



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 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 31, 2015

THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

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.

Please remember to contact the church if a loved one is in the hospital and would like a visit from the priest. The hospitals do not always notify the church!

THE ORDER OF TODAY'S LITURGY

The Troparion of the Resurrection (8th Tone) Page 54

The Torparion of All Saints (4th Tone):

O Christ God, Your Church clothed with the blood of the martyrs all over the world, as with purple and fine linen, cries out to You: "Send Your mercy upon Your people, grant peace to Your fold, and extend Your great compassion upon our souls."

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

Kondakion of The Preparation for the Feast of the Divine Body (4th Tone):

O faithful, let us prepare our hearts as precious vessels to partake of the Lord's Banquet with pure dispositions, and let us offer a hymn of praise in preparation to this great festivity.

PROKIMENON:

Awesome in His saints is God, the God of Israel!

In the churches, bless God, the Lord, out of Israel's wellspring.

Today's Readings:

Hebrews 11: 33-12:2-a, Matthew 10: 32-38 & 19: 27-30

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Next Saturday, 4:30 PM:

**For the repose of Julie Cullen (One Year Anniversary),
by her family**

Sunday, 11:00 AM:

**For the repose of Ned Kfoury (55th), Eassa Maloley (32nd),
Michael Baroody (54th), Matilda Ashooh (51st),
and Minnie Solomon (43rd)**

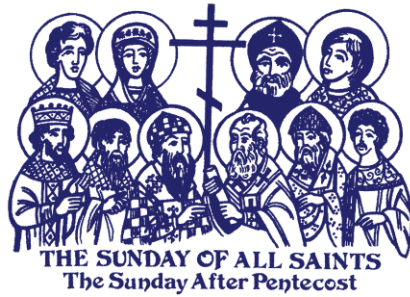
Next Saturday, 4:30 PM:

**For the repose of Alexander Azzi (41st), John Ganem (27th),
Fifi Nassif (32nd), Mitchell Nassif (22nd), Annie Samales (59th),
Helen Solar (29th), Lucille Raczka (14th), and Linda Jadda (19th)**

Next Sunday, 10:00 AM:

For the repose of Virginia Pichette (One Year Anniversary)





Today Is the Sunday of All Saints

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit. Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost. This feast originated at an early date,

perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886-911). After the death of his wife, the Holy Empress Theophano, Emperor Leo decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.

Next Sunday the deacon candidates for our diocese will be with us for the Divine Liturgy. Please welcome them!

JUNE 4: THE FEAST OF THE DIVINE BODY

This feast became popular among the Melkites in the 18th Century. It commemorates the Passion and Death of the Lord Jesus, and the great gift of the Savior Himself in the Holy Eucharist. This feast will be commemorated with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy this Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM.



The Sunday School picnic will take place on Sunday following the Divine Liturgy. Teachers, parents and students are all invited to celebrate the end of the Sunday School year.

There will be a second collect for the mortgage this weekend.

Our Sunday Liturgy summer schedule will begin next Sunday!

Throughout the summer, the Sunday Divine Liturgy will be offered at 10:00 AM.

Attendance Last Saturday 4:30 PM: 27 11:00 AM: 59

Last Weekend's Collection: \$ 1,523.⁰⁰

The average Sunday envelope donation: \$55.¹⁹

The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ 297,568.⁹⁴

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Wed., June 3	7:00 PM	Divine Liturgy: The Feast of the Divine Body
Sat., June 6	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The Sunday of the Divine Body
Sun., June 7	9:15 AM	Sunday Orthros
Sun., June 7	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: The Sunday of the Divine Body

AWESOME IN HIS SAINTS IS GOD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL!

The first Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pentecost is observed as the Sunday of All Saints. This day has been designated as a commemoration of all of the Saints, all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have glorified God by their holy lives.

Honoring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honorable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the Apostle Paul, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we

might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

Of course, we honor the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, but since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Savior" (Sunday of All Saints, Doxastikon of Vespers).

In this celebration, then, we reverently honor and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honor on this day, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede in our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen.

The icon of the Sunday of All Saints depicts our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ seated above the throne of heaven surrounded by the Saints. The rows of Saints included the Archangel Michael and other Angels, the Theotokos and John the Baptist, the Apostles, Bishops, Great Martyrs, Ascetics and Monastics. They are joined by the Saints, who are lifting their hands in worship to the King of Glory.



Mahrajan 2015 News!

Help us keep our costs down. Grape leaves will be needed in July so please wash and pack them in your freezer as they become available. We need about 3,000 so keep us in mind as the season approaches.

Also, we need help in the kitchen for food preparation on the evenings that follow, 6:30 PM start time for each evening:

Lamb Skewer: June 2

Spinach Pies: August 18

Chicken Skewer: June 9

Meat Pies: August 19

Grape leaves: July 14

Vocation View

This Sunday shows the fruit of the outpouring of the Spirit upon us at Pentecost: the Saints. The Holy Spirit makes us holy. We become part of one another's salvation. We serve Christ in one another as members of the One Body, the Church. We become the Body of Christ present and acting in the world. We each have a ministry, a necessary ministry. Christ is calling many to the priesthood, a "ministry" to the "ministers". Pray that there may be a generous and dedicated response to this call.



The Divine Liturgy is offered on the first Wednesday of each month for the intention of the suffering Christians of the Middle East and the world. This month, due to the Feast of the Divine Body, that Liturgy will be postponed until Wednesday, June 10.

A Prayer for Those Suffering Persecution

Lord, bring an end to tragedy and suffering. Deliver Your Church and Your faithful people from every evil with Your mighty hand. Help us, O God, for You were crucified and died for the salvation of all. Help us, that among us, and in all the world, hatred may be replaced with love, unrest may be replaced with peace, and sorrow may be replaced with happiness, that we have a peaceful life as Your people and live as brothers and sisters with one another.



Remember our enemies, those who hate us and oppress us, and repay them not according to their deeds, but rather give them reason and understanding, according to Your great mercy, so that they may see that evil cannot bring good.

You are the God of mercy, goodness and the Lover of mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

THE SAINTS OF ANTIOCH

IN THE BYZANTINE CHURCHES, the Sunday after Pentecost is observed as the Feast of All Saints. This is to proclaim that the presence of saints in the Church points to the presence of the Spirit who enlivens the Church and transforms those who cherish its life. On this day all the saints – those whose names we know and those we do not – are celebrated, for the state of hearts is truly known only to God.

It is also the custom in many places that the next two Sundays after Pentecost honor all the saints of a particular nation or region (e.g. All Saints of Russia, Romania, etc.) or of a particular category (e.g. New Martyrs of the Turkish Yoke).

The Church of Antioch, “*where the disciples were first called Christians*” (Acts 11:26), can point to almost two thousand years of saints in its heritage from the first days of Christianity until today. A few of them whose names are known are celebrated in all the Churches. They include:



Saints of the Apostolic Age: During the first century the Greek-speaking Christian community in Antioch became the center for ministry to the Gentiles. Among its saints are:

- The Chief Apostles **Peter and Paul** (June 29, which is the throne feast of the patriarchate),
- Their companions **Barnabas**, who founded the Church in Cyprus (June 11) and
- **Luke the Evangelist**, author of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles (Oct. 18).
- Others from that era include St **Ananias**, who baptized St Paul in Damascus (Oct. 1) and St **Thekla**, the first woman martyr (Sept. 24);

Martyrs of the Roman Persecutions: Throughout the second, third and early fourth centuries local governors, military commanders and Roman emperors called for the persecution of Christians. Some of their victims were Saints: **Ignatius of Antioch, the God-bearer**, killed in Rome c. AD 107 (Dec. 20), **Sergios and Bacchos** in the fourth century (Oct. 7), The **Great Martyr Artemios** (Oct. 20), martyred under Julian the Apostate, **Babylas**, third century Bishop of Antioch (Sept. 4), The **Great Martyr Barbara** (Dec. 4), sometimes said to have suffered in Nicomedia, Asia Minor or in Heliopolis (Baalbek), **Christina of Tyre** (July 24), **Febronia of Nisibis** (June 25), **Galacteon and Episteme**, his wife, martyred at Homs (Nov. 5), **Gurias, Samonas and Habib** (Nov. 15), martyred in Edessa, **Julian of Homs** the Unmercenary Healer (Feb. 6), **Lucian of Antioch** (Oct. 15), **Terence and Neonilla** and their children, Syrians martyred in Carthage (Oct. 28), and **Zenobius** of Aegae beheaded with his sister **Zenobia** in Cilicia (Oct. 30);

Fathers of the First Millennium: The life of the Greek-speaking Churches of the Christian East was enhanced by the theological writings and poetic hymns of a number of Fathers including Saints: **Andrew of Damascus**, Bishop of Crete (July 4), **Cosmas the Melodist** (Oct. 12), **Eustathios of Antioch** (Sept. 20), **John Chrysostom** (Nov. 13), **John of Damascus** (Dec. 4),

Meletios of Antioch (Feb. 12) **Romanos the Melodist** (Oct. 1), and **Sophronios**, Patriarch of Jerusalem (Mar. 11).

Ascetics and Monastics: Monasticism began in Syria a few years after it originated in Egypt and Palestine. Both Greek and Syriac-speaking Syrians were drawn to it, some of them becoming highly revered by people in the region. We remember to this day Saints: **Ephrem the Syrian** and **Isaac the Syrian** from Nisibis on the border with the Persian Empire, (Jan. 28), **Eudokia of Baalbek** (Mar. 1), **Maron the Hermit** (Feb. 14) and his disciples **Marana, Kyra and Domnina** (Feb. 28), mentioned in Theodoret's *History of the Monks*, **Martha of Antioch**, mother of St. Simeon of the Wonderful Mountain (July 4), **Peter of Damascus**, whose writings are found in the *Philokalia* (Feb. 9), **Simeon the Stylite** (Sept. 1) and his disciple **Daniel the Stylite** (Dec. 11), **Andronikos and Athanasia** (Oct. 9), a fifth century Egyptian craftsman and his wife who lived an ascetic life in Antioch.

The Syrian Popes: Several Syrians became Pope of Rome, particularly in the seventh and eighth centuries when many Syrians, fleeing the Arab invasion, took refuge in Sicily and Italy. These popes were: **St Anacetus of Homs** (Apr. 20) who reigned from 157-168, **John V** who served only one year, from 685 to 686, **Sergius I**, who was pope from 687 to 701, **Sissinius**, who died after twenty days as pope in 708, **Constantine**, pope from 708 to 715, and **St Gregory III** (Nov 28), who reigned from 731 to 741 and was the last non-European Pope of Rome before Pope Francis.

Missionaries: When Christianity spread beyond the Mediterranean, most Greek missionaries were from Constantinople and went north to the Slavic lands. Most Syriac missionaries went east from the Persian Empire. Thus much of the world was evangelized by those who had been Christianized from Antioch. Still we note:

- The Syrian missionary to England, **St. Theodore of Tarsus**, who became Archbishop of Canterbury in the seventh century (Sept. 10).
- Contemporary Orthodox reverence **St. Raphael Hawaweeny**, +1915, who was the first Antiochian bishop in America (Feb. 27).
- Melkites recall the Servant of God **Beshara Abou Murad**, +1930, who walked from village to village in the Saida eparchy, re-evangelizing the neglected poor.

Martyrs under Islam: The recent horrors by the self-proclaimed "Islamic State" are not the first inflicted on Middle Eastern Christians in that name. Among the countless Middle Easterners who have died for Christ we remember:

- **St. Peter the Confessor** (Oct. 4) whose tongue was cut out in the eighth century for censuring the errors of the Arabs,
- **St. Jacob of Hamatoura** and his companions (Oct. 13) beheaded in the fourteenth century by the Mamelukes for refusing to become Muslims,
- **St. Joseph of Damascus**, martyred for bringing the holy mysteries to Christians during the Druze uprising in the 1860s (July 10). 3000 other Christians were slain during this revolt.
- Although neither has been canonized there is considerable popular veneration for the Orthodox priest **Habeeb Khishy** of Damascus, tortured and killed by Muslim hoodlums in 1948, and for the Melkite passion-bearer **Fathi Baladi**, slain in Beirut in 1980, declared a Servant of God by Pope John Paul II.

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, Dcn. Robert Spencer, 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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