



OUR LADY OF THE CEDARS CHURCH

A MELKITE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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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)

October 26, 2014 - The Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

**The Commemoration of the Holy Great-Martyr Demetrios of Thessalonica
and of the Great Earthquake in Constantinople**

THE SUNDAY OF THE GERASENE DEMONIAK

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.**

THE ORDER OF TODAY'S LITURGY

The Troparion of the Resurrection (3rd Tone) Page 52

Troparion of the Holy Martyr Demetrius (3rd Tone)

O Victorious Demetrius, you were given to the world as a powerful protector against dangers and an invincible soldier of Christ. As you inspired Nestor to overcome the pride of Lyaios, so intercede with Christ God that He may grant us his mercy

Troparion of the Earthquake (8th Tone)

O Christ our God, who look upon the earth and it quakes: Deliver us from the dreadful menace of earthquakes and send down upon us Your abundant mercy, through the intercession of the Mother of God, for You are the only Lover of Mankind.

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

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

THE PROKIMENON:

THE JUST SHALL REJOICE IN THE LORD AND PLACE HIS HOPE IN HIM.
ALL THOSE WITH AN UPRIGHT HEART SHALL BE PRAISED.

*O God, hear my voice when I pray to You;
save my life from the dreadful enemy.*

Today's Readings: 2 Timothy 2: 1-10 and Luke 8:27-39

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Leo Abood (19th), Edmund Anton (33rd),
Saheed Attalla (52nd), and Amelia Maloley (13th)

Sunday, 11:00 AM:

For the repose of the deceased members of the Nehme Family
by Joseph Nehme and Family

Next Saturday, 4:30 PM

Great Vespers will be served instead of Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday, 11:00 AM:

For the repose of Mitch Ashooh (6th Anniversary),
by the Ashooh Family



We are looking for sponsors for coffee hour!

The donations received from coffee hour go to the support of our growing youth group. In the past the pastry that was served was donated from Panera Bakery. They stopped this donation several years ago. So we are putting it out there now to the parish: Would anyone like to help? We are asking for individuals or families to sign up to be responsible for donating the pastry on Sunday for coffee hour. The pastry may be home-made or store-bought. Whoever makes the donation will be announced in the bulletin every week. The youth group will continue to serve coffee hour as usual. See Robin Anderson if you would like to help.

**There will not be a Divine Liturgy next Saturday, Nov. 1.
Saturday evening vespers will be offered instead at 4:30 PM.**



THE BISHOP'S APPEAL:

Get personally involved in supporting the efforts of our Eparchy to promote the domestic church of the family in our homes, and to bring our precious Melkite heritage and tradition to our children and grandchildren. Evangelization, spiritual renewal, vocations, education, seminary training...the Bishop's Appeal supports all these and much more. If you enjoy reading *SOPHIA* magazine, please help defray the cost of its production and distribution by your gift to the Bishop's Appeal. If you have not already sent your gift, please do so today so that 100% of our parish will respond to Sayidna's call.

There is a second collection this weekend for the mortgage

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!

Attendance: Last Sat., 4:30 PM - 17 Last Sun. 11:00 AM - 121
Last Week's Collection: \$ 1,598.²³ World Mission Sunday: \$234.⁹⁰

The average Sunday envelope donation: \$42.⁵⁴

The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ 329,437.⁰⁵

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday and Thursday services are held in the chapel in the Sunday School area

Tues., Oct. 28	8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy: <i>For the health of Tarrant Smith</i>
Wed., Oct. 29	7:00 PM	Paraclysis: <i>For the suffering Christians of the Middle East</i>
Thurs., Oct. 30	8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy: <i>For the health of Mary Stephen</i>
Sat., Nov. 1	4:30 PM	Great Vespers for Sunday
Sun. Nov. 2	10:15 AM	Sunday Orthros
Sun., Nov. 2	11:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: The 21st Sunday After Pentecost

The Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica was the son of a Roman proconsul in Thessalonica. By the time Demetrius had reached maturity and his father had died, the emperor Galerius Maximian had ascended the throne (305). Maximian appointed Demetrius to his father's position as proconsul of the Thessalonica district. The main tasks of this young commander were to defend the city from barbarians and to eradicate Christianity. The emperor's policy regarding Christians was expressed simply, "Put to death anyone who calls on the name of Christ." The emperor did not suspect that by appointing Demetrius he had provided a way for him to lead many people to Christ.

Accepting the appointment, Demetrius returned to Thessalonica. Instead of persecuting and executing Christians, he began to teach the Christian Faith openly to the inhabitants of the city and to overthrow pagan customs and idolatry. When Maximian learned that Demetrius was a Christian, and that he had converted many Roman subjects to Christianity, the rage of the emperor knew no bounds. Returning from a campaign in the Black Sea region, the emperor decided to lead his army through Thessalonica, determined to massacre the Christians.

When the emperor came into the city, he summoned Demetrius, who boldly confessed himself a Christian and denounced the falsehood and futility of Roman polytheism. Maximian gave orders to lock up the confessor in prison. An angel appeared to him, to comfort and encourage him.

Meanwhile the emperor amused himself by staging games in the circus. His champion was a German by the name of Lyaeos. He challenged Christians to wrestle with him on a platform built over the upturned spears of the victorious soldiers. A brave Christian named Nestor went to the prison to his advisor Demetrius and requested a blessing to fight the barbarian. With the blessing and prayers of Demetrius, Nestor prevailed over the fierce German. The enraged commander ordered the execution of the holy Martyr Nestor and sent a guard to the prison to kill St Demetrius.

At dawn on October 26, 306 soldiers appeared in the saint's underground prison and ran him through with lances. The body of the holy Great Martyr Demetrius was cast out for wild animals to devour, but the Christians took it and secretly buried it in the earth.

During the reign of St Constantine (306-337), a church was built over the grave of St Demetrius. A hundred years later, during the construction of a majestic new church on the old spot, the incorrupt relics of the holy martyr were uncovered. Since the seventh century a miraculous flow of fragrant myrrh has been found beneath the crypt of the Great Martyr Demetrius, so he is called "the Myrrh-gusher."



The Great Earthquake at Constantinople

In 740, at the time of the iconoclast emperor Leo the Isaurian, there was a terrible earthquake at Constantinople. Seeing this as God's just punishment for their sins, the people repented and prayed to the Most Holy Theotokos and to St Demetrius to help them. God had mercy on them, and the earthquake stopped.

CHRIST CALLS A DEMONIAK

THE GOSPELS RECORD SEVERAL INSTANCES when the Lord Jesus called people to be His followers. At times He called people to leave their homes and livelihoods and follow Him.

Sometimes the Lord called but was refused. The cost of following Jesus was more than some people could bear. To the rich young man Jesus said, *“If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”* When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth” (Mt 19:21-22).

In other instances the Lord raised objections Himself before the would-be follower could discover through failure and discouragement that following Christ meant enduring hardships. Thus *“a teacher of the law came to Him and said, ‘Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.’ Jesus replied, ‘Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head’”* (Mt 8:19-20). The Lord wanted this teacher of the law to know that following Christ would not provide the comfortable lifestyle he may have been anticipating.

To a procrastinator, however, He gave the opposite advice. *“Then another disciple said to him, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ But Jesus told him, ‘Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead’”* (Mt 8:21-22). The Lord surely wanted followers but He had a different approach based on the readiness of the person before Him.

This passage suggests the hurdles that people in any age will face when they consider following the Lord in a radical way: fear of the unknown, self-concern, pre-occupation and attachment to other things all can hinder us from following Christ.

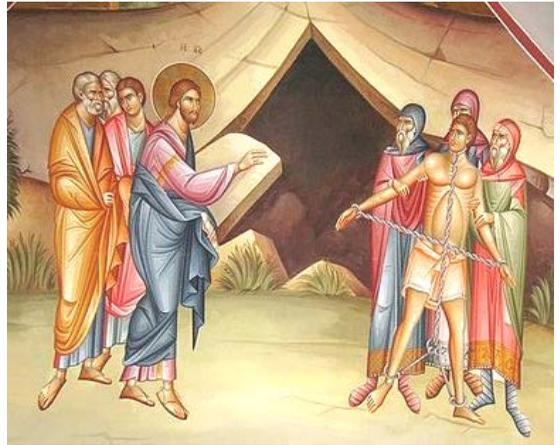
The Vocation of the Gadarene

The Gadarene whom Jesus healed (Lk 8:27-39) wanted to follow Jesus as well; the Scripture says that he *“begged to go with Him,”* but the Lord had another plan for him. *“Jesus sent him away, saying, ‘Return home and tell how much God has done for you.’ So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him”* (Lk 8:38-39).

The Gadarenes had made it clear that they wanted Jesus to go away. He would not force Himself on them. At the same time He wanted to leave them with a permanent reminder of His presence: their own fellow countryman whom He had delivered. This man had once been a burden to the townspeople; now he would be a blessing.

The Apostles were told to go through the world preaching the Gospel; this man’s call was to go home and do the same in his village. Was his call by Christ less of a vocation than that of the Apostles? It was different, surely, but it was a vocation nonetheless.

Some people in the Church tend to think that “vocation” refers exclusively to the calling of a cleric or monastic. The Lord does call some people in every age to serve the Church as priests, deacons, monks, nuns, chanters, etc. But these are not the only people whom He calls to serve Him.



Our Fundamental Vocation

Every person baptized into Christ has a vocation. The essence of that vocation is perhaps best expressed in the First Epistle of Peter: “*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light*” (1 Pt 2:9).

There are three important aspects of our universal vocation expressed in this passage. First, our vocation is to a priesthood: what the Scripture calls a “royal priesthood.” Christ is the true kingly priest and because we have been baptized into Him and sealed in His Holy Spirit we share in His priesthood. Secondly, we share in this priesthood as members of a people, the people of God. We are not individually priests, as are the ministers of the altar, but members of a priesthood because of our common union with Christ the High Priest.

This passage also tells us the reason for this priesthood: “*that you may declare the praises of*” God. Our vocation as members of the royal priesthood is to share in the Church’s call to proclaim the work of God in Christ. Some, like the apostles and evangelizers, are called to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Others, like the Gadarene whom Jesus delivered in the Gospel or the Samaritan Woman, are called to show forth God’s love for mankind in their own corner of the world. Still others – most of us in fact – are called to share in the Church’s common vocation to proclaim Christ.

How Can We “Proclaim?”

When we think about “proclaiming God’s works” we invariably think about speaking or writing. There is a host of other ways by which the Church makes the Good News present in our world. At the Bridegroom Matins on Holy Tuesday we are reminded that the abilities we have received are often the way in which the Lord makes known to us our way of responding to this call:

“Come, O faithful, let us work eagerly for the Master, for He distributes wealth to His servants; and let us increase the talent of grace, each one according to his ability. Let one adorn his wisdom with good deeds. Let another beautify the celebration of the service. Let someone strong in faith communicate the word to the uninitiated, and another dispense his wealth to the poor. Thus, we shall increase what has been loaned to us and, like faithful stewards of grace, shall be worthy of the Master’s joy. O Christ God, make us worthy of that joy, for You are the Lover of Mankind.”

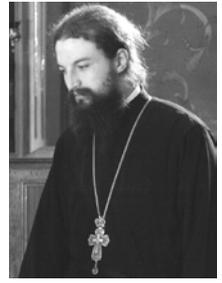
Through each of these ways and countless others believers can take their place in the royal priesthood, joining in the Church’s mission to declare through word or work “*the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.*”

What Happened to the Gadarenes?

The Gospels record that the Lord Jesus sent the man He had healed back home to witness to his neighbors. They do not tell us whether he was successful: was this village converted or not? We do know that by the third century AD the village was all but deserted. The crag which overlooked the Sea of Galilee, however, had become a place of pilgrimage for Christians seeking to commemorate the healing of the Gadarene. By the fifth century a large monastery serving the pilgrims had been established there. The monastery was expanded in the sixth century but abandoned after a catastrophic earthquake destroyed much of the area in 749. Ruins of the monastery were excavated in the 1970s by the Israeli department of antiquities and were later incorporated into a national park.

Vocation View

Paul is eager that his flock enjoy the true freedom of the sons and daughters of God. This would depend on their understanding clearly the wonderful salvation and dignity given to them by God in Christ. In the Gospel we Christ freeing a man possessed by evil and restoring his dignity. Paul's zealous ministry must be continued through the work of priests. Ask God to send us many vocations for this purpose.



When the Divine Liturgy is over, “Let us go forth in peace!”

When the Divine Liturgy is over, please be respectful of other who remain in the church to pray, or who wish to go to confession. Instead of congregating and socializing in the back of the church, please depart quietly and reverently from the church, and socialize with friends and loved ones in the narthex or the church hall.

Remember that each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM prayers are offered for the suffering Christians of the Middle East. This week Paraclisis, a service calling upon the protection of the Theotokos, will be offered.

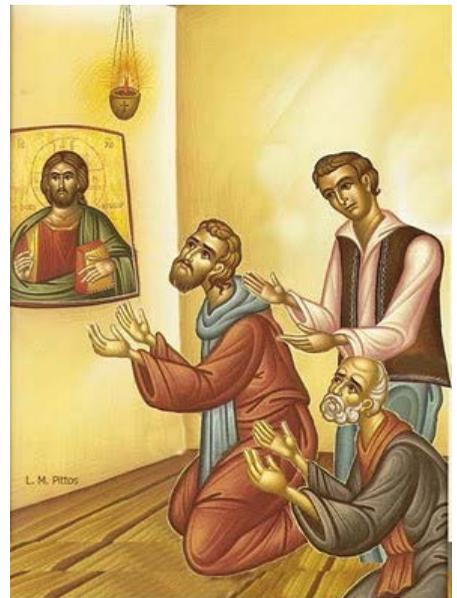
Let us pray for: Greek Orthodox Archbishop Paul Yazigi and Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim who were abducted on April 22, 2013, when gunmen stopped their vehicle near the battleground northern city of Aleppo

-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 held captive and persecuted for their Christian faith.



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, Anthony Blando, Helena Burkush, Danielle Caron, Michael Cavanaugh, Meghan Connors, Lucy Corriveau, Theresa Cullen, Jamileh Dagher, Lynn Dargie, Marie Dargie, Sher Farrow, Declan Finn, Julie Fregeau, Mary Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, Christine Freitas, Loretto Gauvin, Nick Haddad, Jean Hannoush, Lucille Harper, Peggy Hunt, 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.



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