



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. 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)*

June 14, 2015

The Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Elisha

and of our Holy Father Methodios the Confessor, Archbishop of Constantinople

THE 3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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.

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

Kondakion : "O Never Failing Protectress of Christians": Page 17

THE PROKIMENON:

MY STRENGTH AND MY COURAGE IS THE LORD,
AND HE HAS BEEN MY SAVIOR!

The Lord has chastised me through His teaching, yet He has not delivered me to death!

Today's Readings: Romans 5:1-10 and Matthew 6:22-33

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Heath Wilkins (40 Day Memorial),
by the Sherburne Family

Sunday, 10:00 AM:

For the repose of Bishop Justin Najmy,
the first bishop for the Melkites in America (47th Anniversary)

Next Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the health and salvation of Anna Kaladish & Ian Reynolds,
by Bob and Alison Kaladish

For the repose of Josephine Baroody (30th), Charles Nassoura (33rd),
Barbara Spencer (13th), Ferris Ebol (35th), James Holt (10th), Honnie Coriaty (36th),
William Paquette (21st), John George (11th), and Rachel George (21st)

Next Sunday, 10:00 AM:

For the repose of Bernadette Ganem (One Year Anniversary)

For the repose of Millie Ashooh (5th Anniversary),
by her family

For the health and salvation of those in the parish
that are graduating from high school and college



Do you know someone in the parish that is graduating from high school or college? Let Fr. Tom know, so that we can congratulate and pray for them at the Divine Liturgy next Sunday!

We Need Recipes!

We are in the process of preparing a Lebanese cookbook for the parish and hope to have it ready for sale at the Mahrajan. We need your help. We need your recipes. The deadline is June 21.

There are two ways to submit recipes: (1) Write your recipes down on a card or piece of paper and place in the box at the back of the church or (2) Log onto www.typensave.com and log in with the following: Username: OLOC Password: thyme687

If you need help or more details, call Rachel Minsinger at (603)296-5038 or email her at rcullen.clarinet@gmail.com



VOCATION VIEW

Christ and Paul are calling us to check our focus on life: what is really central, what is really important, what is merely peripheral. The answer is clear: we are people loved and saved by God, living in communion with Him and one another in His Kingdom, already begun among us. Everything else must be put in order and perspective after and around that fact. Our priests are to constantly call us to “be attentive” to that reality in our lives and world. Pray that God stir up many vocations to the priesthood who will generously respond and serve us in that ministry.

MAHRAJAN 2015!

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:

Grape leaves: July 14; Spinach Pies: August 18; Meat Pies: August 19

40 DAY MEMORIAL

There will be a 40 Day Memorial Liturgy next Sunday at 10:00 AM at St. Joseph’s Church in Lawrence, MA for Emile Tannous, the brother in law of Ibrahim Hannah.

Attendance Last Saturday 4:30 PM: 24 11:00 AM: 97

Last Weekend’s Collection: \$ 808.⁰⁰

The average Sunday envelope donation: \$27.²²

The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ 295,547.²⁵

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Tues., June 16	8:30 AM	Orthros (In the basement chapel)
<i>No Service on Wednesday evening this week</i>		
Thurs., June 18	7:00 PM	Divine Liturgy: For the sick and suffering of the parish
Sat., June 20	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
Sun., June 21	9:15 AM	Sunday Orthros
Sun., June 21	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Today we commemorate the Holy Prophet Elisha and St. Methodios the Confessor

Elisha lived nine hundred years before Christ. When the Lord willed to take the aged Prophet Elijah to Himself, He revealed to him that He had designated Elisha, the son of Shaphat of the tribe of Reuben from the town of Abel-Meholah, as his successor in the prophetic service. Elijah informed Elisha of God's will and draped him with his mantle and implored from God the two-fold grace of prophecy for him. Elisha immediately departed his home and family and followed Elijah. When the Lord took Elijah in a fiery chariot, Elisha remained to continue the prophetic service with yet a greater power than Elijah.

By his purity and zeal, Elisha was equal to the greatest prophets and, by the miraculous power that was given to him by God, Elisha exceeded them all. He parted the waters of the Jordan as Moses once parted the Red Sea; the bitter waters in Jericho he made drinkable; he brought forth water into the excavated trenches during the war with the Moabites; he multiplied the oil in the pots of the poor widow; he resurrected the dead son of the Shunammite woman; he fed a hundred people with twenty small loaves of bread; he healed Commander Naaman of leprosy; he invoked leprosy upon his servant Gehazi because of his greed; he blinded the entire Syrian army and also forced another army to flee; he foretold many events to the people as well as to individuals. Elisha died at a very old age.

St. Methodius was born in the town of Syracuse in Sicily. After the completion of his secular studies, he was tonsured a monk and began to live a life of asceticism in a monastery. Patriarch Nicephorus took him into his service. During the reign of the iconoclastic emperors, he became widely known as a superb defender of the veneration of icons. For this, the wicked Emperor Theophilus exiled him to an island with two common criminals where he languished in a damp prison for seven years without light and without sufficient food as though in a grave.

During the time of the pious Empress Theodora and her son Michael, Methodius was freed and was chosen as patriarch (according to an earlier prophecy of St. Joannicius the Great). The first week of the Great Fast [Lenten Season] Methodius solemnly carried the icons into the church and wrote a Canon in honor of icons.

Unable to outwit him, the vile heretics hired a woman who declared that the patriarch had an impure relationship with her. The whole of Constantinople was horrified at this slander. Nevertheless, not knowing how he could otherwise prove his innocence, the patriarch overcame his embarrassment, removed his clothes and stood naked before the court which he himself had requested, and showed his withered body, debilitated from fasting. The court was clearly convinced that the patriarch had been slandered. Hearing of this, the people rejoiced and the heretics were shamed. Then, the woman admitted that she was persuaded and paid to bring this slander against the saint of God. Thus, those who thought to bring shame upon Methodius unintentionally increased his fame. This great confessor of the Faith died peacefully in the year 846 A.D. and took up habitation in the Kingdom of God.



The Fast of The Apostles



Traditionally in the Byzantine tradition, this fast begins on the Monday following All Saints Sunday (the Sunday after Pentecost) and extends until the celebration of the feast of the Holy Apostles on June 29th. For the Melkites, however, the Synod and Patriarch have assigned June 19th as the date to begin this fast.

Having rejoiced for fifty days following the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Apostles began to prepare for their departure from Jerusalem to spread Christ's message. According to Sacred Tradition, the Apostles had a period of prayer and fasting as part of their preparation for their missionary undertakings.

The tradition of the Fast has existed at least since Pope Leo I (461 AD), as is evidenced by his homilies, though it has subsequently been forgotten in the West. The Fast is thought to have been instituted out of thanksgiving to God for the witness of the apostles of Christ. The Apostle's Fast has been kept to this day as an expression of unity with the apostles mission and their endurance of persecution, and also as a means to strengthen us for our own missionary endeavors.

The Apostles' Fast is not as severe as Great Lent, but entails fasting from meat, poultry, eggs, dairy products, fish, oil, and wine. Fish, wine and oil are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays, and oil and wine are allowed on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As with the other fasts of the church year these suggestions are offered not as rules but as serious spiritual guidelines for the life of the faithful, and may be adapted according to need and situation and are not mandatory or binding.

During this fast, as we remember the sufferings endured by the Apostles, let us also remember that the Churches established by the Apostles in the Middle East are suffering once more. Christians in Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Syria and elsewhere in Asia and Africa are enduring renewed assaults from Islamic fundamentalists and other extremist groups, as well as from the Communist regimes in the Far East. Persecution of Christians in Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, China, India, Indonesia, Libya, Nigeria, North Korea, Mali, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sudan, Tanzania and Turkey is reported almost daily. This Fast is a particularly appropriate time to pray for our suffering brethren in these countries.

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.

Jude, the Brother of James

(The Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Jude will be offered on Thursday at 7:00 PM, for the intention of all the sick and suffering of our parish.)

IN EVERY CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIANS we can expect to find a few saints, a few sinners, and a lot of people who are a bit of both. Unfortunately sometimes people join a church or become active in its organizations for social, financial or political gain. They tend to keep their motivations secret in order to win the approval of other members. Others may motivated by a desire to dominate others, or to appear as the center of attention. Such individuals may push their own agendas the point of becoming divisive elements in churches.

They may take on the clergy, the members of the church council or other parishioners.

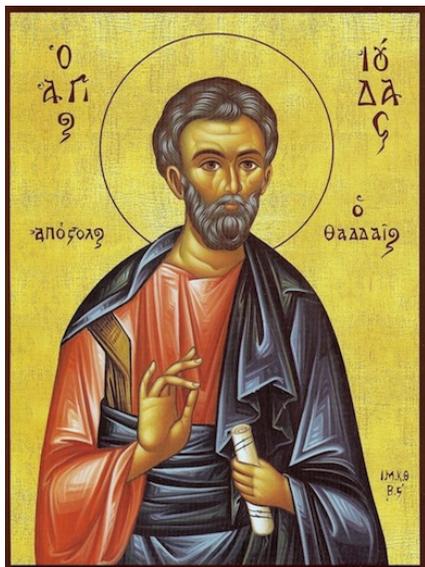
The Apostle Jude pulled no punches in dealing with such people. He confronted the issue of divisiveness in his General Epistle, one of the last – and shortest – books of the New Testament. He described such people as barren. They are, he said, “...spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever” (Jude 1:12-13).

Jude summons several examples from the Old Testament to show what such people can expect to receive: “Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah” (v. 11). Still, Jude notes, some of these people can be corrected gently but others need the fear of God put in them lest they perish: “on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire...” (vv. 22-23). Church leaders need to know when to be strict and when to be lenient in dealing with such people: when to apply the law and when to extend clemency.

The Apostle Jude

The Scripture identifies the author of this epistle as Jude, “*the brother of James*” (Jude 1:1), but which James is his brother? There are three known in the New Testament; two are described as having a brother named Jude.

One James in the New Testament is “the brother of the Lord,” who is thought to be the son of St. Joseph by his first wife (in the West James is usually described at the Lord’s *relative*). When the people of Nazareth wondered about what they were hearing about Jesus they said, “Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?” (Mt 13:54-55) Both “Jude” and “Judas” translate the same Hebrew name, Yahudah; English speakers have always felt squeamish about giving the same name to both the faithful Apostle and the Traitor.



Another James in the New Testament is found in the Gospel list of the Twelve: “*James the son of Alphaeus*” (Lk 6:15). Paired with him is “*Judas the son of James*” (v.16). So our Jude is either the brother of James, the Lord’s brother, who would become the leader of the Church in Jerusalem, or the son of James, the son of Alphaeus, who was one of the Twelve.

In the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, Jude is not mentioned in the list of the Twelve Apostles. Instead a Thaddeus is named in his place. These names have often been harmonized as “Jude Thaddeus.” It was not unusual, especially in a border region such as Galilee, for people to have both a Greek and a Semitic name, but there is no concrete evidence that this was so in the case of St Jude.

The Acts of Simon and Jude

The New Testament makes no further mention of St Jude or other of the Apostles. As a result many apocryphal Gospels and Acts were written in the first centuries to detail their later adventures. Simon and Jude are variously described as preaching in North Africa, Gaul, Britain and the East. One such source, *The Acts of Simon and Jude*, has these two apostles preaching and ultimately martyred in the Persian Empire. It is thought that this text comes from as late as the fourth century AD, but its description of first-century Persia is said to be remarkably accurate.

Material from The Acts of Simon and Jude came to be included in Jacobus de Voragine’s *Golden Legends*, a thirteenth-century collection of saints’ lives beloved in the Medieval West. It was printed in countless editions and soon translated from Latin into most European languages, accounting for the popularity of this otherwise unknown Apostle in the Middle Ages.

Sometime after his death, Saint Jude’s body was brought from Beirut to Rome and placed in a crypt in St. Peter’s Basilica which was visited by many devotees. Now his bones are in the left transept of St. Peter’s Basilica under the main altar of St. Joseph in one tomb with the remains of the apostle Simon the Zealot.

Jude and His “Hopeless Cases”

In the West today, St. Jude has become known as the “Patron of hopeless cases” or “Patron of the impossible.” How did this come about? According to tradition, after his martyrdom, pilgrims came to his grave to pray and many of them experienced the powerful intercessions of St. Jude.

Devotion to St. Jude may have been popularized by St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153) and later by St. Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373). She reputedly had a vision in which the Lord Himself told her to pray to St. Jude with faith and confidence, because the apostle would “show himself to be the most willing to give you help.” This was one of a host of visions of Christ, the Virgin and other saints who appeared to her and dictated prayers and devotions for her to observe. A collection of these visions, *The Prophecies and Revelations of St Bridget*, was another popular work in the Medieval West.

The Order of Preachers (the Dominicans) began working in present day Armenia soon after their founding in 1216. There was a substantial devotion to St. Jude in this area at that time, by both Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians. This lasted until persecution drove Christians from the area in the 18th century. Devotion to Saint Jude began again in earnest in the 19th century, starting in Italy and Spain, spreading to South America, and finally to the United States (starting in the area around Chicago) owing to the influence of the Claretians and the Dominicans in the 1920s.

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, 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, Bernice Morin, 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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**MAHRAJAN 2015
 is coming!**
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