



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. 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)*

May 3, 2015

The Fifth Sunday of Great and Holy Pascha

The Commemoration of

the Holy Martyrs Timothy and Maura

THE SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Parish Advisory & Finance Council:

KEN MONTY (PRESIDENT), RICHARD ASHOOH, LUKE ANDERSON, ROBERT ANDERSON,
ROBIN ANDERSON, MARY CULLEN, MARTHA DAGHER, MARYLOU LAZOS, TERRI LEONARCZYK,
MATTHEW LOMANNO, PAUL MANSUR, NAJWA MOUSSOBA, 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 (4th Tone) Page 52

The Troparion of Mid-Pentecost (8th Tone):

At the middle point of this festive season, give my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of true worship. For You called out to all men, "Whoever is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink!" O Christ God, Fountain of Life, glory to You!

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

Kondakion of Pascha (2nd Tone)

Though You went down in the tomb O Immortal One, You overthrew the power of Hades and rose victorious, O Christ God. You greeted the ointment-bearing women saying, "Rejoice!" You gave peace to Your Apostles, and to those who had fallen, resurrection.

THE PROKIMENON:

**HOW GREAT ARE YOUR WORKS, O LORD!
IN WISDOM YOU HAVE WROUGHT THEM ALL!**

Bless the Lord, O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord, my God!

Today's Readings: Acts 11: 19-30 and John 4: 5-42

Hirmos of Pascha (1st Tone)

The angel cried out to the one who is full of grace: "Hail, O Immaculate Virgin! Hail again! For your Son is risen from the tomb on the third day!" Shine! Shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has shown upon you. Rejoice and be glad, O Sion, and you O Pure One, O Mother of God, exalt in the resurrection of your Son.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Sunday, 11:00 AM:

**For the repose of the deceased members of our parish,
of our deceased relatives, friends, and loved ones**

Next Saturday, 4:30 PM:

**For the repose of Frederick Samara (11th), Robert Smith (4th),
Mercedes Tesaluna (33rd), Sophie Haidar (16th),
David Akoury (9th), Najeeb Ashooh (67th), Zihree Burkush (47th),
Rose Stephen (47th), Habib Nassoura (16th), Zakia Kalil (35th),
Joan Case (13th), John Stephen (72nd), Gaby Stephen (44th),
Robert Baroody (11th), Arlene Lanoie (25th) Frederick Kalil (3rd)
Susan Wihby (68th) Annie Kalil (60th), Joseph Wihby (28th), Barbara Ashooh (57th),
and Zowdy Zeady (41st)**

Next Sunday, 11:00 AM:

For the repose of our former pastor, Fr. Joseph Dagher (18th Anniversary)

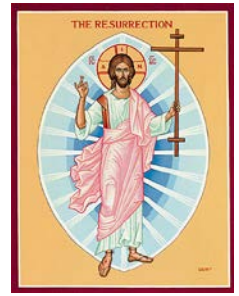


TROPARION OF PASCHA

Christ is risen from the dead, and by His death He has trampled upon Death, and has given life to those were in the tombs!

Christos Anesti ek nekron thanato thanaton bateesas keh tis en dees mnimasi zo-een kharisamenos!

Al-Massehu-qama min bayn il-amwat wa wati al-mawta bil-mawt wa wahab al hayat lil lazeena fil qubor!



The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Our Savior, the Lord Jesus, the Source of Life, came to the well of Jacob, Father of the Patriarchs, and asked a drink of water from the hands of a Samaritan woman. But she refused to serve Him, saying that Jews had no dealings with Samaritans. But the wise Creator changed her heart through the sweetness of His words so that she sought from Him the words of everlasting life; and having received it, she cried out and proclaimed to all: “Come and see the Knower of Secrets, God Himself who has appeared in the flesh so that mankind may be saved by Him!” *-from Matins*

Paschal Mission concludes May 8

Our Paschal Mission concludes on Friday, May 8. The evening will begin with the prayers of Compline at 7:00 PM, followed by a video presentation by Fr. Robert Baron. The topic of the mission is “Priest, Prophet, and King.” This Friday Fr. Robert will explain the meaning of the kingly ministry of Jesus, and how we are to live out that same role in our lives as His followers.

Meat Pies and French Fries!

The parish youth group will be serving up meat pies and French fries after the Sunday Liturgy. These acclaimed delicacies are available for the low price of \$2 and will help to support our youth group. *But wait – there’s more! Coming up on May 17: Lamb Shawarma!*

Attendance Saturday 4:30 PM: 24 Sunday 11:00 AM: 115

Last Weekend’s Collection: \$ 1,051.⁰⁰ Mortgage: \$ 976.⁰⁰

The average Sunday envelope donation: \$31.¹⁷

The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ 299,649.⁴⁷

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Tues., May 5	8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy: <i>For the health of Ted Baroody</i>
Wed., May 6	7:00 PM	Divine Liturgy: <i>For the persecuted Christians of the Middle East</i>
Thurs., May 7	8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy: <i>For the health of Sarah Beadle</i>
Fri, May 8	7:00 PM	Compline, followed by Paschal Mission
Sat., May 9	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The Sunday of the Man Born Blind
Sun., May 10	10:15 AM	Sunday Orthros
Sun., May 10	11:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: The Sunday of the Man Born Blind

Wednesday Evening: Divine Liturgy for the persecuted Christians of the Middle East and throughout the world

Let us pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ suffering in the Middle East and throughout the world. The Divine Liturgy will be offered on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM, for their intention and for the repose of those Christians who have lost their lives particularly for the following incidents for the month of April:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>City/State</i>	<i>Killed</i>	<i>Injured</i>	<i>Description</i>
4/27/2015	Nigeria	Guma	13	0	Thirteen Christians are slaughtered in their homes by Muslim raiders.
4/19/2015	Libya	Sirte	30	0	The Islamic State releases a video showing the brutal execution of thirty captured Ethiopian Christians, at least a dozen of whom are beheaded.
4/17/2015	Pakistan	Lahore	0	3	Extremists open fire on a Catholic school.
4/16/2015	Italy	Sicily	12	0	A dozen Christians on a refugee boat are thrown to their deaths by Muslims.
4/11/2015	Syria	Aleppo	20	24	Terrorists shell a Christian neighborhood, killing twenty residents.
4/10/2015	Pakistan	Lahore	0	1	A young Christian is beaten and set on fire.
4/8/2015	Nigeria	Gidan Maso	1	0	A pastor's daughter suffocates when Muslims torch a church over another Muslim's conversion.
4/6/2015	Bangladesh	Sreemongal	0	2	A pastor and parishioner are attacked and stabbed by a group of thirty-five Muslims.
4/5/2015	Egypt	Alexandria	0	4	Ajnad Misr members open fire on a Christian church bus.
4/2/2015	Kenya	Garissa	148	79	A handful of Muslims storm a Christian college, separate out the non-Muslims and execute 148 of them.

Let us also pray of the conversion of the persecutors, remembering that in the Liturgy of St. Basil we pray: "Remember, O God ... those who love us and those who hate us, and those who have begged us, unworthy though we be, to remember them in our prayers. Remember all Your people, O Lord our God, and upon all pour forth Your rich mercies, granting them everything they need for salvation."

Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy!

The Samaritan Woman: The Holy Martyr Photini



St. Photini was the Samaritan woman whose encounter with Christ at Jacob's Well is commemorated today. It was she who accepted the "living water" offered her by Christ Himself after repenting from her many sins (John. 4:5-42). She went and told her townspeople that she had met the Christ. For this, she is sometimes recognized as the first to proclaim the Gospel of Christ.

The apostles of Christ baptized her and gave her the name of Photini (Svetlana) the Samaritan Woman, which means "the enlightened one." She converted her five sisters (Sts. Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskeva, Kyriake) and her two sons, Victor (named St. Photinus) and St. Joses, and Nero's daughter St. Domnina. They all became tireless evangelists for Christ, and they all suffered martyrdom.

After Sts. Peter and Paul were martyred, St. Photini and her family left their homeland of Sychar, in Samaria, to travel to Carthage where she fearlessly proclaimed the Gospel of Christ. This was during the reign of the emperor Nero (54-68), who displayed excessive cruelty against Christians. St Photina traveled to Italy, where she and her two sons and five sisters were arrested as Christians. They were locked in prison and suffered terrible tortures, but were miraculously healed and protected from harm.

Three years passed, and Nero sent to the prison for one of his servants, who had been locked up. The messengers reported to him that Sts. Sebastian, Photinus and Joses, who had been blinded, had completely recovered, and that people were visiting them to hear their preaching. The whole prison had been transformed into a bright and fragrant place where God was glorified.

Nero then gave orders to crucify the saints, and to beat their naked bodies with straps. On the fourth day the emperor sent servants to see whether the martyrs were still alive. But, approaching the place of the tortures, the servants fell blind. An angel of the Lord freed the martyrs from their crosses and healed them. The saints took pity on the blinded servants, and restored their sight by their prayers to the Lord. Those who were healed came to believe in Christ and were soon baptized.

These holy Saints all endured unspeakable tortures at the order of the Emperor Nero and received the crown of martyrdom. As for St. Photina herself, after suffering many cruel torments, she was locked up in prison for twenty more days.

After this Nero had her brought to him and asked if she would now relent and offer sacrifice to the idols. St Photina spit in the face of the emperor, and laughing at him, said, "O most impious of the blind, you profligate and stupid man! Do you think me so deluded that I would consent to renounce my Lord Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols as blind as you?"

Hearing such words, Nero gave orders to again throw the martyr down the well, where she surrendered her soul to God (+ ca. 66). She is remembered by the Church as a Holy Martyr and Equal to the Apostles.

“More an Evangelist than a Prophet”

OF ALL THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS quoted in the New Testament, the most frequently cited is Isaiah, who is remembered on our Church’s calendar on May 9. Isaiah’s prophecies are referenced 66 times in the New Testament; only the Psalms are more frequently quoted.

Isaiah lived in the eighth century BC, a time of great political upheaval in the Holy Land. The Assyrian Empire was poised to engulf the northern kingdom, Israel, (which it would succeed in doing) and threatened the southern kingdom, Judah, as well. While the rulers’ response was to seek military alliances with neighboring pagan kingdoms, Isaiah’s response was decidedly apolitical: only faithfulness to God and His way would save His people.

Isaiah insisted that the Jews reject the idolatry of their pagan neighbors rather than flirt with it for political ends. He preached the need for rediscovering justice and charity as the distinctive signs of God’s people at a time when the godly way of life was being forgotten. Otherwise God would use His people’s enemies to chastise them for their infidelities.

While some modern scholars suggest otherwise, ancient authors claim that Isaiah prophesied for over sixty years and died in the reign of Manasseh. *The Martyrdom of Isaiah*, a first-century AD Jewish work, reflects the tradition that Isaiah was killed by order of Manasseh. Manasseh would later repent and author the prayer which bears his name.

The Call of Isaiah

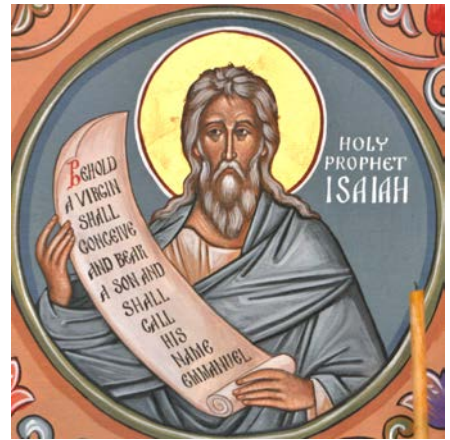
Isaiah describes the religious experience which launched his prophetic activity:

“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the earth is full of His glory!’ And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

“So I said: ‘Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.’

“Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged’” (Is 6:1-7).

Isaiah’s vision has become an icon of our liturgical experience of the glory of God. We depict the six-winged seraphim hovering over the throne of God on the reredos which are poised over our churches’ holy tables. We quote their description (“with two he covered...”) in our Liturgy of St. Basil. In every Liturgy of East and West the angels’ cry (“Holy, holy, holy...”) introduces the anaphora, its central prayer. Finally, the live coal from the altar has become an image of the Eucharist which touches our lips, takes away our iniquities and purges our sins.



Isaiah's Messianic Prophecies

Isaiah foretold the coming of a Messiah who would deliver God's people from their oppressors. In Isaiah 45 this Messiah is identified as Cyrus the Great, the Persian monarch who defeated the Babylonians in the sixth century BC and allowed the Jews to return to the Holy Land and rebuild Jerusalem. *"Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held... 'I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways; he shall build My city And let My exiles go free, not for price nor reward,' says the LORD of hosts"* (Is 45:13).

Nevertheless, Jewish scholars saw that this prophecy would reach its ultimate fulfillment in Another who was to come in the future. The first Christians recognized that Jesus was the long-awaited One who fulfilled these prophecies: *"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God'"* (Is 40:3).

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Is 7:14).

"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali... the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined" (Is 9:1, 2).

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever" (Is 9:6, 7).

"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious" (Is 11:10).

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound..." (Is 61:1).

The Suffering Servant

Perhaps the first prophecies of Isaiah to resonate among the followers of Jesus were the following which Jewish texts like the Babylonian Talmud attributed to a Messiah who conquered through suffering: *"I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting"* (Is 50:6).

"He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed... He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth" (Is 53:2-5, 7).

Most rabbis today see these prophecies as describing the suffering people of Israel. St Jerome (c. 342–420) expressed the thought of many Christian commentators since when he said, "[Isaiah] was more of an Evangelist than a Prophet, because he described all of the Mysteries of the Church of Christ so vividly that you would assume he was not prophesying about the future, but rather was composing a history of past events."

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, Fr. Michael Carl, Danielle Caron, Michael Cavanaugh, Meghan Connors, Theresa Cullen, Jamileh Dagher, Sher Farrow, Declan Finn, Janet Drake, Julie Fregeau, Mary Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, Christine Freitas, 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, Russell Pond, Sheila Quinn, Deborah Roberts, Adam Rubin, Fr. Andre St. Germain, Nassim Sleiman, Salwa Sleiman, Tarrant Smith, Mary Stephen, 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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