and faith-filled encouragement.



---

## THE BISHOP’S APPEAL: HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!



Don’t be sad and downcast, worrying about earthly riches like the Rich Man in today’s Gospel. But be generous and joyful of heart, giving in return for all that God has given you, following Jesus unreservedly and finding heavenly treasure! If Our Lord has blessed us with riches, He does so, not only for ourselves and our families, but for the good of His Church. Offer your gratitude to God this Thanksgiving weekend by giving a generous gift to the Bishop’s Appeal today. Appeal envelopes are available in the narthex.

Thank you for your generosity.

---

“There will come a time when not the persecutions but money and the goods of this world will take people far from God. Then many more souls will be lost than in the time of the persecutions. On the one hand, they will be putting gold on the domes and will put the crosses on them and, on the other hand, everywhere evil and falsehood will reign. The true Church will always be persecuted. They who want to be saved will be saved with illnesses and afflictions. The way in which the persecutions will occur will be very sly and it will be very difficult for one to foresee the persecutions. Dreadful will be that time; I pity those who will be living then.”

**-St. Seraphim of Viritsa**

# Icons in the Bible

FROM TIME TO TIME Eastern Christians are reproached for venerating icons because “icons are not in the Bible.” St John of Damascus, whose treatises on icons were instrumental in defeating iconoclasm, taught that the Church’s icons are “in the Bible” because they stand in the context of God’s own self-revelation to us through images. We make icons because God has made icons.

## The Perfect Icon of the Father

God the Father Himself is unknowable, beyond our understanding, according to the Torah. To represent Him in physical form would be idolatry. For the Jews even to speak His name would be unseemly. There is, however, an icon of the Father. As St John of Damascus wrote in his *Third Treatise on the Holy Icons*, “The first natural and undeviating icon of the invisible God is the Son of the Father, showing the Father in Himself” (*Treatise III*, 18).

It is the Lord Jesus Himself who indicates this relationship to God in the following discussion with His disciples. Jesus said to Thomas, “*If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.*” When a confused Philip interjected, “*Lord, show us the Father...*” Jesus said to him, “***He who has seen Me has seen the Father.***” (*Jn 14:6-10*).

The Son is the perfect icon of God because the Father is fully present in Him. Jesus would repeat this as His passion drew nearer, knowing that His death and resurrection would validate His claim: “*He who sees Me sees Him who sent Me*” (*Jn 12:45*). This would become central to the Church’s belief, as is expressed in St John’s Gospel, “*No one has seen God at any time. The Only-begotten Son, the One who is in the bosom of the Father, He has made Him known*” (*Jn 1:18*).

We find the same teaching in St Paul’s writings, expressed specifically in iconographic terms. Thus the Epistle to the Hebrews proclaims Christ to be “*the brightness of His glory and the express image [eikon] of His person, upholding all things by the His power of His Word.*” (*Heb 1:3*). Here and in the Epistle to the Colossians Christ is described as Revealer of the Father, as His icon to the world. “*He is the image [eikon] of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things exist.*” (*Col 1:15-17*). As icon of the Father, Christ touches all things with His dynamic presence, creating and maintaining all things by His life.

## Man the Divine Icon

According to the Book of Genesis, mankind itself is an icon of God, who is Himself the “iconographer.” “*Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them*” (*Gen 1:26, 27*). In his ability to order creation (and in so many other ways as well) man images the Creator,



who is Himself the image of the Father.

The Church Fathers saw a significant difference between the Son as the perfect icon of the Father and mankind as the scarred and broken image of the Creator. To explain man's fallen condition many Fathers made a distinction between the two terms used in Genesis. They saw the image of God in man to be permanent if scarred but the likeness to have been lost. It would only be in the Incarnation of Jesus that man would once more become both image and likeness of God.

While the Son of God is the perfect image or icon of the Father, every human being is in some imperfect way God's image. A believer convinced of this teaching reveres every human being as an icon of God.

### **The Temple, Icon of Paradise**

The Scriptures also contain examples of material images which are described as made according to a spiritual model. The tabernacle or portable sanctuary in the desert was constructed by Moses in accordance with "*the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture*" (Ex 25:40) revealed to him by God. In the New Testament the temple of Jerusalem and its furnishings, which had become Israel's permanent sanctuary, are described as "*copies of the heavenly things*" (Heb 9:23), images of a reality in the heavens. But which spiritual realities does the temple represent?

Many Scripture commentators find the key in this verse from Psalm 78: "*He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever*" (Ps 78:69). The Temple, they believe, was designed as an icon of creation. According to this view, the results of each day of Creation (see Gen 1) are symbolically reflected in the temple and its furnishings. As described above, the light of day one of Creation can be interpreted as the glory of God and those who dwelled with Him. The temple veil would then symbolize the "firmament" as the primary division between heaven and earth. The bread of presence represents the grass and herbs of the earth, the lampstand represents the sun, moon and stars, the cherubim represent the birds, and the high priest represents mankind at worship, Adam the priest of creation. The Temple is thus understood by many Jews as well as Christians as an icon of the universe. God's creation was no longer recognizable as His temple; an icon – the Tabernacle and the Temple – was needed to represent it.

### **Icons of an Icon**

In the Epistle to the Hebrews the mystery of our salvation is described in terms of the Yom Kippur liturgy of the Jewish temple: "*For Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the Holy Place yearly with blood not his own; for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him*" (Heb 9:24-28).

The living icon of Christ's sacrifice is, of course, the Divine Liturgy, in which the holy gifts are brought into the holy of holies "beyond the veil." As the Jewish temple was an icon of the worshipping world, our oblation is an icon of the sacrifice of Christ – an icon of the eternal reality. Glory to God for all things!

**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, Janet Drake, Julie Fregeau, Mary Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, Christine Freitas, John Gallagher, Loretto Gauvin, Bonnie Gomez, Gail Fisher, Nick Haddad, Lucille Harper, Laura Jorba, Virginia Kearney, Shirley Lanoue, Susan Latvis, Diana Lebel, Peggy Leclar, Sadie Grace McCallum, Miriam McCallum, Susan Merrill, Alfred Nasr, Afef Nasr, Blaise Notter, Steve Notter, Steven O'Leary, Denis O'Keefe, Ellen Osgood, Josephine Paquette, Sheila Quinn, Deborah Roberts, Adam Rubin, Fr. Andre St. Germain, Kara Salvas, Denise Sherburne, Tarrant Smith, Mary Stephen, 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.




**Joe Ashooh, Agent**  
297 S Willow Street  
Manchester, NH 03103  
Bus: 603-624-1000  
joe@joesthere.com



State Farm, Bloomington, IL  
1211999

**NORTH HILLS  
REALTY GROUP, LLC**  
*Residential Real Estate Brokers*  
**Abraham Dagher, Realtor**  
*814 Elm St., Suite # 302  
Manchester, NH 03101*  
**(603) 629-9988**



Personal Injury  
Medical Malpractice  
Call today for a  
FREE consultation.  
*“We Fight For You”*  
Robert Stephen, Esq.  
**STEPHEN LAW GROUP**  
www.StephenLaw.com • Call 663.1007  
848 Elm Street, Suite 303, Manchester, NH 03101



**Your Ad Here  
\$300 per Year**




**MAHRAJAN**  
Check out the  
Mahrajan Website:  
www.bestfestnh.com



**Chuck Stephen**  
814 Elm Street, Suite 503  
Manchester, NH 03101  
Tel # 603.606.3391  
Toll Free 866.491.9675  
[chuck@glenwoodinvestment.com](mailto:chuck@glenwoodinvestment.com)  
[www.glenwoodinvestment.com](http://www.glenwoodinvestment.com)

**Glenwood Investment Group**  
*“Grow and protect your hard-earned wealth”*

**Your Ad  
Here:  
\$300/year!!**

Check out  
[www.melkite.org](http://www.melkite.org)  
-new educational  
material is posted  
regularly!