



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, 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 27, 2018

THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

Parish Advisory & Finance Council:

KEN MONTY (*PRESIDENT*), 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.

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 (May 26) 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Ernest Elias (15th), Gertrude Beadle (5th),
Ned Kfoury (58th), Eassa Maloley (35th), Michael Barody (57th),
and Matilda Ashooh (54th)

Sunday, (May 27) 10:30 AM

For the repose of Stephen Dunn (40 Day Memorial),
by his Aunt Martha Dagher and Family

For the repose of William Houle, by his family

Next Saturday (June 2) 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Minnie Solomon (36th), Alexander Azzi (44th),
John Ganem (30th), Fifi Nassif (35th), and Mitchell Nassif (25th)

Next Sunday (June 3) 10:30 AM

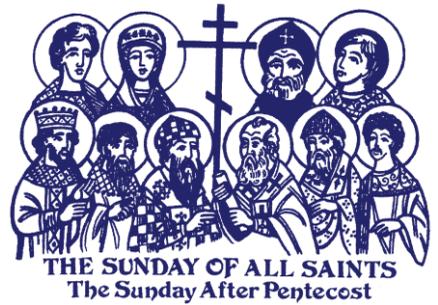
For the repose of Richard Thomas (One Year Memorial)

For the repose of our former pastors Rev. Joseph Dagher (21st Anniversary)
and Rev. Dominic Ledbetter (22nd 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.



May 31: 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.

This Saturday: Saturday Kitchen! Meat and spinach pies will be available from the Saturday Kitchen next Saturday morning. Please call in your order in advance at 625-9966. Any help you can offer that morning is greatly appreciated.

There is a second collect this weekend for the mortgage

The Sunday School picnic for teachers, parents and students will take place following the Divine Liturgy next Sunday.

Attendance - Last Sat. 4:30 PM: 15 Last Sun. 10:30 AM: 101

Last Weekend's Collection: \$ \$1, 198.⁰⁰

The average Sunday envelope donation: \$34.²²

The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$75,448.¹⁹

SERVICES FOR GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

Thurs., May 30	7:00 PM	Divine Liturgy: Feast of the Divine Body
Sat., June 2	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The Second Sunday After Pentecost
Sun., June 3	9:45 AM	Sunday Orthros
Sun., June 3	10:30 AM	Divine Liturgy: The Second Sunday After Pentecost

Don't Miss The 51st Melkite Convention

July 5-8

Divine Services!

Spiritual Workshops!

Evening Socials!

Marriott Houston Westchase

2900 Briarpark Dr.

Houston Texas 77042

Reservations: 713-978-7400

Email: Melkites51convention@gmail.com



Mahrajan 2017: We're really cooking now!

On Tuesday, May 29, we are preparing lamb skewers –
and we really need your help!

1:00 PM for cutting and preparing lamb
-6:00 PM for skewering

All in the church hall - Hope to see you there!

We also need help in the kitchen for Mahrajan food preparation on the evenings that follow, 6:00 PM start time for each evening.

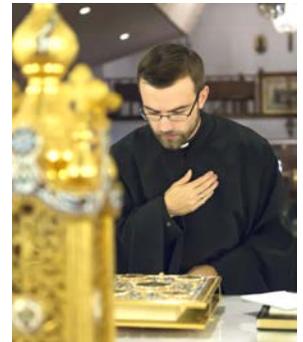
May 29	Lamb Kabobs	June 6	Chicken Shwarma
May 30	Lamb Shwarma	June 12	Ghrybe & Nut Maamoul
June 5	Chicken Kabobs	July 10	Grape Leaves



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 10 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.

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.



“SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES...”

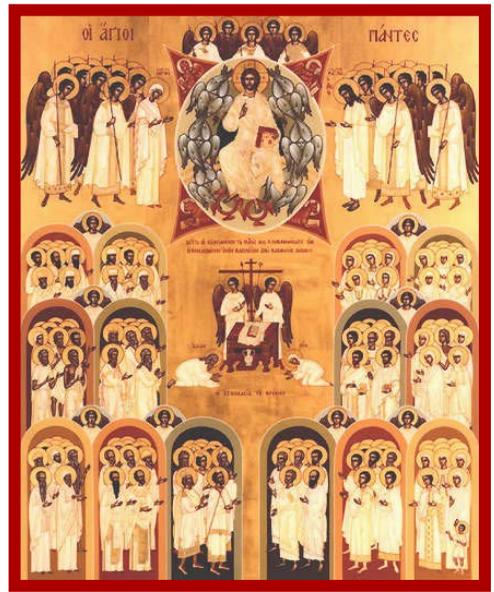
The first Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pentecost is observed as the Sunday of All Saints. This day has been designated as a commemoration of all of the Saints, all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and 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, who is boundless in His grace and mercy.

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.



Imperial Power in the Service of Christ

SEVERAL SAINTS on the Byzantine calendar are described as Equals to the Apostles. Some, such as St Mary Magdalene and the first woman martyr St Thekla, were among the earliest witnesses to the Resurrection. This title is also given to the fourth-century Roman Emperor Constantine the Great and his mother Helena. As the first Roman rulers to profess the Christian faith, they had the greatest impact on both the Church and the empire.

Early Years

Constantine was born in c. 272 to a Roman military officer, Flavius Valerius Constantius and Helena, whom some ancient sources call his wife and some do not. Sometime before 289, as Constantius' career prospered, he married the daughter of Emperor Maximian. Helena and her son were sent to the Eastern court of the emperor in Nicomedeia, Asia Minor (Izmit, Turkey today). Helen never remarried and lived quietly with her son.

In AD 293, the Roman Empire had been restructured into four divisions, two in the East and two in the West. The leaders of these divisions, called the Tetrarchy, were constantly jockeying with one another for supreme authority. In 305 Constantius became emperor of the West and Constantine joined him as commander of the Roman troops in Britain. He was in York when Constantius died in 306. The Roman troops in Britain acclaimed Constantine as his successor. He devoted the next seven years to securing his power in the West. His final victory in the West came against Maxentius, who had declared war on Constantine in 311. The following year, Constantine defeated Maxentius' numerically superior troops at the Milvian Bridge over the Tiber, north of Rome. Pushed into the Tiber by his fleeing troops, Maxentius drowned, leaving Constantine sole power in the West. By 324 he would be the sole emperor of both East and West.

Constantine reunified the administration of the empire and restructured its military. He successfully combated inflation and restored the power of Rome after a period of decline. None of these achievements, however, earned him the title "Equal to the Apostles."

Constantine and the Church

Scholars now feel certain that Constantine had embraced Christianity some time before his famous victory at the Milvian Bridge in 312. He remained a catechumen throughout his life. As his death approached, he put aside his imperial regalia and was baptized, never taking them up again. Constantine reversed the fortunes of the Church in the Roman Empire in every aspect of its existence, beginning with:

- **The Legalization of Christianity** The last great persecution of Christianity, begun by Emperor Diocletian in 303, was not enforced in the West by Constantius or Constantine. The persecution was formally ended in 311 by Galerius who declared Christianity a *religio licita* (a form of worship acceptable) in the empire. The growing number of Christians made their support a



bargaining chip for the warring rivals for power. Their support turned to Constantine during his struggle against Maxentius when he marked his standards with the ☩ (Chi-Rho), the first letters of the name of Christ in Greek. One of Constantine's advisors, Lactantius, wrote that he did this in response to advice received in a dream "to mark the heavenly sign of God on the shields of his soldiers." The contemporary historian Eusebius wrote that this dream was preceded by a vision: Constantine "... saw with his own eyes in the heavens a trophy of the cross arising from the light of the sun, carrying the message, *In Hoc Signo Vinces*" (with this sign, you shall be victorious.) In 313, after defeating Maxentius, Constantine and Licinius issued the Edict of Milan in which property confiscated from Christians during the persecution was ordered restored "without payment or any claim of recompense and without any kind of fraud or deception." While these edicts expressed only a toleration of Christianity, Constantine actively promoted it.

- **Faith & Order in the Church** To promote unity in the empire Constantine fostered unity among Christians. In 325 he called the first ecumenical council (Nicaea I) which gave us the Nicene Creed and the patriarchal structure in the Church.
- **A New Christian Capital** Constantine sought to distance his empire from its pagan origins. In 330 he built Constantinople as a New Rome, free of pagan temples and dotted with great churches. His successors enshrined the relics of apostles and martyrs in these churches and made it the administrative center of the Church in his empire.
- **Enhancement of Worship** As previous emperors had endowed and built pagan temples, Constantine began constructing Christian shrines and basilicas, including those at Bethlehem, Constantinople and Rome. Most famously, he developed Palestine as a Christian Holy Land and Jerusalem as the "Mother of the Churches" centered around Calvary and the tomb of Christ (both now enclosed in the Anastasis) and the mount of the Ascension. These basilicas made possible the more elaborate forms of worship which we inherited from these centers.

Helena and the Holy City

Much of Helena's life was spent in relative obscurity. After twenty years together, she and her son were sent away when Constantius married a woman of higher station. In 312, with Constantine poised to take over the empire, Helena was recalled to the imperial court where she remained as a close confidant to her son. She was given the imperial title Augusta in 325.

There are conflicting stories concerning when Helena became a Christian before or after her son. In any case, Helena was known for her piety, her regular presence at divine services, and her generosity to the poor. As Eusebius wrote, "This admirable woman was to be seen, in simple and modest attire, mingling with the crowd of worshippers, and testifying her devotion to God by a uniform course of pious conduct."

In fulfillment of a vow Helena undertook a pilgrimage to Palestine, although she was almost 80 years old. According to Eusebius, Helena "... As soon, then, as she had rendered due reverence to the ground which the Savior's feet had trodden, according to the prophetic word which says *"Let us worship at the place on which His feet have stood,"* she immediately bequeathed the fruit of her piety to future generations; for without delay she dedicated two churches to the God whom she adored, one at the grotto which had been the scene of the Savior's birth; the other on the mount of His ascension." Helena died shortly after returning from this sacred journey.

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, Ellen Powell, Sheila Quinn, Daniel Quintal, Deborah Roberts, Adam Rubin, Fr. Andre St. Germain, Kara Salvias, Raymond Sherburne, Tarrant Smith, Catherine Waldron, George Webber, Martha Webber, Marilyn Whitmore, Iris Angelina Velasquez, and Joseph Yablonski.

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>Joe Ashooh, Agent 297 South Willow St Manchester, NH 03103 603-624-1000 www.joesthere.com</p> <p>Providing Insurance and Financial Services Call us for a free quote</p>	<p>NORTH HILLS REALTY GROUP, LLC <i>Residential Real Estate Brokers</i> Abraham Dagher, Realtor 814 Elm St., Suite # 302 Manchester, NH 03101 (603) 629-9988</p>	 <p>Chuck Stephen 814 Elm Street, Suite 503 Manchester, NH 03101 Tel # 603.606.3391 Toll Free 866.491.9675 chuck@glenwoodinvestment.com www.glenwoodinvestment.com</p> <p>Glenwood Investment Group <i>“Grow and protect your hard-earned wealth”</i></p>
<p>THE STEPHEN GROUP</p> <p>814 Elm Street, Suite 309 Manchester, NH 03101 Office 603.625.8825 Cell 603.419.9592</p> <p>JOHN STEPHEN <i>Managing Partner</i> jstephen@stephengroupinc.com www.stephengroupinc.com</p>		 <p>Stephen LAW GROUP P.L.C.</p> <p>Robert Stephen, Attorney at Law 582 Chestnut Street Manchester, NH 03104 phone 603-663-1007 www.StephenLaw.com</p>
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Today's Readings:

A Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (11: 33-12:2-a)

BRETHREN, all of the saints by faith conquered kingdoms, wrought justice, obtained the fulfillment of promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle, routed foreign armies. Women had their dead returned to them through resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to yield for their release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others again suffered mockery and beatings, even chains and jailings.

They were stoned, they were cut to pieces, they were put to the test, they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, anguished, afflicted (of whom the world was not worthy) wandering in deserts, mountains, caverns and holes in the ground.

And all of these, in spite of the positive witnessing of faith, failed to receive what was promised, for God was keeping something better in store for us, so that they were not to reach their final perfection without us. And so, having such a cloud of witnesses over us, let us get rid of every burden, and of the sin entangling us, and run with endurance to the fight proposed to us, contemplating the author and final end of faith, Jesus.

الرسالة (عبرانيين 11 : 33 الى 12 2 آ)

يا إخوة، إن القديسين جميعاً بالإيمان قد فهزوا الممالك وعملوا البر، ونالوا الموعد وسدوا أفواه الأسود، وأطفأوا قوة النار، ونجوا من حد السيف، وتقفوا من ضعف، وصاروا أشداء في القتال وكسروا معسكرات الأجنبي. واسترجعت نساء أمواتهن بالقيامة. وآخرون قد عذبوا بتوتير الأعضاء والضرب، ولم يقبلوا النجاة ليحصلوا على قيامة أفضل. وآخرون قد ذاقوا الهزء والسياط والقيود أيضاً والسجن. رجموا، نثروا، أمثنوا، ماتوا بحد السيف، ساحوا في جلود الغنم والمعز، معوزين، مضايقين، مجهودين. ولم يكن العالم مستحقاً لهم، تائبين في البراري والجبال والمغاور وكهوف الأرض. فهؤلاء كلهم المشهود لهم بالإيمان لم ينالوا الموعد، لأن الله قد سبق فنظر لنا شيئاً أفضل، لكي لا يكملوا بمعزل عنا. فلذلك نحن أيضاً إذ نحقق بنا مثل هذا السحاب من الشهود، فلنلق عنا كل ثقل والخطيئة المحيطة بنا بسهولة، ولنسع بصبر في الميدان الموضوع أمامنا، جاعلين نظرننا إلى يسوع مبدئ الإيمان ومكمله

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the Evangelist (10:32-38 & 19:27-30)

The Lord said to His disciples, “Everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before My Father in heaven. But whoever disowns Me before men, I in turn will disown before My Father in heaven.

“Anyone who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and anyone who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and anyone does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.”

Then Peter addressed him saying, “Behold, we have left all and followed You; what then shall we have?” And Jesus said to them, “Amen I say to you that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man shall sit on the throne of His glory, shall also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left house, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall possess life everlasting. But many who are first now will be last, and many who are last now will be first.”

الانجيل (متى 10: 32 - 38 و 19: 27 - 30)

قال الرب لتلاميذه: كل من يعترف بي قدام الناس، اعترف انا ايضاً به قدام ابي الذي في السماوات. ومن ينكرني قدام الناس، انكره انا ايضاً قدام ابي الذي في السماوات. لا تظنوا اني جئت لألقي سلاماً بل سيفاً. لقد جئت لأفترق الانسان عن ابيه، والأبنة عن أمها، والكنة عن حمايتها. وأعداء الإنسان أهل بيته. من أحب أباً أو أمّاً أو أكثر مني فلا يستحقني، ومن أحب ابناً أو بنتاً أكثر مني فلا يستحقني. ومن لا يأخذ صليبه ويتبعني فلا يستحقني. فأجاب بطرس وقال له: ها نحن قد تركنا كل شيء وتبعناك، فما عسى اذا يكون لنا؟ فقال له يسوع: الحق أقول لكم، أنتم الذين تبعتموني في عهد التجديد، متى جلس ابن الإنسان على عرش مجده، تجلسون أنتم ايضاً على اثني عشر عرشاً، وتدينون أسباط إسرائيل الأثني عشر. وكل من ترك بيوتاً، أو إخوة، أو أخوات، أو أباً، أو أمّاً، أو امرأة، أو بنين، أو حقولاً من أجل اسمي، يأخذ مئة ضعف، ويرث الحياة الأبدية. وكثيرون أولون يكونون آخرين وآخرين يكونون أولين.