

OUR LADY OF THE CEDARS CHURCH

A MELKITE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

140 MITCHELL STREET, MANCHESTER, NH 03103

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

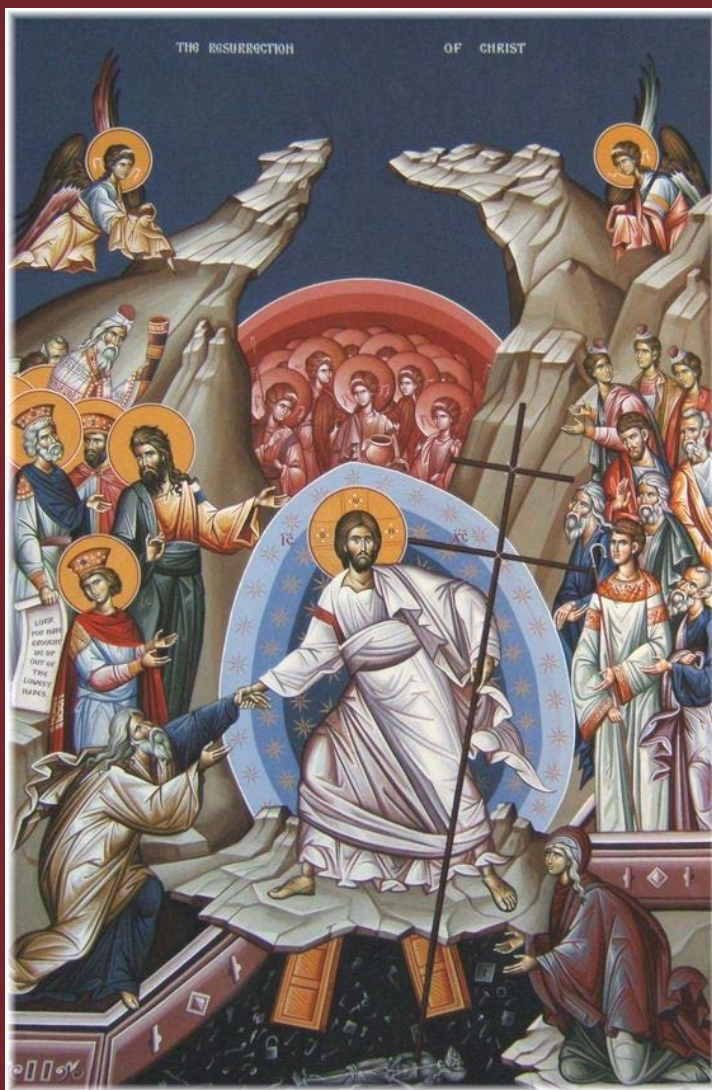
Email: oloc.church@comcast.net Website: olocnh.org

REV. THOMAS P. STEINMETZ, PASTOR

RT. REV. ANDRE ST. GERMAIN (retired)

REV. ROGER BOUCHER - Weekend Ministry

REV. THEOPHAN LEONARCZYK



Great and Glorious Pascha

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 Holy Communion in the home. Please advise the clergy whenever this sacrament is needed.

April 16, 2017

"You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth.

He is risen! He is not here!"



GREAT, GLORIOUS, AND HOLY PASCHA

THE PROKIMENON:

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE:

LET US BE GLAD AND REJOICE IN IT!

Give praise to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Today's Readings: Acts 1: 1-9 and John 1: 1-17

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, 9:30 PM:

**For all of the members of the parish,
and for our loved ones, living and departed**

Sunday, 11:00 AM:

**For all of the members of the parish,
and for our loved ones, living and departed**

Next Saturday, (Apr. 22) 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Alice Ashooh (10th), George Dagher (11th), David Nassif (27th), Saide George (53rd), Tanous Noufel (51st), Ernest Elias (14th), Shaddan Attalla (35th), Abraham Abood (17th), Elias Jadda (62nd), Frederick Samara (13th), & Robert Smith (6th)

Next Sunday, (Apr. 23) 11:00 AM

**For the repose of Mary Stephen,
who departed from this life on Tuesday, April 11**



**Christ is Risen! He is truly risen!
 Christos anesti! Alithos anesti!
 Al-massehu qam! Haqqan qam!**



THE EASTER SEASON IS HERE!

The week that follows Pascha is known as “Bright Week.” All the days of this coming week are considered to constitute one continuous celebration of Pascha. For the next forty days (until the Feast of the Ascension on May 25), the doors of the iconostasis remain open as a reminder that Christ has destroyed the barrier between God and humanity, and has opened the gates of Heaven for us. During this forty-day period, there is no fasting or abstinence, even on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Bring the Easter Fire home with you!

Candles are available in the back of the church for anyone who would like to bring home the blessed fire of Easter!



Sunday School News: Classes will resume at 10 AM next Sunday.

Attendance: Last Saturday, 4:30 PM: 26 Sunday, 11:00 AM: 172

Last Weekend’s Collection: \$ 1,444.⁰⁰

Collection for Flowers: \$ 833.⁰⁰

The average envelope offering last week was 28.⁵⁷

The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ \$ 78,574.⁸⁶

SERVICES FOR BRIGHT WEEK

Mon., Apr. 17	7:00 PM	Agape Vespers, with the Gospel proclaimed in many languages
Wed., Apr. 19	7:00 PM	Divine Liturgy of Bright Thursday
Fri., Apr. 21	7:00 PM	Divine Liturgy of Bright Saturday
Sat. Apr. 22	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The Sunday of St. Thomas
Sun., Apr. 23	10:15 AM	Sunday Orthros
Sun., Apr. 23	11:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: The Sunday of St. Thomas

In case you were wondering...

Why are there leaves all over the floor?

On Holy Saturday morning, a vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great is celebrated. This is the longest Divine Liturgy of the entire year. It begins with the blessing of the New Fire, and a procession by the faithful.

During the Lamp Lighting Psalms of Vespers the altar cloths and vestments are changed from dark to white. In preparation for the Gospel reading, the clergy strew laurel leaves and flower petals all over the church. In ancient times, crowns of laurel were symbols of victory in battle, and laurel leaves would be strewn before victorious generals in parades. They are scattered about the church to symbolize the shattered gates and broken chains of Hades, Jesus' victory over death, and in preparation for His triumphal entry into the church at the hajmeh. The scattering of the leaves is sometimes accompanied by the clattering of wooden instruments commemorating the outcry and commotion of Hades as it is destroyed by Christ, Who has descended into it.

The Gospel reading (Matthew 28:1–20) tells of the women that went to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, to anoint the body of Jesus. The angel greeted them with joyful announcement that "He is not here, He has Risen even as He said!" This proclamation is read three times, accompanied by the ringing of bells – heard for the first time since the start of Great Lent.

While the liturgical atmosphere changes from sorrow to joy at this service, the faithful continue to fast and the Paschal greeting, "Christ is risen!", is not exchanged until after midnight during the Paschal Vigil. That is because this service represents the proclamation of Jesus' victory over death to those in Hades, but the Resurrection has not yet been announced to those on earth, which takes place during the Paschal Vigil on Holy Saturday night.

Why do we have red eggs on Pascha?

It is an ancient Orthodox Christian tradition to have red eggs at Pascha. The custom of presenting each other with a red egg at Pascha reflects an interchange between Mary Magdalene and Tiberius Caesar.

According to tradition, Mary Magdalene traveled to Rome, where she was able to obtain an audience with the Roman Emperor, Tiberius Caesar. According to custom, everyone visiting the Emperor was supposed to bring him a gift. Rich and influential people, of course, brought expensive gifts whereas the poor offered whatever they could afford. Mary Magdalene took an egg to the Emperor's palace and handed it to Tiberius Caesar with the greeting: "Christ is risen!"

Tiberius Caesar, naturally, could not believe what he heard and responded to her: "How could anyone ever rise from the dead? It is as impossible as that white egg to turn red." While Tiberius was speaking these words, the egg in the hand of Mary Magdalene began changing color until it finally became bright red. Thus the Paschal greeting -- in universal Christendom, both East and West -- has ever since remained "Christ is risen!" and it became traditional for Christians throughout the world to color eggs in red.



In grateful acknowledgement of those who donated for Pascha flowers

“O Lord...sanctify those who love the beauty of your house...”

Given by:

In memory of:

Rania Abi Farah	
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Abood	
Robert & Robin Anderson Family	Deceased loved ones
Almaz Ashooh & Family	Ernest Ashooh and Nazem & Selma Wehbe
Betty Ashooh	Mitch & Millie Ashooh, Mike Duquette, & Gene Freyberger
Rich Ashooh Family	Emile Ashooh & Louise Ashooh
Terri Cullen	
Charbel Dagher & Family	Abraham & Martha Dagher
Salam & Martha Dagher	Deceased members of the Dagher family
Peter & Marilyn Detone	
Tim & Alma Ermatinger	Our mothers
Wissam & Jeanne Haidar	Haidar Family and Assaly Family
Paul & Barbara Kearney	Deceased family members
Ibrahim & Leila Khoury	Family
Joseph & Marie Khoury	My family and good health
Ken Kmoisarek	
Mary-Ann LaJeunesse	
Mr. & Mrs. Theoharris Lazos	Emile & Louise Ashooh
Rev. Dcn. Paul & Terri Leonarczyk	Deceased members of the Jabaley & Leonarczyk Families
Kenneth Monty	All deceased loved ones
Kamal & Najwa Moussoba	
Joseph & Sherry Nehme	Deceased members of our families
Stefan & Jeanine Notter	Deceased family and friends
Mr. & Mrs. Denis O'Keefe	
RJ & Elizabeth Palazzolo	
Rt. Rev. Andre & Claire St. Germain	
Ray & Denise Sherburne Family	Edna Sherburne
Ted & Dolly Shiepe	All of our deceased loved ones
Mr. & Mrs. John Siwik	
Rev. Thomas & Kathleen Steinmetz	Deceased family members

BY HIS DEATH HE HAS TRAMPLED UPON DEATH

“CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD and by His death He has trampled upon Death and has given life to those who are in the tombs.”



This hymn, the troparion of Pascha, is chanted repeatedly on Pascha and throughout the forty days until the feast of Christ’s ascension. Many of us know it by heart. Often, however, we have not plumbed the depth of its meaning, particularly as it applies to our lives.

Why Did Christ Die?

On the most basic level we can say that Christ died because humans die and He was fully human. By truly assuming all that is human apart from sin, the Word of God accepted all the weaknesses inherent in our human nature, from the indignities of birth and infancy to the final humiliation of death. Christ died because He was fully and completely human as well as divine.

But Christ did not simply die; by His death He defeated Death. The first and most obvious aspect of this victory is that He rose from the dead: Death could take Him because He was human; it could not hold Him because He was the Son of God. Christ rose from the dead because He was fully and completely divine as well as human.

Christ’s Death Takes Away Sin

The Scriptures specify a particular result of Christ’s victory over Death. Dying, they teach, He destroyed the power of sin over us. When St Paul summarized the Church’s belief about the Lord Jesus for the Corinthians the first thing he mentioned was that Christ died for our sins: *“I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...”* (1 Cor 15:3-4).

St Paul’s summary has been described as an early creed, putting together various aspects of the Christian message in a systematic way. To say that Christ died “for our sins” means that His death on the cross, where His blood would be poured out, would somehow achieve the overthrow of sin; not that people would cease sinning but that sin would no longer have the ultimate power over mankind.

This message is depicted graphically in the Byzantine icon of the Resurrection – an image that may help us understand how our sins are affected by Christ’s death. Our icon is based, not on the Gospel accounts of the empty tomb but on the following passages from the

teaching of St Peter. In his first sermon after the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Peter quoted this verse of Psalm 16: *“Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption”* (Ps 16: 9-10) and applied it to Christ. The patriarch David, he wrote, being a prophet, *“...spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption”* (Acts 2:31). We refer to this when we say in the Apostles’ Creed that *“He descended into hell.”*

Christ’s descent among the dead is, in fact, an invasion, bringing to the dead the imminent expectation of eternal life. In the first universal epistle of St Peter we read: *“Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison who formerly were disobedient...”* (1 Pt 3:18-20).

The icon depicts the power of Christ’s presence in the realm of the dead. Locks and chains, representing the power of sin and death over mankind, are shown broken on the ground. Christ is depicted taking the “formerly disobedient” Adam and Eve by the hand and leading them out of the pit to God. The Psalmist King David and other Old Testament personages are often depicted with them sharing in Christ’s victory over Death. Christ’s mission to the imprisoned spirits is often described in English as the “harrowing (despoiling) of hell.”

We celebrate this confrontation with sin and death in our Paschal services. At the vespers of Pascha on Great Saturday we sing of the liberation of the dead: *“Today Hades tearfully sighs: ‘My power has crumbled, for the Shepherd crucified has raised Adam; and those whom I had possessed, I lost. Those whom I had swallowed by my might, I have given up completely: for the Crucified has emptied the graves, and the power of death has vanished!’ O Lord, glory to Your Cross and to Your holy Resurrection!”*

Paschal Matins begins with a representation of the King of glory banging on the gates of Hades and leading mankind (all of us) into the Kingdom of God, the Church. The assault on sin and death is successful and we are freed from their ultimate power.

Trampling Upon Death

We who are united to Christ in His death and resurrection through baptism are called to continue His defeat of sin and death in our own person, as the Scriptures make clear. *“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ‘Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth’; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.”* (1 Pt 2:19-24)

Death is defeated when we allow Christ to take us by the hand and lead us along His way of not reacting to evil by copying it; rather to follow Christ’s way of forgiveness and trust in God even to death. Then our deeds as well as our words will proclaim that Christ is risen and that we are as well.

Please remember to pray for the health and protection of Genevieve Allen, Donna Andruskiewicz, 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, Janet Drake, Sher Farrow, Julie Fregeau, Mary Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, Christine Freitas, John Gallagher, Marguerite Ganem, Loretto Gauvin, Bonnie Gomez, Gail Fisher, Laurice Haddad, Nick Haddad, Lucille Harper, Laura Jorba, Virginia Kearney, Shirley Lanoue, Susan Latvis, Diana Lebel, Peggy Leclear, Fr. Theophan Leonarczyk, Sadie Grace McCallum, Miriam McCallum, Ramona Matias, Susan Merrill, Joanne Nader, Alfred Nasr, Afef Nasr, Raymond Nehme, Samira Nehme, 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, 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.



  <p>Joe Ashooh, Agent 297 South Willow St Manchester, NH 03103 603-624-1000 www.joesthere.com</p> <p>Providing Insurance and Financial Services Call us for a free quote</p>	<p>NORTH HILLS REALTY GROUP, LLC <i>Residential Real Estate Brokers</i> Abraham Dagher, Realtor 814 Elm St., Suite # 302 Manchester, NH 03101 (603) 629-9988</p>	 <p>Chuck Stephen 814 Elm Street, Suite 503 Manchester, NH 03101 Tel # 603.606.3391 Toll Free 866.491.9675 chuck@glenwoodinvestment.com www.glenwoodinvestment.com</p> <p>Glenwood Investment Group <i>"Grow and protect your hard-earned wealth"</i></p>
<p>THE STEPHEN GROUP</p> <p>814 Elm Street, Suite 309 Manchester, NH 03101 Office 603.625.8825 Cell 603.419.9592</p> <p>JOHN STEPHEN <i>Managing Partner</i> jstephen@stephengroupinc.com www.stephengroupinc.com</p>		 <p>Stephen LAW GROUP PLLC</p> <p>Robert Stephen, Attorney at Law 582 Chestnut Street Manchester, NH 03104 phone 603-663-1007 www.StephenLaw.com</p>
<p>Check out www.melkite.org -new educational material is posted regularly!</p>	<p>AUTOFAIR HYUNDAI</p> <p>John Cullen Sales & Leasing Consultant</p> <p>1477 South Willow Street Manchester, NH 03103 Direct: 603.634.0683 603.634.0500 Fax: 603.634.1792 www.autofairhyundai.com jcullen@autofair.com</p>	 <p>Your Ad Here \$300 per Year</p>