



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

Website: www.olocnh.org

REV. THOMAS P. STEINMETZ, Pastor

RT. REV. ANDRE ST. GERMAIN (retired)

REV. ROGER BOUCHER - Weekend Ministry

REV. DEACON ROBERT SPENCER

REV. DEACON PAUL LEONARCZYK

*"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)*

November 30, 2014 - The 25th Sunday After Pentecost

*The Commemoration of
the Holy and Illustrious Apostle Andrew, the First-Called*

THE SUNDAY OF THE RICH RULER

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, JENNA NEHME, 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.

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 (8th Tone) Page 54

Troparion of the Holy Apostle Andrew (4th Tone)

Andrew, first-called of the Apostles and brother of Peter their leader, intercede with the Master of All that He may grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

The Troparion of the Dormition of the Theotokos (1st 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:

**MAY YOUR KINDNESS, O LORD, BE UPON US,
FOR WE HAVE HOPED IN YOU.**

Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

Today's Readings: I Corinthians 4: 9-15 and Luke 18: 18-27

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Halim Zeady (40th), Ernest Nedder (39th), Freida Stephen (6th),
Joseph Attalla (26th), and Latifa Nassoura (29th)



Sunday, 11:00 AM:

For the repose of Peggie Hunt
who departed from this life on Nov. 17,
by Ted and Dolly Shiepe



Next Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Latify Attalla (29th)

Next Sunday, 11:00 AM:

For the repose of Abraham and Martha Dagher, by Jamil and Rosemonde Dagher

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.



Next Sunday: The Parish Christmas Dinner!

Our annual parish Christmas Dinner will take place next Sunday after the Divine Liturgy. The menu for the dinner is: steak tips, potatoes, candied baby carrots, and brownie sundaes. A **special guest is expected to be "coming to town!"** Tickets are \$10 for adults, children under 12 are free. Tickets will be available at the door.

Sunday School News:

Sunday School Classes will resume next Sunday, December 7.

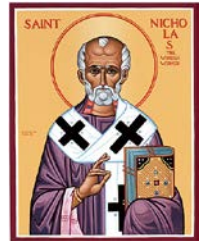


Next Saturday is Saturday Kitchen!

Delicious meat pies, spinach pies, and kibbeh will be available. You can call your order ahead at 625-9966. Anyone who can help on Saturday morning will be most welcome!



The feast of St. Barbara will be commemorated with a celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Wed. Dec. 3 at 7:00 PM. This Liturgy will be offered for the suffering Christians of the Middle East.



The Feast of St. Nicholas will be commemorated with a celebration of the Divine Liturgy Friday evening at 7:00 PM. *Following the Divine Liturgy pastries and sweets – and a special treat for the children of the parish – will be served in hall in honor of St. Nicholas!*

This week there will be a second collection for the mortgage.

Attendance: Last Sat. 4:30 PM – 41 Last Sun. 11:00 AM – 133

Last Weekend's Collection: \$ 1,323.⁰⁰

The average Sunday envelope donation: \$36.⁸⁸

The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ 309,496.²³

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Wed., Dec. 3	7:00 PM	Divine Liturgy: Feast of St. Barbara <i>- Offered For the suffering Christians of the Middle East</i>
Fri., Dec. 5	7:00 PM	Divine Liturgy: Feast of St. Nicholas
Sat., Dec. 6	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The Sunday of the Crippled Woman
Sun., Dec. 7	10:15 AM	Sunday Orthros
Sun., Dec. 7	11:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: The Sunday of the Crippled Woman

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 has been observed for centuries in the Church; it began to be observed in the 4th Century or before. It developed into a 40-day period beginning 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 14 days, however, and begins the Fast on December 10. During this Fast, the faithful are encouraged to keep the season holy. The faithful 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 the Great Fast before Pascha. In general, abstinence from meat, dairy products, and oil throughout the Fast is still recommended, but the amount of food is not as restricted. 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, however, be careful 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 is called to undergo theosis — to be illumined and transfigured by God — not just monks, nuns, and priests! This takes spiritual effort and fasting is a key means by which this occurs.

This period of preparation, of course, 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. Yet the Church points to a deeper spiritual meaning of Christmas, that on this day God the Son and Word emptied Himself to take flesh as a man. As St. Paul said, "He made himself poor though He was rich, so that you might become rich by his poverty" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

This penitential season is an invitation by the Church to humble 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. The "Christmas Spirit" will have a special meaning for you if your preparation for Christ's birth is a time of growth in spirit, an effort to improve your life of faith and love for others.

First Called and Much Traveled



ONE OF THE MOST REVERED New Testament figures in the Christian East is the Apostle Andrew the First Called. His title comes from the first mention of him in the Gospel of John: *“The next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, ‘Behold the Lamb of God!’ The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, ‘What do you seek?’ They said to Him, ‘Rabbi’ (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), ‘where are You staying?’ He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). One of the two who heard John speak, and*

followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus” (Jn 1:35-42).

As disciples of John the Baptist, Andrew and Peter were among those with a firmer faith, ready to make a deeper commitment to God in their lives. And so when they next encountered Jesus back home in their adopted home town of Capernaum (the Gospel calls Andrew a native of Bethsaida), the result should not strike us as odd. *“Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, ‘Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.’ They immediately left their nets and followed Him” (Mt 4:18-20).*

While Peter, James and John came to be the foremost of Christ’s closest followers, Andrew had a prominent place as well. In the Gospel of John, he appears as a kind of go-to person for Jesus, bringing people to Him and presumably keeping the crowds at bay. It was Andrew who reported to Jesus about the lad with the five loaves and two fish. When Jesus and His disciples had arrived in Jerusalem for the Passover we are told that, *“Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus” (Jn 12:20-22).* Since both Philip and Andrew had Greek names – not unusual in Galilee since the second or third century BC – it was perhaps natural that these Greek pilgrims approached them.

St Andrew and the Early Church

After Pentecost, at which he was present, there is no further mention of Andrew in the New Testament. Our next reference to this apostle is in Eusebius’ *History of the Church* 3, is written in the fourth century. There he quotes Origen as saying that Andrew brought the Gospel to Scythia.

The region known as Scythia in the ancient world corresponds to portions of today's nations of Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine. For this reason Churches in these nations have a particular devotion to St. Andrew. Ukrainians, for example, hold that St Andrew planted a cross on the site of the future city of Kiev, prophesying that a great Christian center would be established there in time. The *Primary Chronicle* of the eleventh-century Monk Nestor added that St. Andrew's apostolic preaching took him as far as Novgorod, making him apostle to Russia as well.

Another city claiming a connection with St Andrew is Constantinople. Founded in the fourth century by St Constantine the Great, this city was built on the site of the earlier town of Byzantium. A work entitled *On the Seventy Apostles of Christ*: and attributed to Hippolytus of Rome (+ 235) identified Stachys, one of the Lord's seventy disciples as the first bishop of Byzantium. Later tradition held that Stachys was given leadership of the Church at Byzantium by St. Andrew. Thus the Church of Constantinople would claim to be founded by an apostle like the other Apostolic Churches (Jerusalem, Antioch, etc.).

Death of St Andrew

According to the second-century *Acts of Andrew*, the Apostle was martyred in Patras, an important center in central Greece, then capital of the province of Achaia. Seized by order of the proconsul Aegeates for converting his wife, St Andrew was condemned to be crucified. According to the Acts, St. Andrew spoke to the bystanders from the cross, saying: "Listen to us rather who hang here for the Lord's sake and are about to depart out of this body. Renounce all the lusts of the world, spit upon the worship of abominable idols and establish your minds as men believing in Christ."

The tradition that St Andrew asked to be crucified on an X-shaped cross because he was unworthy of being placed on a cross like Christ's is of later origin, probably in imitation of St. Peter. The relics of St. Andrew were preserved by the Christians in Patras. In 357 they were taken to Constantinople by order of Emperor Constantius and interred in the Church of the Holy Apostles, built by his father, St Constantine, to house the remains of all the Apostles. The saint's skull was returned to Patras by Emperor Basil I (867-886).

The relics remaining in Constantinople were taken to Italy when the city was sacked by the Crusaders in 1204. When the present St Peter's Basilica was constructed in the sixteenth century they were encased in one of the great columns surrounding the altar. In 1964 Pope Paul VI had the relics removed and returned to Patras, the first of many such ecumenical gestures in recent years. In 1980 fragments of the cross of St Andrew, venerated in Marseilles since the Crusades, were also returned. They are enshrined together with the relics in the Cathedral of St Andrew, the largest church in the Balkans.

St. Andrew Today

In recent years St. Andrew has become an important focus in the growing friendship between Rome and Constantinople. Since 1969 a delegation from the Roman Catholic Church has visited Constantinople each November to participate in the feast of St Andrew, patron of the Byzantine Church. Every June a Greek Orthodox delegation has traveled to Rome for its patronal feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Several times these delegations have been led by the Pope of Rome and the Ecumenical Patriarch.

THE BISHOP'S APPEAL

On this Feast of St. Andrew, the First Called, the beloved patron of the Eastern Churches, we recall the sacrifice involved in preaching the Gospel and we remember our persecuted brothers and sisters in the Middle East who suffer for the True Faith. If you have not already done so, please give to the Bishop's Appeal to assist them and our Church in the U.S.



Remember that each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM prayers are offered for the suffering Christians of the Middle East. This week the Divine Liturgy will be offered for the protection and salvation of the Christians of the Middle East.

Trinity High School Student Council Presents: Breakfast with Santa!

Saturday December 13th, 2014 8-11 AM

in the Trinity High School Cafeteria, 581 Bridge Street Manchester, NH

Breakfast includes: pancakes, muffins, pastries, bacon, eggs, apple juice, orange juice, (coffee (for parents) and other homemade treats

Activities Include: Decorating Christmas cookies, decorating gingerbread houses, making Christmas ornaments, coloring Christmas pictures, making Christmas decorations, dancing to Christmas music

The event is free of charge!

Donations to the THS Student Council are gladly accepted.



“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*

Let us pray for: Greek Orthodox Archbishop Paul Yazigi and Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim who were abducted on April 22, 2013, when gunmen stopped their vehicle near the battleground northern city of Aleppo

-Fr. Paolo Dall'Oglio, a Jesuit priest who was kidnapped by the militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, while walking in Raqqa July 29, 2013.

- For the more than 300 school girls that were kidnapped in Chibok, Nigeria in the Spring of 2014, who are being forcibly converted to Islam

-Fr. Alexis Prem Kumar, a priest from southern India, who was abducted by Taliban members from a school for refugees that he was visiting in the village of Sohadat, Afghanistan on June 2, 2014.

- And for all persecuted for their Christian faith.

Let us say for them all: Kyrie eleison! Kyrie eleison! Kyrie eleison!

Please remember to pray for the health and protection of Genevieve Allen, Elizabeth Ashooh, Elsie Ashooh, Ernie Ashooh, Louise Ashooh, Al Auclair, Alice Auclair, Erin Baroody, Michael Baroody, Ted Baroody, Sarah Beadle, Anthony Blando, Helena Burkush, Danielle Caron, Michael Cavanaugh, Meghan Connors, Lucy Corriveau, Theresa Cullen, Jamileh Dagher, Sher Farrow, Declan Finn, Julie Fregeau, Mary Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, Christine Freitas, Kendall Gallant, Loretto Gauvin, Nick Haddad, Jean Hannoush, Lucille Harper, Howard Jabaley, Laura Jorba, Virginia Kearney, Shirley Lanoue, Roger Lawrence, Sadie Grace McCallum, Miriam McCallum, Susan Merrill, Margaret Mitchell, Alfred Nasr, Afef Nasr, Blaise Notter, Steven O'Leary, Denis O'Keefe, Helen Baroody Payne, Josephine Paquette, Sheila Quinn, Deborah Roberts, Adam Rubin, Fr. Andre St. Germain, Nassim Sleiman, Salwa Sleiman, Tarrant Smith, Mary Stephen, Richard Querze, 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.



State Farm
Providing Insurance and Financial Services

Joe Ashooh, Agent
297 So. Willow St., Suite 3
Manchester, NH 03103
Bus. 603-624-1000
www.joesther.com
joe@joesthere.com

**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**

**Central
Paper**

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

**GLENWOOD
INVESTMENT GROUP**
CHARLES L. STEPHEN
814 ELM ST., SUITE 503
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL # (603) 606-3391
TOLL FREE 1 (866) 491-9675
chuck@glenwoodinvestment.com
www.glenwoodinvestment.com

GEORGE AZZO
R&G CONSTRUCTION, LLC
*NEW CONSTRUCTION, REMODELING,
REPAIRS, ALL JOBS BIG AND SMALL!*
Free Estimates
(603) 320-4203

**Your ad here:
\$300
per year**