

# 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. 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 1, 2018**

**"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, 10:30 AM:**

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

**Next Saturday, (Apr. 7) 4:30 PM:**

For the repose of Salim Fawaz (23<sup>rd</sup>), Souad Kessop (6<sup>th</sup>), Stephen Stephen (40<sup>th</sup>),  
Bedra Ashkar (42<sup>nd</sup>), Anne Jadda (46<sup>th</sup>), Esther Essie (60<sup>th</sup>), David Wihbi (52<sup>nd</sup>),  
Thomas Holt (28<sup>th</sup>), Alice Ashooh (11<sup>th</sup>), Goerge Dagher (12<sup>th</sup>), David Nassif (28<sup>th</sup>),  
Saide George (54<sup>th</sup>), and Tanous Noufel (52<sup>nd</sup>)

**Next Sunday, (Apr. 8) 10:30 AM**

For the repose of John Kalil (40 Day Memorial) by his family

For the repose of Josephine Paquette, who departed this life on March 17

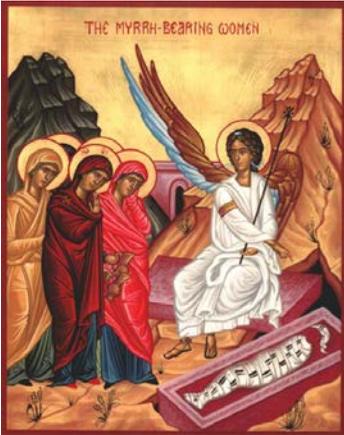


**Christ is Risen! He is truly risen!  
 Christos anesti! Alithos anesti!  
 Al-massehu qam! Haqqan qam!**



**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 10), 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 9:30 AM next Sunday.

**Attendance: Last Saturday, 4:30 PM: 21 Sunday, 11:00 AM: 187**

**Last Weekend’s Collection: \$ 1,319.<sup>00</sup> Flowers: \$ 713.<sup>00</sup>**

*The average envelope offering last week was 29.<sup>58</sup>*

*The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$75,978.<sup>01</sup>*

**SERVICES FOR BRIGHT WEEK**

Mon., Apr. 2	7:00 PM	<b>Agape Vespers, with the Gospel proclaimed in many languages</b>
Wed., Apr. 4	7:00 PM	<b>Divine Liturgy of Bright Thursday</b>
Fri., Apr. 6	7:00 PM	<b>Divine Liturgy of Bright Saturday</b>
Sat. Apr. 7	4:30 PM	<b>Divine Liturgy: The Sunday of St. Thomas</b>
Sun., Apr. 8	9:45 AM	<b>Sunday Orthros</b>
Sun., Apr. 8	10:30 AM	<b>Divine Liturgy: The Sunday of St. Thomas</b>

# An Explanation of the Icon of the Resurrection

The *Icon for the Resurrection* of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is technically the *Icon of Christ's Descent into Hades*, but is. It is the visual Gospel, the Holy Scripture written in form and picture, for all to participate in the Good News of this event.

The *Icon of Christ's Descent into Hades*, commonly called the *Anastasis* or *Resurrection Icon*, is not a photojournalists recording of what took place in the bowels of the earth, but rather a spiritual representation of the significance, reality and importance of what Christ accomplished. Although the details vary from icon to icon, the essential elements remain the same:

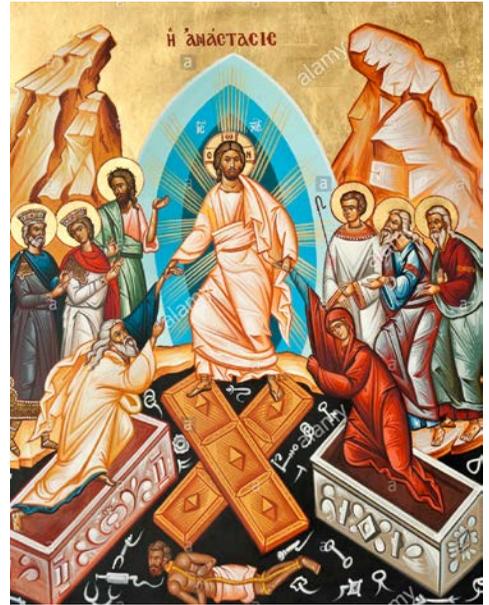
Christ is shown standing on the gates of Hades, which he has trampled down. The gates are suspended over a black hole in the form of a cross. Hades is depicted as a person, conquered and bound. The hardware that held the gates are shattered and scattered, showing that the gates will never be closed again.

Christ is dressed in a garment of white, orange or sometimes even dark hews of blue, or brown, but with gold highlights emanating light from His transfigured body, showing that He is the Light of the world.

He is raising Adam from his tomb with Eve on the other side. Adam offers his hand to Christ rather than clasping Christ's hand to show that it is Christ who raises us from the dead. With His other hand, Christ raises Eve from her tomb, or He may be depicted holding a scroll in His hand, in order to proclaim the Good News to the captives. Sometimes He is shown holding a cross in His hand, the tool by which He broke apart the gates of Hell. Christ's hands and feet still show the marks of the nails.

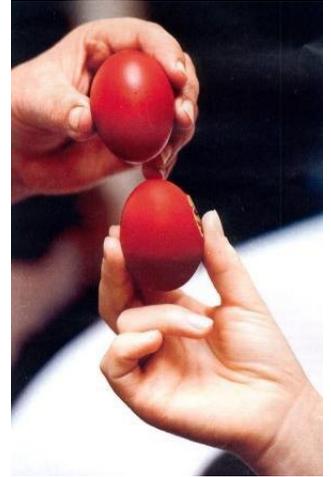
There are many figures surrounding Christ. On the left side in this icon we have the kings, David and Solomon, who are Christ's ancestors; St. John the Baptist, the last of the Old Testament Prophets is also present, proclaiming in Hades as he did in this world "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand." Moses is sometimes shown, as he represents the first covenant and one who witnessed the first Passover; and Abel, the first to suffer injustice as the consequences of sin; In the background are various kings, prophets, and righteous men who immediately recognize the Risen One. On the right side we have the contemporaries of Christ showing us that this is an eternal act that transcends time and space.

This is the quintessential icon for the faithful because in it is the fulfillment of God's purpose for humanity. It speaks of the Restoration of Adam (and all humanity) into communion with God and tells of the Awesome Victory over Death.



# Death Could Not Hold Him

St Matthew's Gospel tells us that the Lord Jesus was buried in a tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea: *"Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed"* (Mt 27:57-60). We learn from Mk 15:43 that this Joseph was not only well-to-do, but also a leading Jew, a member of the Sanhedrin. John adds that he was a disciple of Jesus, *"but secretly, for fear of the Jews"* (Jn 19:38).



The first-century Jewish historian Josephus wrote that the requirement to bury the dead before sunset was so important that even executed criminals would be buried, if only temporarily, while the Roman practice was that their bodies would be left exposed to the elements.

John also tells us that Joseph's tomb was near the place where Jesus was crucified, and therefore outside the city of Jerusalem. *"Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby"* (Jn 19:41, 42). At the time, most Jews in the area were buried in caves hollowed out for the purpose or dug out of the nearby rock.

According to John, Joseph was accompanied by the Pharisee Nicodemus, a member of the ruling class. *"And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury"* (Jn 19:39, 40).

## The Tomb of Jesus Today

The burial place of the Lord was not adorned outwardly in any way, but its location was firmly fixed in the hearts of believers. It became such a place of devotion that the Roman Emperor Hadrian had a temple built to the goddess Venus over the spot to affirm the superiority of the Roman state religion. According to the fourth-century historian Eusebius, *"Certain impious and godless persons had thought to remove this sacred cave entirely from the eyes of men, supposing in their folly that thus they should be able effectually to obscure the truth. Accordingly, they brought a quantity of earth from a distance with much labor, and covered the entire spot; then, having raised this to a moderate height, they paved it with stone, concealing the holy cave beneath this massive mound. Then, as though their purpose had been effectually accomplished, they prepare on this foundation a truly dreadful sepulcher of souls, by building a gloomy shrine of lifeless idols to the impure spirit whom they call Venus, and offering detestable oblations therein on profane and accursed altars. For they supposed that their object could not otherwise be fully attained, than by thus burying the sacred cave beneath these foul pollutions"* (*Life of Constantine*, III, XXVI).

Under Constantine, Christianity was freed from persecution and, later, obtained a protected status. Constantine had the temple to Venus destroyed and replaced it with a church in AD 335. Its

dedication is celebrated in our liturgy on September 13 each year. Known in the West as the Holy Sepulchre, its authentic name is the *Anastasis*, the Church of the Resurrection.

This church was enlarged, damaged, repaired and destroyed again several times during the following centuries. The three main components – the basilica, the chapel of the crucifixion at Golgotha and the tomb – were enclosed in the single structure we have today.

The tomb itself was a cavern “*hewn out of the rock,*” as we read in Mt 27:59. Constantine’s builders isolated the tomb by removing the rockface around it. It was enclosed in a rotunda in the year 380. In 2016 restoration work began on the tomb-chapel. Marble cladding which protected the shelf or burial bed on which the Lord’s body had been laid, was removed, exposing the original limestone shelf. After some 60 hours of studying and documenting the site, archeologists replaced the cladding, reasonably certain that this was indeed the burial place of Jesus.

### **Why Red Eggs on Pascha?**

It is an ancient Orthodox Christian tradition to have red eggs at Pascha. The tradition is for eggs to be dyed red on Holy Thursday in commemoration of the Last Supper, the final meal which Jesus shared with his Apostles in Jerusalem before his crucifixion. The faithful exchange the Paschal greeting (Christ is risen! – Indeed, He is risen!), cracking each other’s eggs. The broken shell, dyed red in remembrance of the blood of Christ, becomes an image of the empty tomb, powerless to contain the One who was confined in it.

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. Her purpose was to protest to him that his governor in Judea, Pontius Pilate, and the two high priests, Annas and Caiaphas, had conspired and executed an innocent man, namely our Lord Jesus Christ.

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. Mary Magdalene then went on to explain to Tiberius Caesar that the now-red egg symbolized life rising from a sealed chamber, a symbol that would have been understandable to a pagan Roman. 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.

Mary Magdalene is often shown in iconography to be holding the red egg once presented to Tiberius Caesar, which she used to explain the mystery of Christ rising from a sealed tomb.



**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:**

Robert & Robin Anderson Family	Deceased loved ones
Vivian Beadle	
Salam & Martha Dagher	Josephine Paquette and Michael Dunn
Tim & Alma Ermatinger	
The Fregeau Family	Mitch & Millie Ashooh
Grace Freije	
Wissam & Jeanne Haidar	Haidar Family and Assaly Family
Paul & Barbara Kearney	Patricia Kew and Hanichka Tillinger
Joseph & Marie Khoury	Good health to the Family
Ken Komisarek	
Mary-Ann LaJeunesse	
Rev. Theophan & Terri Leonarczyk	Deceased members of the Jabaley and Leonarczyk families
Matthew and Jessica Lomanno	
Paul Mansur	
Kenneth Monty	Deceased relatives and friends
Subdeacon Tom Moses	Rosa Botaish
Kamal & Najwa Moussoba	
Joseph & Sherry Nehme	Deceased members of our families
Stefan & Jeanine Notter	Deceased family and friends
RJ & Elizabeth Palazzolo	
Mary Jo Pond	Russell Pond
Rt. Rev. Andre & Claire St. Germain	Deceased members of our families
Ray & Denise Sherburne Family	Deceased members of the Sherburne and Champagne Families
Ted & Dolly Shiepe	all our deceased loved ones
John & Kara Siwik	
Rev. Thomas & Kathleen Steinmetz	Our deceased family members

**Please remember** to pray for the health and protection of Genevieve Allen, Donna Andruskiewicz, Olivia Aragon, Paul Archambeault, Elizabeth Ashooh, Elsie Ashooh, Alice Auclair, Erin Baroody, Michael Baroody, Anthony Blando, Helena Burkush, Fr. Michael Carl, Danielle Caron, Michael Cavanaugh, Meghan Connors, Sarah Cullen, Theresa Cullen, Sarah Dagher, Bishop John Elya, Sher Farrow, Julie Fregeau, Mary Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, Christine Freitas, John Gallagher, Marguerite Ganem, Mary Ann Garvey, Loretto Gauvin, Bonnie Gomez, Gail Fisher, Laurice Haddad, Nick Haddad, Lucille Harper, Laura Jorba, Virginia Kearney, Eileen Kennedy, Leila Khoury, Shirley Lanoue, Susan Latvis, Diana Label, Haley Lesmerises, Sadie Grace McCallum, Miriam McCallum, Ramona Matias, Susan Merrill, Maria Moser, Joanne Nader, Alfred Nasr, Afef Nasr, Raymond Nehme, Samira Nehme, Steve Notter, Steven O'Leary, Ellen Osgood, MaryJo Pond, Sheila Quinn, Susan Quintal, Deborah Roberts, Adam Rubin, Fr. Andre St. Germain, Kara Salvias, Raymond Sherburne, Tarrant Smith, Catherine Waldron, George Webber, Martha Webber, Marilyn Whitmore, 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><b>Joe Ashooh, Agent</b> 297 South Willow St Manchester, NH 03103 603-624-1000 <a href="http://www.joesthere.com">www.joesthere.com</a></p> <p>Providing Insurance and Financial Services Call us for a free quote</p>	<p><b>NORTH HILLS REALTY GROUP, LLC</b> <i>Residential Real Estate Brokers</i> <b>Abraham Dagher, Realtor</b> 814 Elm St., Suite # 302 Manchester, NH 03101 <b>(603) 629-9988</b></p>	 <p><b>Chuck Stephen</b> 814 Elm Street, Suite 503 Manchester, NH 03101 Tel # 603.606.3391 Toll Free 866.491.9675 <a href="mailto:chuck@glenwoodinvestment.com">chuck@glenwoodinvestment.com</a> <a href="http://www.glenwoodinvestment.com">www.glenwoodinvestment.com</a></p> <p><b>Glenwood Investment Group</b> <i>“Grow and protect your hard-earned wealth”</i></p>
<p><b>THE STEPHEN GROUP</b></p> <p>814 Elm Street, Suite 309 Manchester, NH 03101 Office 603.625.8825 Cell 603.419.9592</p> <p><b>JOHN STEPHEN</b> <i>Managing Partner</i> <a href="mailto:jstephen@stephengroupinc.com">jstephen@stephengroupinc.com</a> <a href="http://www.stephengroupinc.com">www.stephengroupinc.com</a></p>		 <p><b>Stephen LAW GROUP P.L.C.</b></p> <p><b>Robert Stephen, Attorney at Law</b> 582 Chestnut Street Manchester, NH 03104 phone 603-663-1007 <a href="http://www.StephenLaw.com">www.StephenLaw.com</a></p>
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