



OUR LADY OF THE CEDARS CHURCH

A MELKITE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

140 MITCHELL STREET, MANCHESTER, NH 03103

TEL # (603) 623-8944 FAX # (603) 645-6017

Email: oloc.church@comcast.net

Website: www.olocnh.org

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 28, 2015

**The Commemoration of the Transfer of the Remains
of the Holy Unmercenary Physicians, Cyrus and John**

THE 5th 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 (4th Tone) Page 52

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

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

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: Romans 10:1-10 and Matthew 8:28-9:1

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Mary Batal (54th), Emile Ashooh (29th), William Zeady (55th), Francis Kheriaty (8th), Elias Ashooh (62nd), Wilfred Burkush (29th), and Nora Noyes (9th)

Sunday, 10:00 AM:

For the repose of those killed in the South Carolina church shooting: Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Cynthia Hurd, Tywanza Sanders, Myra Thompson, Ethel Lance, Daniel Simmons, Susi Jackson, and Rev. Depayne Middleton-Doctor and for the peace and consolation of their loved ones

Next Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Joseph Baroody (44th), Anthony Stephen (11th), Zahia George (42nd), Theodora Smit (33rd), Martha Khatter (22nd), Peter Flamant (24th), and Elias Solomon (47th)

Next Sunday, 10:00 AM:

For the repose of the members of our parish who have departed from this life, and for all of our departed friends, relative, and loved ones



Do you have
collar I.D.?



Today's epistle speaks of Christ touching people so that they can become free children of God. In the Gospel, Christ frees two men, restoring their dignity and identity to them as children of God. It is the role of the priest and deacon to continue this ministry of Christ today. Are you being called to a religious vocation? If so, what is your answer to God?

Remember to pray for your priests and deacons, and to pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood.

I will be out of town this week directing the National Melkite Youth Conference at Colombiere Conference Center in Clarkston, MI. You may continue to call me at the parish phone number, as the calls will forward to my cell phone. If I am unable to answer, please leave a message. I will check my messages regularly.

-Fr. Tom



Note: There is no Saturday Kitchen for the month of July!

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

There is a second collection this weekend for the mortgage

The Fathers Speak: On the mercy of God

“The thief who received the kingdom of heaven, though not as the reward of virtue, is a true witness to the fact that salvation is ours through the grace and mercy of God. All of our holy fathers knew this and all with one accord teach that perfection in holiness can be achieved only through humility. Humility, in its turn, can be achieved only through faith, fear of God, gentleness, and the shedding of all possessions. It is by means of these that we attain perfect love, through the grace and compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory through all the ages. Amen.” —*St. John Cassian*

“Even if we have thousands of acts of great virtue to our credit, our confidence in being heard must be based on God’s mercy and His love for men. Even if we stand at the very summit of virtue, it is by mercy that we shall be saved.” —*St. John Chrysostom*

Attendance Last Saturday 4:30 PM: 23 11:00 AM: 96

Last Weekend’s Collection: \$ 1,039.⁸⁵

The average Sunday envelope donation: \$35.⁰⁰

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

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Sat., July 4	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
Sun., July 5	9:15 AM	Sunday Orthros
Sun., July 5	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: The Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

The Transfer of the Remains of the Holy Unmercenary Physicians, Cyrus and John

The Holy martyrs Cyrus and John were physicians who suffered martyrdom during the years of Emperor Diocletian's persecutions. They are also commemorated on January 31.

St. Cyrus was born in Alexandria of Egypt in the 3rd Century A.D., to faithful Christian parents. He attended the university in Alexandria becoming a medical physician. He treated his patients without pay or rewards. St. Cyrus healed in the name of Jesus Christ with prayers and by reciting passages from the Old Testament. After his patients were healed he would advise them that in order to stay healthy they must avoid sin as most of the time sickness comes through sin. As St. Cyrus became popular the citizens of Alexandria built a hospital for his work.

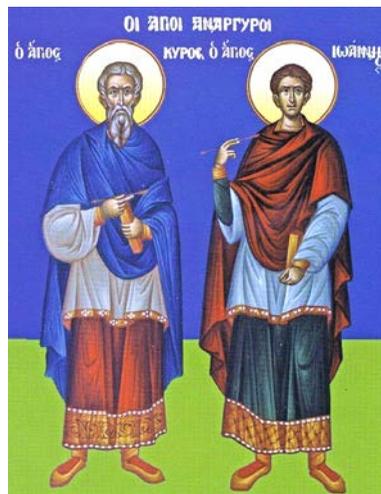
At that time the emperor of the Roman world was the pagan Diocletian (284-305) who was known for his merciless Christian persecutions. By preaching Christianity St. Cyrus was disobeying the laws of Rome to worship Roman Gods, an offense punishable by death. The saint narrowly escaped to Arabia and became a monk near a monastery close to the Persian Gulf. Through prayer and fasting St. Cyrus became a miracle worker. He could heal many illnesses by merely praying and performing the sign of the cross.

It was to this monastery another physician arrived, St John, a military doctor in the forces of Diocletian. Back in Egypt, a pious Christian woman named Athanasia was arrested along with her three young daughters – Theoctista, age fifteen, Theodota, age thirteen, and Eudoxia, age eleven, in the town of Canopis. When learning this Sts. Cyrus and John came to the Canopis prison to encourage the women not to abandon their faith.

Sts. Cyrus and John were arrested and tortured with beatings, whippings and burnings with lighted torches and boiling tar. This example of Christian courage and devotion strengthened the resolve of Athanasia, Theoctista, Theodota and Eudoxia who were also similarly tortured and beheaded only to be canonized as Saints of our Church. Because of their refusal to pay homage to Roman Gods, Sts. Cyrus and John were beheaded in the year 311. They were buried in the church of the disciple and evangelist St. Mark at Canopis.

In the year 412, the relics of these martyrs were transferred to the nearby village of Manuphin. This Egyptian village prompted fear in everyone, since in a former time there was a pagan temple inhabited by evil spirits. Patriarch Cyril (412-444) of Alexandria wanted to cleanse this place of demons, and he prayed fervently in carrying out this project. An angel of the Lord appeared in a vision to the hierarch and commanded the venerable relics of Sts Cyrus and John be transferred to Manuphin. His Holiness Patriarch Cyril did the angel's bidding and built a church at Manuphin in the name of the holy martyrs.

The village was purified of the demons, and by the prayers of the holy Martyrs Cyrus and John there began to occur many miracles, healings of the sick and infirm. The relics were later transferred to Rome and eventually they were brought to Munich. We invoke the Unmercenary Sts. Cyrus and John during the Blessing of the Water and in the Sacrament of Holy Unction.



The Feast of the Glorious and Praiseworthy Princes of the Apostles, Peter and Paul

On June 29 the Church observes the memory of the Holy and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles Saints Peter and Paul. The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul concludes one of the four major fasting periods of the Church.

The divinely-blessed Peter was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was a fisherman by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of Jonas; you shall be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter, meaning "Rock")" (John 1:42).

After the Resurrection of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit, he preached in Judea, Antioch, and certain parts of Asia, and finally came to Rome, where he was crucified upside down by Nero, and thus he ascended to the eternal habitations about the year 66 or 68, leaving two Catholic (General) Epistles to the Church of Christ.

Paul, the chosen vessel of Christ, the glory of the Church, the Apostle of the Nations and teacher of the whole world, was a Jew and a Roman citizen, fluent in the Greek language, a Pharisee, born of a Pharisee. In the beginning, Paul was a most fervent zealot and a great persecutor of the Church of Christ; at that time, his name was Saul (Acts 22:3-4).

While traveling on the road to Damascus, a light from Heaven suddenly shone upon him. Falling on the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" And he asked, "Who are You, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus Whom you are persecuting; it is hard for you to kick against the goad." The encounter left him blind. He was led by the into the city, and on account of a divine revelation to the Apostle Ananias, he was baptized by him, and both his bodily and spiritual eyes were opened to the knowledge of Christ.

And straightway, he spoke with boldness in the synagogues, proclaiming that "Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 9:1-21). In his zeal for preaching the Gospel he endured afflictions of diverse kinds – prison, beatings, stonings, a shipwrecks, hunger, thirst, nakedness - all endured for the Name of Christ. Having completed the work of his ministry, he likewise ended his life in martyrdom when he was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time, some say, when Peter was crucified.

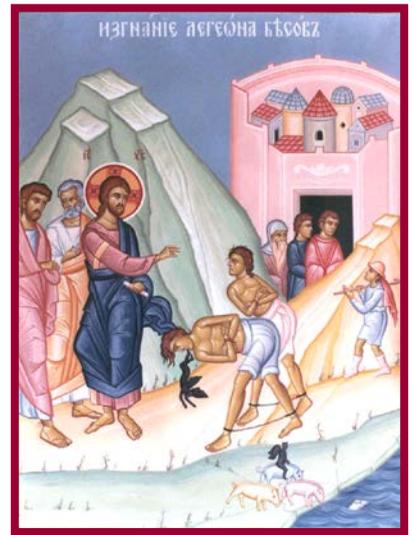
The icon of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul is a beautiful presentation of their importance and prominence. The icon that shows both Apostles are standing together holding an image of the Church. In the icon, the Apostle Paul, the great missionary of the early Church, is holding a Gospel book, while the Apostle Peter offers a blessing with his right hand. At the top of the icon is a semicircle, representing the divine realm. Rays extend in the semicircle representing the blessings and presence of God upon His two chosen heralds of the True Faith.



Galilee of the Gentiles

THE PASSAGE FROM ST MATTHEW'S GOSPEL describing the healing of the demoniac begins with the words, "When Jesus had come to the other side..." (Mt 8:28). "The other side of what?" we may ask, raising questions of where Jesus went and what it meant for His ministry. How does knowing where He lived and where He travelled contribute to our understanding of who He is and to our way of following Him?

The Lord Jesus spent most of His earthly life in the province of Galilee, the northernmost district of the Holy Land. Galilee, north of Samaria, was the ancient territory of the Israelite tribes of Zebulon and Naphtali. With Samaria it had formed the northern kingdom, Israel, after the split following Solomon's death (c. 931 BC). In 740 BC the northern kingdom had been conquered by the Assyrians; it would not be ruled again by Jews until 140 BC.



Galilee of the Gentiles

Already in the eighth century BC the prophet Isaiah referred to this territory as "Galilee of the Gentiles" (9:1), a phrase which will be quoted in Mt 4:16. Isaiah may have been referring to an event mentioned in *1 Kings* 9: 10-13. There we read that Hiram, the King of Tyre, had supplied cedar, cypress and gold to build the temple at Jerusalem. To repay him, "King Solomon then gave Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee..."

The story of Hiram is the first of two rather disparaging references to Galilee in the Scriptures. Solomon's gift did not please the King of Tyre "So he said, 'What kind of cities are these which you have given me, my brother?' And he called them the land of Cabul, [good for nothing] as they are known to this day."

For the 600 years after the Assyrian conquest much of Galilee had been all but abandoned by the Jews, who concentrated on rebuilding Jerusalem and Judea. Like Samaria, Galilee saw foreigners – in this case Phoenician farmers and Greek mercenaries employed by the Persians – among its new residents, apparently not the result of any intentional efforts by the various ruling powers, none of whom introduced a substantial number of colonists.

Jewish resettlement of Galilee proceeded very slowly until the reestablishment of Jewish rule in the second century BC. According to the evidence of archaeology, there was a sudden change at the beginning of the first century BC. Within a few decades, dozens of new villages appeared, indicating that a new population had come into Galilee. By the first century AD Galilee included 204 prosperous villages and 15 fortified cities (Josephus, *Vita*, 45).

Nazareth vs. Sepphoris

The town of Nazareth where Jesus was raised was on the outskirts of one such city, Sepphoris, the administrative center of Galilee and the home of the region's prosperous Jewish elite. Nazareth was a working man's town in the shadow of Sepphoris, of no importance to anyone but its residents. When the Lord's disciple Philip told Nathanael that he had found the Messiah,

Jesus of Nazareth, Nathaniel responded, “*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*” (*Jn 1:46*)

The cosmopolitan and deeply Hellenized city of Sepphoris is never mentioned in the Gospels. Jesus is never depicted as going there – although it was only 3½ miles from Nazareth – and none of His closest followers are said to have lived there. Instead the Lord spent His time in and called disciples from the nearby working-class towns of Cana and Capernaum where He found “*the poor in spirit*” (*Mt 5:3*), people more likely to accept His words.

The contrast between Nazareth and Sepphoris exemplifies Christ’s preference for the poor in spirit, the attitude of spiritual poverty before God contrasted with the proud, exemplified in the Beatitudes, and which He personified in the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee. The figures associated with His birth – the holy Virgin, St Joseph, the shepherds, Simeon and Anna, even the magi – all display this quality.

Contemporary writers often use the Hebrew term *Anawim* to describe those people who look to God for everything. It was the word used by the Essene community to describe themselves. The *Anawim* usually have nothing that the world wants; their “wealth” consists in God. These are the people to whom Jesus referred in His first sermon at the synagogue in Nazareth, quoting *Isaiah 61:1, 2*: “*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor*” (*Lk 4:18*).

The Lord’s identification with the humble – the needy widow, Lazarus the beggar, the blind, the lame, and the lepers – has led churchmen throughout the ages to assert that the Church is called to imitate Christ by declaring its preference for the poor and powerless of this world. “Prove yourself a god to the unfortunate by imitating the mercy of God,” wrote St. Gregory the Theologian (*Oration XIV, On the Love of the Poor*). “There is nothing so godly in human beings as to do good works.” Sixteen centuries later Pope Benedict XVI taught that “love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel” (*Deus Caritas Est, 22*).

Foreigners and Samaritans

Archaeologists suggest that the population of Galilee at the time of Christ included transplanted Judeans. They joined many Gentile Galileans (Phoenicians and Greeks) and Idumeans who some scholars say had been forcibly converted to Judaism. If so, Galilee in Jesus’ day contained many Jews whose ancestors had only been Jewish for about a century.

At the same time the Galileans were surrounded by native pagan peoples: Phoenicians to the north, Amonites and Moabites to the east, Edomites to the south and Palestinians to the west, while their immediate neighbors to the south were the Samaritans. Strict Jews like the Pharisees reviled all these peoples as unbelievers or as heretics and therefore unclean.

The Lord Jesus was not put off by the isolationism of the scribes and Pharisees. Not only did He eat with sinners and tax collectors (i.e. collaborators with the occupying Romans), He ministered to Samaritans (*Jn 4:5-42*) and soldiers of the Roman occupation (*Lk 7:1-9*). He visited pagan territories such as Tyre and Sidon, where He helped the Syro-Phoenician woman (*Mk 7:24-30*), and Gadara, across the Jordan, as we see in today’s reading.

A Galilean befriending sinners, embracing the poor and powerless, foreigners and Samaritans despite the precepts of the Torah – is it any wonder, then, that the Lord Jesus made enemies among the scribes, the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law?

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.



StateFarm

Joe Ashooh, Agent
 297 S Willow Street
 Manchester, NH 03103
 Bus: 603-624-1000
joe@joesthere.com



State Farm, Bloomington, IL
 1211999

**NORTH HILLS
 REALTY GROUP, LLC**
Residential Real Estate Brokers
Abraham Dagher, Realtor
*814 Elm St., Suite # 302
 Manchester, NH 03101*
(603) 629-9988



Personal Injury
 Medical Malpractice
 Call today for a
 FREE consultation.
“We Fight For You”

Robert Stephen, Esq.
STEPHEN LAW GROUP
www.StephenLaw.com • Call 663.1007
848 Elm Street, Suite 303, Manchester, NH 03101



**Your Ad Here
 \$300 per Year**



**Central
 Paper**



MAHRAJAN
 Check out the
 Mahrajan Website:
www.bestfestnh.com



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

Glenwood Investment Group
“Grow and protect your hard-earned wealth”

**MAHRAJAN 2015
 is coming!**
**August 21, 22, 23,
 2015!**

Check out
www.melkite.org
 -new educational
 material is posted
 regularly!