



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)

January 15, 2017

**The Commemoration of our Holy Fathers Paul of Thebes
and John the Hut-Dweller**

THE 29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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 (2nd Tone) Page 51

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

The Kontakon of Encounter of the Lord in the Temple (1st Tone)

O Christ Our God, who through Your birth have sanctified the virginal womb and have blessed the arms of Simeon, You have come today to save us. When wars prevail, keep Your people in peace and strengthen our public authorities in every good deed, for You alone are the Lover of Mankind.

THE PROKIMENON:

HOW GREAT ARE YOUR WORKS, O LORD!

IN WISDOM YOU HAVE WROUGHT THEM ALL!

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

Today's Readings: Colossians 3:4-11 and Luke 17:12-19

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Chester Doolittle (11th), Mary Abood (8th), Josephine Saide (27th),
Donna Hanneman (25th), George Saide (28th), Nassery Noufel (4th),
John Nassoura (42nd), and Karen Kfoury (8th)

Sunday, 11:00 AM:

For the repose of Joseph "Mike" Duquette (3rd Anniversary),
by Betty Ashooh

For the repose of Clifton Bartlett,
by his sister Theresa Cullen

Next Saturday (Jan. 21), 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Fred Jadda (19th), Albert Hykil (11th), Lillian Franggos (27th),
Georgette Attalla (59th), and George Salim (31st)

Next Sunday (Jan. 22) 11:00 AM:

For the repose of Jamileh Dagher (40 day Memorial),
by her children Salam, Saideh, and Ibrahim Dagher



BISHOP'S APPEAL UPDATE!



Bishop Nicholas announced that a total of \$442,370 in gifts has been made to the Bishop's Appeal...only \$57,630 short of the national appeal goal of \$500,000. He now is appealing to all: If you not already done so, please join your fellow Melkites in support of the Eparchy. If you have already given, please consider an additional gift. Donations must be received in the next two weeks (before 31 January) so that we can reach our 50th Anniversary goal of \$500,000!

The Blessing of Homes

It is traditional for the parish priest to visit the homes of his parishioners during the coming weeks, and to bless their homes with the water that was blessed on the Feast of Theophany. If you would like Father Tom to bless your home, please notify him by filling out one of the cards available in the back of the church, or by leaving a phone message at the rectory.

**There will be a meeting of the Parish Advisory Council
on Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00 PM**

Last Thursday: Coffee with Abouna!

Ten people stopped by Thursday night to have "Coffee with Abouna!" We had some lively conversation about issues in the parish, and we discussed questions about the bible, our Liturgy, and the upcoming feast day (The Encounter of the Lord, on Feb. 2).

We will meet again on Thursday, Feb. 9. Don't miss the fun! Mark the date for another open forum discussion, and bring your questions!



Attendance Last Week:

Saturday, 4:30 PM: 3 Sunday 11AM: 69

Last Weekend's Collection: \$ 700.⁰⁰

The average Sunday envelope donation: \$26.⁵²

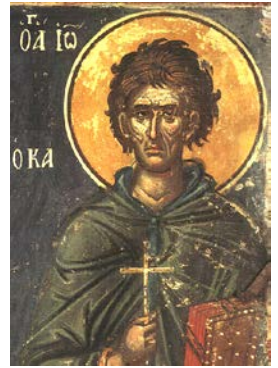
The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ 79,337.²¹

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Tues., Jan. 17	8:30 AM	Weekday Orthros (basement chapel)
Wed., Jan. 18	7:00 PM	Divine Liturgy: For the sick of the parish
Thur. Jan 19	8:30 AM	Weekday Orthros (basement chapel)
Sat. Jan. 21	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The 30th Sunday After Pentecost
Sun., Jan 22	10:15 AM	Sunday Orthros
Sun., Jan. 22	11:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: The 30th Sunday After Pentecost

St. John the Hut-Dweller

Saint John, who was from Constantinople, was the son of illustrious parents - Saint John the Hut-Dweller was the son of rich and illustrious parents - Eutropius the Senator and Theodora - and was born in Constantinople in the early fifth century. He received a fine education, and he mastered rhetoric and philosophy by the age of twelve. He also loved to read spiritual books. Perceiving the vanity of worldly life, he chose the path that was narrow and extremely difficult. At twelve years of age he departed secretly from his home and went to the Monastery of the Unsleeping. Aflame with longing for his parents, he returned after six years to his father's home in the guise of a pauper and beggar. Living in a small hut at the gates of his parents' house (wherefrom he is called "hut-dweller"), he remained unknown therein for many years, and suffered mockery at the hands of those who had been his own servants. Foreknowing his death, he revealed himself to his parents, and within a few moments reposed, about the year 450.



The saint was not quite twenty-five years old at the time of his death. On the place of his burial the parents built a church, and beside it a hostel for strangers. When they died, they were buried in the church they had built. In the twelfth century the head of the saint was taken by Crusaders to Besançon (in France), and other relics of the saint were taken to Rome.

St. Paul of Thebes

Paul of Thebes, commonly known as Paul, the First Hermit or Paul the Anchorite is regarded as the first Christian hermit. He was born around 227 in the Thebaid of Egypt

Paul and his married sister lost their parents. In order to obtain Paul's inheritance, his brother-in-law sought to betray him to the persecutors. Paul fled to the Theban desert as a young man during the persecution of Decius and Valerianus around AD 250.



He lived in the mountains of this desert in a cave near a clear spring and a palm tree, the leaves of which provided him with raiment and the fruit of which provided him with his only source of food until he was 43 years old, when a raven started bringing him half a loaf of bread daily. He remained in that cave for the rest of his life, almost 100 years.

Paul of Thebes is known to posterity because around the year 342, Anthony the Great was told in a dream about the older hermit's existence, and went to find him. Jerome related that Anthony the Great and Paul met when the latter was aged 113. They conversed with each other for one day and one night. The Synaxarium shows each saint inviting the other to bless and break the bread, as a token of honor. St. Paul held one side, putting the other side into the hands of Father Anthony, and soon the bread broke through the middle and each took his part. When Anthony next visited him, Paul was dead. Anthony clothed him in a tunic which was a present from Athanasius of Alexandria and buried him, with two lions helping to dig the grave.

Father Anthony returned to his monastery taking with him the robe woven with palm leaf. He honored the robe so much that he only wore it twice a year: at the Feast of Easter, and at the Pentecost.

THE TEN LEPERS

ONE OF THE MOST FEARED DISEASES in the world for centuries was leprosy. Those infected might develop inflammations of the nerves, the respiratory tract, skin, and eyes. Ulcerating sores and numbness would result. When sufferers could no longer feel pain, then repeated injuries or infection due to unnoticed wounds could result in loss of fingers, toes or even noses. People with other skin ailments, such as psoriasis, were often tarred with the same brush as actual victims of leprosy.

The Scriptures record how the Israelites handled the problem: *“When a man has on the skin of his body a swelling or an eruption or a spot, and it turns into a leprous disease on the skin of his body, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests, and the priest shall examine the diseased spot on the skin of his body; and if the hair in the diseased spot has turned white and the disease appears to be deeper than the skin of his body, it is a leprous disease; when the priest has examined him he shall pronounce him unclean. But if the eruption spreads in the skin, after he has shown himself to the priest for his cleansing, he shall appear again before the priest; and the priest shall make an examination, and if the eruption has spread in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is leprosy”* (Lv 13:2-8).

Even in the ancient world people believed that this long-term infection was contagious: that it was passed somehow from person to person. As a result those infected were often banished from contact with their family and community until proved infection free or until their death. As we read in Leviticus, *“The leper who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry, ‘Unclean, unclean.’ He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease; he is unclean; he shall dwell alone in a habitation outside the camp”* (Lv 13:45, 46).

The ten lepers whom Jesus healed as recorded in St. Luke’s Gospel had at some point been declared “unclean” and isolated from others. This is why, as Luke records, they *“stood at a distance”* (Lk 17:12) and called out to the Lord for mercy. There was no medical treatment for this disease which could allow patients to remain in their community until the 1980s!

Leprosy a Type of Sin

In the Old Testament contact with what we might call the ultimate examples of our physical nature (childbirth, menstruation, or contact with the dead) rendered Israelites “ritually unclean.” Before they could worship in the temple they would need purification. To be “unclean,” then, was a sign of ritual impurity. This, in turn, would become a *symbol* for sin. Thus the Prophet Isaiah spoke of the entire nation as unclean: *“We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment”* (Is 64:6).



Many Jewish and Christian commentators through the ages have seen leprosy as the Scriptures' most vivid type of sin. Leprosy starts as an invisible infection which slowly dominates the victim's life. Leprosy defiles and deforms the sufferers, isolating them from others. Ultimately the body becomes numb to further injury as leprosy destroys the ability to feel pain. It is an image of sin which, untreated, makes people its captive, contaminating and destroying them from within. Then, insensitive to wrongdoing, the victim becomes less able to see the effects of sin in the world. Lest this spreads, the sinner must be isolated from God's People.

Often during history, however, people have come to believe that leprosy was an actual *punishment* for sin, particularly sins against chastity. Some saw this as a mercy from God: the sinner was punished in this life to spare a worse fate in the next.

How the Lord Treated Lepers

The ten lepers of Lk 17 were not the only ones the Lord Jesus encountered according to the Gospels. Cleansing lepers, along with healing the blind, the lame and the deaf were considered signs that Jesus was the Messiah. In Mt 8:1-4 and Mk 1:40-44 26:6 we read of a healing accomplished by physical contact: Jesus "*stretched out His hand and touched him*" (Mt 8:3). In contrast, He healed the ten lepers in Luke at a distance, sending them off to the priests apparently unhealed. The ten did not doubt Jesus; they went their way as He directed them and along the road their healing was manifested.

In both cases the lepers were sent to the priests to verify their healing. Leviticus 14 gives detailed instructions on what was to be done if a leper was now clean, including bathing, shaving and sacrificing three lambs as well as being anointed with oil. Only then would the leper be considered ritually clean.

The Samaritan, however, returns directly to Jesus, He would never be deemed ritually pure by a Jewish priest. This freed him to recognize the One who made him clean.

Giving Thanks Like the Samaritan

The grateful Samaritan has always been seen as an example to believers, calling us to be thankful for God's blessings to us. Many of us, however, are only thankful when we receive special blessings from God. We forget that in every circumstance of our life, every person we encounter is an opportunity for furthering us on the path to salvation. As St Paul noted, "*We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose* (Rom 8:28). Gratitude should be our daily attitude.

The fifth-century Syriac Father St John the Solitary offers this plan to develop an attitude of daily thanksgiving within us: "When evening comes, collect your thoughts and ponder over the entire course of the day: observe God's providential care for you; consider the grace He has wrought in you throughout the whole span of the day; consider the rising of the moon, the joy of daylight, all the hours and moments, the divisions of time, the sight of different colors, the beautiful adornment of creation, the course of the sun, the growth of your own stature, how your own person has been protected, consider the blowing of the winds, the ripe and varied fruits, how the elements minister to your comfort, how you have been preserved from accidents, and all the other activities of grace. When you have pondered on all this, wonder of God's love toward you will well up within you, and gratitude for His acts of grace will bubble up inside you."

Many thanks to the following parishioners and friends who were able to support the Parish Christmas Gift Drive. They helped raise almost \$18,000 for the parish!

Mr. & Mrs. Jean Abi Farah	Mr. & Mrs. Bert Guimond	Mr. James Morin
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Anderson	Mrs. John Habib	Mr. & Mrs. Kamal Moussoba
Ms. Betty Ashooh	Mr. & Mrs. Elias Haddad	Mr. & Mrs. Pierre Nassoura
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Ashooh	Mr. & Mrs. Wissam Haidar	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Nehme
Mr. & Mrs. John Barger	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Harb	Mr. & Mrs. Stefan Notter
Mr. Joseph Baroody	Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Hetu-Radny	Mr. & Mrs. Denis O'Keefe
Mrs. Carol Bednarowski	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kaladish	Mr. & Mrs. Stephen O'Leary
Mr. Henry Bilodeau	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kearney	Ms. Marion Powell-Thornton
Mrs. Helena Burkush	Ms. Christine L Kfoury	Mr. & Mrs. Ted Shiepe
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Cullen	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Khoury	Mr. & Mrs. Pierre Slaybe
Dr. Mary Cullen	Knights of Columbus #5260	Ms. Maryann Steinmetz
Mrs. Theresa Cullen	Mr. Ken Komisarek	Rev & Mrs. Thomas Steinmetz
Mr. & Mrs. Charbel Dagher	Mrs. Mary-Ann LaJeunesse	Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Stephen
Mr. & Mrs. Jamil Dagher	Mr. & Mrs. Theoharis Lazos	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Stephen
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Dagher	Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Lomanno	Mr. & Mrs. John Stephen
Mr. & Mrs. Salam Dagher	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Longchamps	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stephen
Edward & Bonnie DeVenuti	Hon. Barbara Maloney	Mr. Andre J. St. Germain
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Ermatinger	Mr. & Mrs. John MacArthur	Mrs. Rita Tutundgy
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Fregeau	Mr. Kenneth Monty	Shannon & Marilyn Whitmore
Stephen McMahon & Grace Freije		

Thank you!

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, Sher Farrow, Declan Finn, Janet Drake, Julie Fregeau, Mary Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, Christine Freitas, John Gallagher, Loretto Gauvin, Bonnie Gomez, Gail Fisher, Nick Haddad, Lucille Harper, Laura Jorba, Virginia Kearney, Shirley Lanoue, Susan Latvis, Diana Lebel, Peggy Leclar, Fr. Theophan Leonarczyk, Sadie Grace McCallum, Miriam McCallum, Susan Merrill, Alfred Nasr, Afef Nasr, 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, Mary Stephen, Catherine Waldron, 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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