



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 22, 2016

THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

Parish Advisory & Finance Council:

KEN MONTY (PRESIDENT), RICHARD ASHOOH, 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

Saturday 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Freda George (25th), Peter Abood (36th),
Roland Archambault (17th) and Gertrude Beadle (3rd)



Sunday, 11:00 AM:

For the repose of our former pastor,
Rev. Joseph Dagher (19th Anniversary)

For the repose of our former pastor,
Rev. Dominic Ledbetter (20th Anniversary)

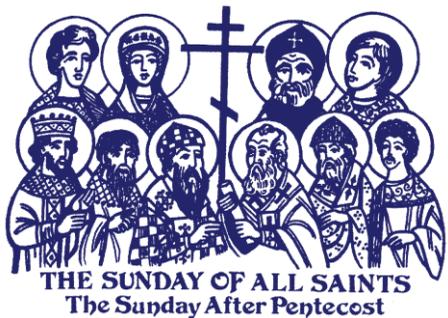


Next Saturday (May 28), 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Ned Kfoury (56th), Eassa Maloley (33rd), Michael Baroody (55th),
Matilda Ashooh (52nd), and Minnie Solomon (44th)

Next Sunday (May 29), 10:00 AM:

For the repose of all of the members of our Armed Forces
who have died in the service to our country



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.

May 26: 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.



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

Our Sunday Liturgy summer schedule will begin next Sunday!

*Beginning that Sunday, and throughout the summer,
the Sunday Divine Liturgy will be offered at 10:00 AM.*

Mahrajan 2016: We're really cooking now!

On Tuesday, May 24, we are making: Beef Kabobs - and we really need your help!
- 6:00 PM - church hall - Hope to see you there!

Attendance - Last Saturday 4:30 PM: 13 Sunday 11:00 AM: 100

Last Weekend's Collection: \$ 962.⁰⁰

The average Sunday envelope donation: \$27.⁵⁴

The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ 84,254.²⁶

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Tues., May 24	7:00 PM	Divine Liturgy: 3rd Finding of the Head of John the Baptist
Wed., May 25	7:00 PM	Divine Liturgy: Feast of the Divine Body
Sat., May 28	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The Second Sunday After Pentecost
Sun., May 29	9:15 AM	Sunday Orthros
Sun., May 29	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: The Second Sunday After Pentecost

May 25: The Third finding of the Head of the Honorable Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist

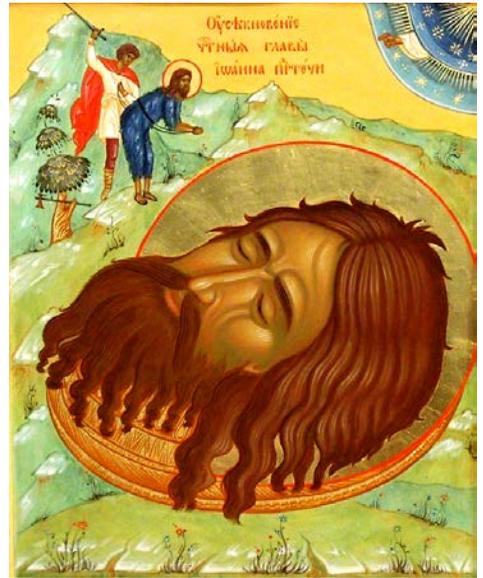
John, the holy and glorious prophet, precursor, was beheaded by the order of King Herod Antipas, at the request of a dancing girl that had pleased him. There were other findings of this precious relic, for which its first and second finding is commemorated by the holy Church on the 24th of February.

The third discovery was made at Comana of Cappadocia. The relic had been buried in the earth until the passing of the destructive days of the iconoclasts in the eighth century. During that terrible time, some Orthodox Christians took away the sacred head of Saint John the Forerunner from Constantinople. They escaped, with the precious head of the Forerunner John, after it was reverently housed in a silver vessel, it was hidden in the ground for safekeeping. It was not found until the reign of Emperor Michael (842-867). This was a time when veneration of the icons had been restored by the empress. The relics were miraculously revealed to Patriarch Ignatios (847-858 and 867-877), while he was at his evening prayers. He informed the imperial court, which sent a delegation to Comana. The relics uncovered and returned to the imperial city (ca. 850) by the patriarch.

The hymnographer for today's feast, Tarasios, gives us more details of the discovery and triumphal return. He tells us that we draw grace and sanctification from the Forerunner's head, which is brighter than the sun. The head was made known to a priest of the Lord, named Basil, who until then knew nothing of its whereabouts in Comana. Filled with faith and led by grace, he made a diligent search for the head. When it arose from the bowels of the earth, he made its finding known. The gleaming relic poured forth gifts of healing. The fragrant relic, a wellspring of cures, was met by Basil the priest and the faithful who had gathered to the site.

There were reports of ever-flowing gifts that were bestowed by Saint John: bodily pangs and diseases were taken away. Both the Priest Basil and his bishop Ignatios were divinely informed beforehand of the head's discovery. While the head flashed brighter than gold, it was treasured in a silver vessel upon discovery. The hymnographer says that the emperor, the angel's namesake (Michael), rejoiced and received the Forerunner in his palace. The chief shepherd, bearing the name of the sacred God-bearer (Ignatius), piously and excellently ministered in his service toward the precious head. We, too, revere that hallowed head that not only proclaimed the Lamb of God but also washed in the waters of Jordan the head of Jesus.

Afterwards the head was again transferred to Constantinople, and here on May 25 it was placed in a church at the court. Part of the head remains today on Mt. Athos.



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

ON THE SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST the Byzantine Churches observe the Feast of All Saints. As we read in today's Synaxarion at Orthros: "Our most godlike Fathers decreed that we should celebrate the present feast after the descent of the All-holy Spirit, as showing in a certain way that the coming of the All-holy Spirit acted through the Apostles like this: sanctifying and making wise human beings taken from our mortal clay and then – to complete the number of that fallen angelic order – restoring them through Christ and sending them to God, some by the witness of martyrdom and blood, others by their virtuous conduct and way of life..."



On this day then, we commemorate 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.

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.

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.

How Many?

How many saints are there? For the definitive answer we need only look to the Book of Revelation. The seer – identified in the first chapter as John – tells us that “*After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands*” (Rev 7:9). No one can count the number of those whom the Holy Spirit has sanctified through the Apostles and the Churches they founded.

The white robes are said to recall the "Garments of Light" – the fullness of Divine grace – with which Adam and Eve were clothed in the Garden before the Fall. In Rev 6:11 these robes are given to the martyrs as a sign that they have preserved their union with Christ through the witness they bore. The palm branch is the ancient “symbol of victory” (Palm Sunday troparion). The martyrs’ palms represent how they “vanquished their persecutors and crushed the powerless arrogance of demons” through their struggles (Martyrs’ Troparion).

Recognized Saints

Christians who witnessed the sufferings and death of martyrs were the first to preserve their memory, often by treasuring their relics or belongings. Once the persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire ceased, the recognition of the martyrs became more public and official.

Veneration of saints was usually a local matter. Saints were honored where they had lived or died. As the Church spread into new areas, those who brought the Gospel also brought a devotion to their local saints. When they brought the saints’ relics as well, a new shrine would be established and the saint honored there as well.

Many saints are still venerated only locally; others have been included on the general calendars of the historic Churches. The Theotokos, the Apostles, the Evangelists, and other New Testament figures as well as many of the Old Testament patriarchs and prophets are universally venerated. Some well-known saints, like St Nicholas and St George, have found a place on the calendars of all Churches.

The Synaxarion

Each of the ancient Churches has its own list of saints. In most Eastern Churches this list is called the Synaxarion, a collection of information about each saint on the days the saint is commemorated. The basic Synaxarion used in the Byzantine Churches is that of the Mar Saba Monastery near Jerusalem. Each local Church has added its own saints to this list as well.

So, how many saints are there? The historic Churches remember upwards of 15,000 saints every year, not to mention those known only to God. These days have seen a number of New Martyrs and Confessors witnessing to Christ despite ISIS and other hostile regimes. Many of their stories can be found on line. In a sense the Synaxarion is still being written.

By the prayers of all your saints, O Lord, have mercy on us and save us!

Mahrajan 2016 News!

It is time to begin food preparation for Mahrajan 2016! We need help in the kitchen for food preparation on the evenings that follow, 6:00 PM start time for each evening.

May 24	Beef Kabobs	July 12	Grape Leaves
May 31	Lamb Kabobs (Tentative)	August 15	Meat & Spinach Pies (Tentative)
June 7	Chicken Kabobs	August 16	Meat & Spinach Pies (Tentative)
June 14	Ghrybe & Nut Maamoul		

If you grow grape leaves, please help us keep our costs down by donating them to the Mahrajan. Grape leaves will be needed for the July 12 food prep session, 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.



The Melkite Convention is coming to Boston this year!

The celebration of the Melkite Convention this year is a special one. It is the 50th Melkite Convention, the 50th Anniversary of the first Melkite Bishop in America, and the 50th Anniversary of the Annunciation Cathedral. It will be held close by, in Boston at the Boston Quincy Marriott, on June 30-July 3. You may make hotel reservations at a group discount rate by calling 617-472-1000, and reserving under “50th National Melkite Convention.”

Fr. Philip Raczka, the host of this year’s convention, wants our parish to know that those who are interested in day trips to attend only the Divine Services and the Spiritual Workshops may do so and need only pay the minimal convention registration fee!

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.



Please remember to pray for the health and protection of Genevieve Allen, 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, Jamileh Dagher, Sher Farrow, Declan Finn, Janet Drake, Julie Fregeau, Mary Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, Christine Freitas, John Gallagher, Loretto Gauvin, Bonnie Gomez, Nick Haddad, Jean Hannoush, Lucille Harper, Laura Jorba, Virginia Kearney, Shirley Lanoue, Susan Latvis, Roger Lawrence, Peggy Leclar, Sadie Grace McCallum, Miriam McCallum, Susan Merrill, Margaret Mitchell, Alfred Nasr, Afef Nasr, Blaise Notter, Steven O'Leary, Denis O'Keefe, Ellen Osgood, Josephine Paquette, Russell Pond, Sheila Quinn, Deborah Roberts, Adam Rubin, Fr. Andre St. Germain, Deniese Sherburne, 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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