



# 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. THEOPHAN LEONARCZYK, Eparchial Chancellor

*"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 21, 2017 - The Sixth Sunday of Great and Holy Pascha**

**The Commemoration of the Holy Monarchs  
Constantine and Helen, Equals to the Apostles**



**THE SUNDAY OF  
THE MAN BORN BLIND**



**Parish Advisory & Finance Council:**

KEN MONTY (PRESIDENT), RICHARD ASHOOH, ROBERT ANDERSON, ROBIN ANDERSON, JOHN CULLEN, MARTHA DAGHER, TIM ERMATINGER, KEN KOMISAREK, MARYLOU LAZOS, PAUL MANSUR, NAJWA MOUSSOBA, JOE NEHME, MAURICE PARE, 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 (5<sup>th</sup> Tone) Page 55**

### **Troparion of Constantine and Helena (8<sup>th</sup> Tone)**

O Lord, your disciple, Emperor Constantine, who saw in the sky the Sign of your Cross, accepted the call that came straight from You, as it happened to Paul, and not from any man. He built his capital and entrusted it to Your care. Preserve our country in everlasting peace, through the intercession of the Mother of God, for You alone are the Lover of Mankind.

### **The Troparion of the Dormition of the Theotokos (1<sup>st</sup> Tone): Page 16**

### **Kondakion of Pascha (2<sup>nd</sup> 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:**

**THROUGH ALL THE EARTH THEIR VOICE RESOUNDS,  
AND TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD THEIR MESSAGE!**

*The heavens declare God's glory and the firmament proclaims the work of His hands!*

***Today's Readings: Acts 26:1;12-20 and John 9: 1-38***

### **Hirmos of Pascha (1<sup>st</sup> 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 Zion, and you O Pure One, O Mother of God, exalt in the resurrection of your Son.

## **LITURGY INTENTIONS**

### **Saturday, 4:30 PM:**

**For the repose of John Jadda (57<sup>th</sup>), Joseph Nasser Sr. (3<sup>rd</sup>),  
Freda George (26<sup>th</sup>), Peter Abood (37<sup>th</sup>), and Roland Archambault (18<sup>th</sup>)**

### **Sunday, 11:00 AM:**

**For the repose of our former pastors,  
Rev. Joseph Dagher, B.S.O., (20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
and Rev. Dominic Ledbetter, B.S.O. (21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)**

### **Next Saturday, (May 27) 4:30 PM:**

**For the repose of Gertrude Beadle (4<sup>th</sup>), Ned Kfoury (57<sup>th</sup>), Eassa Maloley (34<sup>th</sup>),  
Michael Baroody (56<sup>th</sup>), Matilda Ashooh (53<sup>rd</sup>), and Minnie Solomon (45<sup>th</sup>)**

### **Next Sunday, (May 28) 11:00 AM**

**For the health and salvation of Maria Moser and Mary Lear,  
by Bob and Robin Anderson**



## 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!



**Congratulations to our Sub-Deacon Tom Moses**, who has completed his seminary training and graduated from St. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary on Friday May 12. May God continue to direct his steps!

### Mahrajan 2017: We're really cooking now!

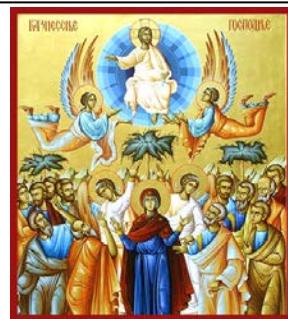
On Tuesday, May 23, we are making: **Lamb Kabobs** - On Thursday May 25: **Lamb Schwarma** and we really need your help! -6:00 PM - church hall - Hope to see you there!

### **The Leave-Taking of Pascha**

On Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM we will say goodbye to the Holy Season of Pascha with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy for the Leave-Taking of Pascha, the Feast of Feasts.

### **The Ascension of the Lord**

On Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM we will commemorate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord Jesus with the celebration of Divine Liturgy. This is one of the great feasts of the Church year.



**Newborn in Christ:** The Handmaid of God, Alia Judith Kinney, will receive the Holy Mysteries of Illumination – Baptism, Chrismation, and Holy Communion – Sunday morning. Alia is the daughter of Scot and Rania (Khoury) Kinney. Congratulations to Alia and to all of her family! May God grant them many years in health and happiness.

**Attendance Last Week: Sat., 4:30 PM: 26 Sun. 11 AM: 98**

**Last Weekend's Collection: \$ 1,176.<sup>00</sup>**

*The average Sunday envelope donation: \$31.<sup>52</sup>*

*The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ 78,319.<sup>05</sup>*

#### SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Tues., May 23	7:00 PM	<b>Divine Liturgy: The Leave-Taking of Pascha</b>
Wed., May 24	7:00 PM	<b>Divine Liturgy: The Ascension of the Lord</b>
Sat. May 27	4:30 PM	<b>Divine Liturgy: The Fathers of the First Council of Nicaea</b>
Sun., May 28	10:15 AM	<b>Sunday Orthros</b>
Sun., May 28	11:00 AM	<b>Divine Liturgy: The Fathers of the First Council of Nicaea</b>

## The Sunday of the Blind Man

This day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. The event is recorded in the Gospel of Saint John 9:1-41.

The Lord Jesus was coming from the Temple on the Sabbath, when, while walking in the way, He saw the blind man mentioned in today's Gospel. This man had been born thus from his mother's womb, that is, he had been born without eyes (see Saint John Chrysostom, Homily LVI on Matthew; Saint Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book V:15; and the Second Exorcism of Saint Basil the Great).

When the disciples saw this, they asked their Teacher, "Who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" They asked this because when the Lord had healed the paralytic at the Sheep's Pool, He had told him, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (John 5:14); so they wondered, if sickness was caused by sin, what sin could have been the cause of his being born

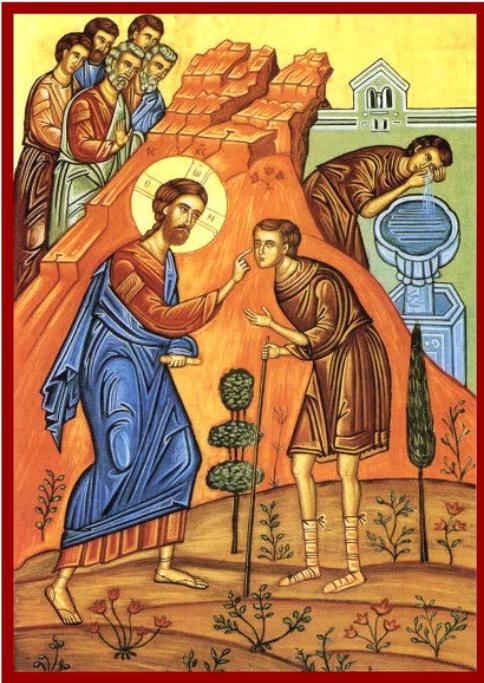
without eyes. But the Lord answered that this was for the glory of God.

Then the God-man spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle. He anointed the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam." Siloam (which means "sent") was a well-known spring in Jerusalem used by the inhabitants for its waters, which flowed to the eastern side of the city and collected in a large pool called "the Pool of Siloam." The blind man believed in Jesus' words, obeyed His command, went and washed himself, and returned, no longer blind, but having eyes and seeing.

This was the greatest miracle that our Lord had yet worked; as the man healed of his blindness himself testified, "Since time began, never was it heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind," although the Lord had already healed the blind eyes of many.

Because he now had eyes, some even doubted that he was the same person (John 9:8-9); and it was still lively in their remembrance when Christ came to the tomb of Lazarus, for they said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have caused that even this man should not have died?"

The icon of the Sunday of the Blind Man depicts the biblical story of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. Our Lord is shown placing the clay on the eyes of the man. He is with his disciples who are questioning Christ about the source of the man's affliction. The blind man is shown with his hand outstretched toward Christ expressing his faith and willingness to receive healing and grace from the Son of God. Our Lord has in His hand a scroll, which directs us to His statements, "I am the light of the world," (John 9:5), and "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed," (Luke 4:18).



# Sts. Constantine and Helen, Equals to the Apostles

Constantine the Great was born in Naissus (Nis, Serbia) around the year 274. After his defeat against Emperors Maxentius and Licinius, Emperor Constantine became the sovereign of the whole Roman Empire. According to the testimonies of historians Eusebius and Lactantius, on the eve of the battle with Maxentius, Constantine saw in the sky – at daylight – a bright cross above the sun with the inscription: “*In hoc SIGNO vinces*” (“*By this sign you will conquer*”).

The following night, during his sleep, Constantine had a vision of Christ, asking him to put this sign of the “Holy Cross” on all the flags his soldiers will carry at battle. Being obedient to what was revealed to him in the dream, Emperor Constantine followed the command given to him by Christ and he came out victorious in the battle with Maxentius. The Triumphal Arch of Constantine, now preserved in Rome, carries the inscription: “*Instinctual divinitatis*” - “*By divine inspiration*”, revealing how this victory over Maxentius was won.

Renouncing paganism, the Emperor issued the Edict of Milan (313) by which Christianity was recognized as one of the religions of the Roman Empire. Christianity later became the official religion of the Roman Empire during the reign of Theodosius the Great (379-395).

Constantine transferred his capital from ancient Rome, a center of paganism, to the city of Byzantium, which was renamed Constantinople, the city of Constantine. Constantine was deeply convinced that only Christianity could unify the immense Roman Empire with its diverse peoples. He supported the Church in every way. He recalled Christians from exile, he built churches, and he showed concern for the clergy. He also abolished crucifixion and other tortures that had been practiced under pagan Roman law.

The Emperor Constantine convened the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea (325), where, after long discussions, the heretical teachings of Arius were condemned by all the Holy Fathers present at the Council. After the Council, Saint Constantine continued with his active role in the welfare of the Church. He accepted holy Baptism on his deathbed, having prepared for it all his whole life. Saint Constantine died on the day of Pentecost in the year 337 and was buried in the church of the Holy Apostles, a church founded by him in a crypt he had prepared for himself.

Constantine’s mother, the Empress Helena, was born Flavia Julia Helena in the province of Bithynia. Her husband, the Roman general Constantius Chlorus, divorced her in the year 293. Empress Helena did not want to re-marry and withdrew from the public attention, but remained close to her Emperor son.. On a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Empress Helena discovered the tomb of Christ and the Cross that our Lord was crucified on. There she had built the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. St. Helena also built many Holy Christian temples and monasteries including the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem.

Because of their great service in protecting, supporting and promoting the Church, they have been given the honorary title of “the Equal of the Apostles.”



# Saul Becomes Paul

IN EVERY AGE there are people who have made dramatic turn-arounds in their life, going from one religion – or no religion – to another. These conversions often lead to a person making a significant contribution to the religious life of their age. One convert who has touched every successive age is St Paul the Apostle.

The story of St Paul's conversion is described three times in the New Testament – twice in the Acts of the Apostles and once in St Paul's Epistle to the Galatians. The story is basically the same, although there are a few variations we can note. The basic story, told largely in his own words, is as follows:

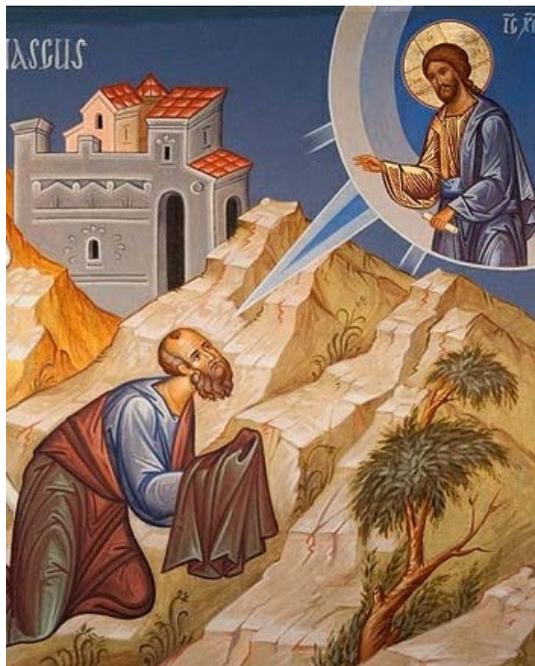
***Paul's Background*** – When he was attacked by Jews in Jerusalem and accused of defiling the temple Paul began his defense by speaking of his upbringing: *“I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' Law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today”* (Acts 22:3). At this time Paul was still known as Saul of Tarsus. The name Paul was given to him upon his conversion.

Paul's teacher, Gamaliel (+AD 52) was an important member of the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem. He is described in the New Testament as *“a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law held in respect by all the people”* (Acts 5:34) and a voice of moderation in their council. When the Sanhedrin was considering how to kill Peter and the other apostles, Gamaliel calmed them, saying *“...if this plan or this work [preaching Christ] is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God”* (Acts 5:38, 39).

We do not know why Saul did not adopt Gamaliel's approach to the followers of Jesus, but he describes his own attitude to them like this: *“I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren...”* (Acts 22:4, 5).

We may have a clue to Saul's thinking in what he wrote to believers in Galatia, St Paul described his religious convictions this way: *“And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers”* (Gal 1:14). He had been, after all, a participant in the stoning of the protomartyr, St. Stephen.

***The Commission to Damascus*** – There was a large Jewish community – some say it numbered 10,000 – in Damascus in the first century AD. This community, which traced its origin to the time of King David, some 1000 years earlier, was so prominent that it was ruled by its own ethnarch in Roman times. Some 130 miles from Jerusalem, Damascus was one of the first



destinations to which Jewish believers in Jesus brought their message. Their impact on the Jews of Damascus was so great that news of it reached Jerusalem. Saul “*went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem*” (Acts 9:1).

What happened on Saul’s journey to Syria is well known. Years later Paul described it for his accusers in Jerusalem with these words: “*Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ So I answered, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’*”

“*And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me. So I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.’ And since I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus*” (Acts 22:6-21).

**Saul’s Baptism** – Saul was led into the city by the hand, “*And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank*” (Acts 9:9). Then, we are told, the following took place: “*Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ And he said, ‘Here I am, Lord.’ So the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.’*”

Ananias protested, knowing that Saul was a fierce persecutor of the Church. “*But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.’*”

“*And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.*”

**Paul Preaches Christ** – As a result of Saul’s experience on the road, “*Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. Then all who heard were amazed, and said, ‘Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?’ But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ. Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him. But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him. Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket*” (Acts 9:19-25).

In 1885 the Melkite Patriarch Gregory II purchased a dilapidated mosque in the old city wall of Damascus. A former church, it had been long revered as the site of St Paul’s escape. It is now a church again.

## Today's Readings:

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (26: 1; 12-20)

In those days, when Agrippa Said to Paul, “You are permitted to speak for yourself,” Paul stretched out his hand and began his defense. “While I was traveling on this business to Damascus with authority and permission from the chief priests, at midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven brighter than the sunshine around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me Hebrew, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goad.’ And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet: for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to be a minister and a witness to what you have seen, and of the visions you shall have of me; delivering you from the people and from the nations, to whom I am now sending you, to open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the dominion of Satan to God; that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by faith in me.’

“Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision; but first to the people of Damascus and Jerusalem, and then all over Judea and the Gentiles, I set about declaring that they should repent and turn to God, doing work befitting their repentance.”

### الرسالة (اعمال الرسل 26 : 1 و 12 - 20)

في تلك الايام قال الملك اغريبيا لبولس: ماذون لك ان تُدافع عن نفسك. حينئذ بسط بولس يده وطفق يحتج: بينما انا منطلق الى دمشق، وانا على ذلك بسطان وتوكيل من رؤساء الكهنة، رأيتُ في نصف النهار على الطريق، ايها الملك، نوراً من السماء يفوق لمعان الشمس، قد ابرق حولي وحول السائرين معي. فسقطنا جميعنا على الطريق. وسمعت صوتاً يكلمني ويقول باللغة العبرانية: شاول لم تضطهذي؟ انه لصعب عليك ان ترفس المناخس. فقلت: من انت يا رب؟ فقال: أنا يسوع الذي أنت تضطهده. ولكن قم وقف على قدميك، فاني لهذا تراءيتُ لك لانتخبك خادماً وشاهداً بما رأيتُ وبما سأترأى لك فيه. وأنا أنجيك من الشعب ومن الأمم الذين انا مرسلك الآن اليهم، لتفتح عيونهم فيرجعوا من الظلمة الى النور، ومن سلطان الشيطان الى الله، حتى ينالوا مغفرة الخطايا وحظاً بين المقدسين، بالأيمان الذي بي. فمن ثم ايها الملك اغريبيا، لم أصر معاصياً للرؤيا السماوية، بل جعلتُ اكرز للذين في دمشق واورشليم اولاً، حتى بقعة اليهودية كلها، ثم للأمم، بان يتوبوا ويرجعوا الى الله عاملين اعمالاً تليق بالتوبة

## **The Holy Gospel according to St. John the Evangelist (9:1-38)**

At that time as Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who has sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither has this man sinned nor have his parents, but the works of God were to be made manifest in him. I must do the works of the one who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the Light of the world.”

When he had said these things, he spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle, and spread the clay over the man’s eyes, and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam (which is interpreted ‘sent’).” So he went away, and washed, and returned seeing.

The neighbors therefore and those who had seen earlier that he was blind began saying, “Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is.” But others said, “He only looks like him.” Yet, the man declared, “I am the one.” They therefore asked him, “How were your eyes opened?” He answered and said, “The man who is called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ And I went and washed, and I see.” And they asked him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. Now, it was a Sabbath on which Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Again, therefore, the Pharisees asked him: how he received his sight. But he said to them, “He put clay upon my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Therefore some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner work these signs?” And there was a division among them. Again therefore they said to the blind man, “What do you say of the one who opened your eyes?” But he said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews therefore did not believe of him that he had been blind and had got his sight, until they called the parents of the one who had gained his sight, and questioned them, saying, “Is this your son, of whom you say he was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered them and said, “We know this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we ourselves do not know. Ask him; he is of age, let him speak for himself.” These things his parents said because they feared the Jews. For already the Jews had agreed that if anyone were to confess him to be the Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. This is why his parents said, “He is of age; question him.”

They therefore called a second time the man who had been blind, and said to him, “Give glory to God! We ourselves know this man is a sinner.” He therefore said, “Whether he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know, that whereas I was blind, now I see.” They therefore asked him again, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, but you did not listen. Why would you hear a second time? Would you also become his disciples?” They heaped abuse on him therefore and said, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know God spoke to Moses; but as for this man, we do not know where he is from.” In answer the man said to them, “Why herein is the marvel, that you do not know where he is from, and yet he opened my eyes. Now we know God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshipper of God, and does his will, him he hears. Not

from the beginning of the world has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered and said to him, “You were altogether born in sins, and do you teach us?” And they turned him out.

Jesus heard they had turned him out, and when he had found him, said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” He answered and said, “Who is he, Lord, that I may believe in him?” And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen him, and he it is who speaks with you.” And he said, “I believe, Lord.” And falling down, he worshipped him.

### الانجيل احد الاعمى (الاحد السادس بعد الفصح)

في ذلك الزمان، فيما يسوع مجتازاً رأى إنساناً أعمى منذ مولده. فسأله تلاميذه قائلين: يا معلم من أخطأ. أهذا أم أبواه حتى يولد أعمى؟ أجاب يسوع: لا هذا أخطأ ولا أبواه، لكن لتظهر أعمال الله فيه. ينبغي لي أن اعلم أعمال من أرسلني ما دام النهار. سيأتي الليل الذي لا يستطيع أحد فيه عملاً. ما دمت في العالم فأنا نور العالم. قال هذا وتقل على الأرض وصنع من ثقلته طيناً وطفى بالطين عيني الأعمى. وقال له: اذهب واغتسل في بركة سلوام - ومعنى الكلمة: المرسل - فمضى واغتسل وعاد بصيراً. فالحجيران والذين كانوا يرونه قبلاً أعمى قالوا: أليس هذا هو الذي كان يجلس ويتوسل؟ فقال بعضهم: أنه هو. وقال آخرون إنه يشبهه. واما هو فكان يقول: انا هو. فقالوا له: كيف انفتحت عيناك؟ أجاب ذلك وقال: هذا الرجل الذي يقال له يسوع، صنع طيناً وطفى عيني. وقال لي اذهب الى بركة سلوام واغتسل. فمضيت واغتسلت فأبصرت. فقالوا له: أين ذاك؟ فقال: لا أعلم. فأتوا بالذي كان قبلاً أعمى إلى الفريسيين. وكان حين صنع يسوع الطين وفتح عينية يوم السبت. فسأله الفريسيون أيضاً كيف أبصر. فقال لهم: جعل على عيني طيناً واغتسلت فأبصرت. فقال قوم من الفريسيين: هذا الرجل ليس من الله. لأنه لا يحفظ السبت. وآخرون قالوا: كيف يقدر رجل خاطئ أن يعمل مثل هذه الآيات؟ فوقع بينهم شقاق. فقالوا أيضاً للأعمى: أنت ماذا تقول عنه بما انه فتح عينيك؟ فقال إنه نبي. ولم يصدق اليهود عنه أنه كان أعمى فأبصر حتى دعوا أبوي الذي أبصر، وسألوهما قائلين: أهذا هو ابنكما الذي تقولان إنه ولد أعمى؟ فكيف أبصر الآن؟ فأجابهم أبواه وقالوا: نحن نعلم أن هذا ولدنا، وانه ولد أعمى. وأما كيف أبصر الآن فلا نعلم. أو من فتح عينيه فلا نعرف، وهو كامل السن فأسألوه، فهو يتكلم عن نفسه. قال أبواه هذا لأنهما كانا يخافان من اليهود. لأن اليهود كانوا قد تعاهدوا على أنه إن اعترف أحد بأنه المسيح يخرج من المجمع. فلذلك قال أبواه إنه كامل السن فأسألوه. فدعوا الرجل الذي كان أعمى مرة ثانية وقالوا له: أعط مجداً لله، فإننا نعلم أن هذا الرجل خاطئ. فأجاب ذلك وقال: إن كان خاطئاً فلا أعلم إنما أعلم شيئاً واحداً هو أنني كنت أعمى والآن أبصر. فقالوا له من جديد: ماذا صنع بك، كيف فتح عينيك؟ أجابهم قد أخبرتكم قبلاً فلم تسمعوا فماذا تريدون أن تسمعوا أيضاً، ألعلمكم تريدون أنتم أيضاً أن تصيروا له تلاميذ؟

فشتموه وقالوا: أنت تلميذٌ ذاك. فأما نحن فإننا تلاميذ موسى. ونحن نعلم ان الله كلم موسى. فإما هذا فلم نعلم من أين هو. أجاب الرجل وقال لهم: إن في هذا لعجباً، أنكم لا تعرفون من أين هو وقد فتح عيني. ونحن نعلم ان الله لا يسمع للخطاة، ولكن إذا أحدٌ أتقى الله وعمل مشيئته فله يستجيب. ولم يسمع منذ الدهر أن أحداً فتح عيني من ولد أعمى. فلو لم يكن هذا من الله لما أستطاع أن يفعل شيئاً. أجابوا وقالوا له: إنك بجملتك قد ولدت في الخطايا وأنت تعلمنا؟ فطردوه خارجاً. وسمع يسوع انهم طردوه خارجاً، فوجده وقال له: أتؤمن أنت بأبن الله؟ فأجاب ذاك وقال: ومن هو يا سيداً لأؤمن به؟ قال يسوع: قد رأيتَهُ وهو الذي يكلمك فقال له أنا أومنُ يارب، وسجد له.

## **Mahrajan 2017 News!**

It is time to begin food preparation for Mahrajan 2017! We need help in the kitchen for food preparation on the evenings that follow, 6:00 PM start time for each evening.

**If you grow or gather grape leaves,** please help us keep our costs down by donating them to the Mahrajan. Grape leaves will be needed for the July 11 food prep session, so please wash and pack them in your freezer as they become available. We need about 3,000 grape leaves so keep us in mind as the season approaches.

May 23	Lamb Kabobs	June 8	Chicken Schwarma
May 25	Lamb Schwarma	June 13	Ghrybe & Nut Maamoul
May 30	Beef Kabobs	July 11	Grape Leaves
June 6	Chicken Kabobs	TBA	Meat and Spinach Pies

***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, Mary Lear, Diana Lebel, Peggy Leclear, Fr. Theophan Leonarczyk, Sadie Grace McCallum, Miriam McCallum, Ramona Matias, Susan Merrill, Maria Moser, 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, George Webber, Martha Webber, 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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