



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. DEACON ROBERT SPENCER

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)

July 20, 2014

The Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Elijah, the Tishbite

THE 6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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, JENNA NEHME, 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 (5th Tone) Page 53

The Troparion of the Holy Prophet Elijah (4th Tone)

O Glorious Elijah, the Angel in body, the pillar of the prophets, and second forerunner of Christ's Advent, by sending grace from on high upon Elisha, dispels diseases, purifies lepers and overflows with healing for those who honor him.

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

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

THE PROKIMENON:

**YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER
ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHISEDEK.**

*The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies my footstool."*

Today's Readings: James 5: 10-20 and Matthew 9: 1-8

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Julie Flamant (33rd), George Baroody,
Jack Laliberte (12th), Hassibe Elias (8th) and George Gibran (43rd)

Sunday, 10:00 AM:

For the repose of Julie Cullen,
by her brother Brian Cullen and Family

For the repose of Donald Shine,
by his sister Eileen Shine Litterio and Family

For the repose of John Steinmetz (29th Anniversary),
by his son Fr. Tom and Family

Next Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Charles Baroody (25th), Lucille Holt (29th),
Joseph Tutumdgy (3rd), Theresa Lawrence (11th), and William Baroody (34th)

Next Sunday, 10:00 AM:

For the repose of Gerald Ouellette, by Deacon Robert Spencer & Family



Kafta will be served after the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Funds raised will be used for the installation of the Mitchell St. side gate.

The Blessing of Cars

On this feast day of the Holy Prophet Elijah, remembering that Elijah was taken up into heaven in a fiery chariot, we have the tradition of blessing all vehicles of travel. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will have the prayer of blessing of automobiles outside in the parking lot.



Mahrajan 2014 – August 15, 16, 17!

Mahrajan 2013 is right around the corner. This great event requires the help of the whole parish to be a continued success. Here are ways that you can help right now:

Make donations for food!

Help us with our costs is by donating a food or ingredient. There are signup sheets in the hall, along with the cost. Envelopes are also available there, if you would like to use them. We are counting on your generosity. All donors will be recognized in our annual souvenir book.

Place a personal message/memorial in the Mahrajan book!

Please consider placing your message or memorial in the Mahrajan 2013 souvenir book – only \$100 per page! You can submit your message via forms in the back of the church.

Help out: Tuesday evening food preparation!

Here are the remaining dates for food preparation for the Mahrajan. The cooking time is 6:00 PM for all dates. Please take note of them –We need your help!

July 22, Tues, Chicken Kabobs

Aug 12, Tues, Spinach and Meat Pies

Aug 13, Wed, Coosa Pita

Attendance: Last Sat. 4:30 PM - 18 Last Sun. 10:00 AM - 116

Last Weekend's Collection: \$ 1,319.⁰⁰

The average envelope donation: \$37.⁶⁴

The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ 335,078.⁶³

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

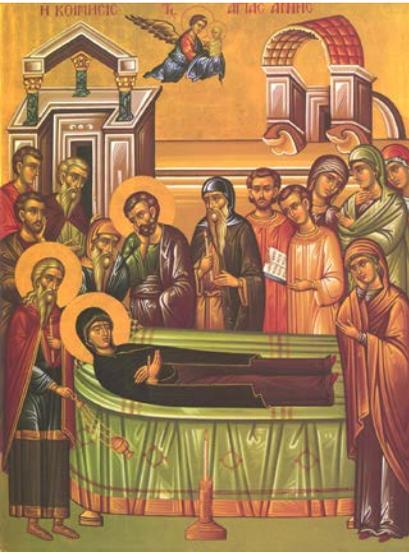
Weekday services will be held in the basement chapel

Tues., July 22	8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy: For the health of Helen Baroody Payne
Wed., July 23	7:00 PM	Vespers
Thurs. July 24	8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy: For the health of Josephine Paquette
Sat., July 26	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost
Sun., July 27	9:15 AM	Sunday Orthros
Sun., July 27	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 25: The Dormition of St. Anne, the mother of the Theotokos

St. Joachim was of the tribe of Judah, and a descendant of King David. St. Anne was the daughter of Matthan the priest, of the tribe of Levi as was Aaron the High Priest.

Sts. Joachim and Anne had been married for fifty years, and were barren. They longed for a child but remained childless into their old age. When they were in Jerusalem to offer sacrifice to God, the High Priest, Issachar, upbraided Joachim, "You are not worthy to offer sacrifice with those childless hands." Others who had children jostled Joachim, thrusting him back as unworthy. This caused the aged saint great grief, and he and his wife left with heavy hearts. Then the two of them gave themselves to prayer to God that He would give them a child to comfort their old age.



God sent the Archangel Gabriel to each of them, who gave them tidings of the birth of "a daughter most blessed, by whom all the nations of the earth will be blessed, and through whom will come the salvation of the world." Each promised to have their child raised in the Temple as a holy vessel of God. St. Anne conceived shortly thereafter, and gave birth to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Sts. Joachim and Anne took Mary, at the age of three, to the temple to be dedicated to the service of the Lord, and presented her to the priest Zechariah. The parents then, after offering up her sacrifice (according to the custom of the time), left the Virgin with other maidens in the apartments of the temple to be brought up therein. During the next seven years, Righteous Anne and Joachim visited Mary often at the temple.

After St. Joachim died, leaving St. Anne a widow, she moved from Nazareth to Jerusalem, and lived near the Temple. At Jerusalem she bought two pieces of property: the first at the gates of Gethsemane, and the second in the valley of Josaphat. At the second locale she built a tomb for the members of her family, and where also she herself was buried with Joachim, leaving Mary orphaned at the age of ten. It was there in the Garden of Gethsemane that the Savior often prayed with His disciples.

The most-pure body of the Mother of God was also buried in the family tomb. Christians honored the sepulcher of the Mother of God, and they built a church on this spot. Within the church was preserved the precious funeral cloth, which covered Her all-pure and fragrant body.

The holy Patriarch Juvenal of Jerusalem (420-458) testified before the emperor Marcian (450-457) as to the authenticity of the tradition about the miraculous ascent of the Mother of God to Heaven, and he sent to the empress, St. Pulcheria, the grave wrappings of the Mother of God from Her tomb. St. Pulcheria then placed these grave-wrappings within the Blachernae church. During the reign of St. Justinian the Emperor (527-565), a church was built in honor of St. Anne at Deutera. And since St. Anne had appeared to his pregnant wife, Emperor Justinian II (685-695; 705-711) restored her church. It was at this time that her body and maphorion (veil) were transferred to Constantinople.

-edited from an article at www.orthodoxwiki.org



The Pillar of the Prophets

THE SCRIPTURES ARE FILLED with writings of the prophets, particularly the fifteen books named after the most celebrated Hebrew prophets. Nevertheless, the one most revered as “the pillar of the prophets and their leader” seems to have written nothing, except a letter to King Jehoram of Israel, which was delivered sometime after the prophet had left this world (see *2 Chron* 21:10-12).

Elijah (Elias) the Tishbite lived in the ninth century BC, in the northern kingdom of Israel during the reign of King Ahab. Five hundred years had passed since Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. Several generations had come and gone since David and Solomon ruled in God’s name. Their kingdom had been divided in two and thereby weakened by rivalries among its leaders. The Israelites had grown lax in their conviction that

there was but one God. Proximity to and intermarriage with neighboring Canaanites had made them more accepting of these other gods, such as Baal, favorite of the king’s wife, Jezebel. The dramatic story of Elijah’s encounter with the prophets of Baal is recorded in *1 Kings* 17-19.

Elijah – whose name means “Yahweh is my God” – personifies the most important characteristic of the Hebrew prophets. He is described repeatedly as consumed by zeal for the LORD, devoted to observing and restoring the worship of the one true God. The commitment of the Israelites to their God would wax and wane over succeeding generations and other prophets would rise up to do as Elijah had done in his day to exalt the name of the one true God.

Elijah the Wonderworker

The Scriptures recount several marvels in the life of Elijah for which he is especially revered. The most dramatic involves the drought brought about by the prophet who warned the king, “*There will be no dew or rain except at my bidding*” (*1 Kgs* 17:1). The three-year long drought was ended at Elijah’s prayer, after the prophets of Baal had failed to do so, bringing about the conversion of the people to the LORD. “*When they saw this, all the people flung themselves on their faces and cried out: ‘THE LORD alone is God! THE LORD alone is God!’*” (*1 Kgs* 18:39).

A series of wonders took place in Zarephath, a village near Sidon. There Elijah multiplied flour and oil for a poor widow so that “*she and her household had food for a long time*” (*1 Kgs* 17:15). Elijah also restored the widow’s son to life after a fatal illness had claimed him by prostrating himself three times over the child and praying, “*O LORD, let this child’s life return to his body*” (*1 Kgs* 17:21). St Ephrem the Syrian would see this triple prostration as an image of Christ’s triple descent (to becoming man, to death, and to Hades) to bring life to the human race.

Elijah the Ascetic

Monastics in the Christian East have long revered Elijah as a kind of proto-monk, a desert-dweller for the Lord. During the drought God sent Elijah east of the Jordan to Wadi Cherith, a secluded ravine out of Ahab’s reach where “*ravens brought him bread and meat morning and evening, and he drank from the river*” (*1 Kgs* 17:6). Modern commentators have noted that the

original Hebrew text has no vowels and that the same consonants in the word *ravens* can also be read as *Arabs*. Perhaps Bedouin tribesmen brought food to Elijah in his wilderness retreat as their descendants would assist hermits in later centuries.

Monastics also identified with Elijah's forty-day fast on his journey to Mount Horeb (see *1 Kgs* 19:8). At the conclusion of this fast the LORD revealed His presence to Elijah in "*a still, small voice*" (*1 Kgs* 19:12). This they saw as an icon of the monastic life. The monk distances himself from the world through fasting and other ascetic practices to pursue communion with God (*theosis*).

Elijah and Mount Carmel

Several events in the life of the prophet Elijah are connected with Mount Carmel, a promontory on the Mediterranean near the city of Haifa. Christians, Druze, Jews and Muslims all revere this place for its connection with Elijah. Early in the spread of monasticism ascetics settled in the area, often living in caves on the outcropping.

When Western monks came to the Holy Land during the Crusades, they found Eastern hermits settled on Carmel and stayed among them. The Western monks adopted the Easterners' way of life in the spirit of Elijah. When they returned to Europe, however, these "Carmelites" were obliged to adopt a communal way of life. While living as a hermit was considered the summit of monastic life in the East, it was seen as eccentric in the West.

Elijah's Return

The last Old Testament prophetic book, Malachi, ends with these words of the LORD: "*Lo, I will send the prophet Elijah before the coming of the awesome, fearful day of the LORD. He shall reconcile parents with children and children with their parents so that, when I come, I do not strike the whole land with utter destruction*" (*Mal* 3:23-24). Believing Jews saw Elijah's return as a herald of the Messiah's coming. To this day Jews pray every Sabbath: "Elijah the prophet, Elijah the Tishbite – let him come quickly in our day with the Messiah, the son of David." Christians, of course, believe that the Messiah has come – it is Jesus. Jesus Himself identified John the Baptist as Elijah come again: "*If you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come*" (*Mt* 11:14).

In *2 Kgs* 2:11 we read "*And it came to pass while they [Elijah and Elisha] were walking, speaking together as they walked, behold, a chariot of fire came between the two of them and Elijah was swept up in a whirlwind...*" The current Hebrew text, on which most modern translations are based, says that Elijah was swept up "*into heaven.*" The oldest existing text, however, the Greek Septuagint says that he was swept up "*as if into heaven.*" This accords with the statement in the Gospel of John, "*No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven*" (*Jn* 3:13).

Jewish commentaries describe heaven as the dwelling place of the angels. Christians, however, see heaven as the state of intimate communion with God: something made possible only after Christ. Thus St Athanasius would write, "Elijah did not ascend into heaven... Heaven was reserved for the Creator, the Author of mankind. Thus, with Enoch and Elijah, God gladdened the people with a promising hope by spreading before them an 'airborne highway' as though for horse-drawn vehicles" (Homily 2 on the Ascension). As St. Gregory mused concerning Enoch and Elijah, "...even he [Elijah] did not go beyond the boundaries of the earth, but who knows what kind of transportation each of these ascensions was, which lifted them off the face of the earth, yet did not remove them from earth altogether" (Homily 1 on the Ascension).



Let us pray for the safe return to Manchester of Meriam Yahya Ibrahim, her husband Daniel and their two children. As of this writing, the death penalty imposed on Meriam for apostasy (converting to Christianity from Islam) has been overturned. The status of the sentence of 100 lashes for adultery (marrying a Christian) is unclear. They have both reportedly been released from custody but are not free to leave the Sudan. Daniel is a Manchester resident and an American citizen.

Please pray for the release of Greek Orthodox Archbishop Paul Yazigi and Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim who were abducted on April 22, 2013, when gunmen stopped their vehicle near the battleground northern city of Aleppo, where both are based. Please pray also for their deacon who was driving their car and was shot and killed in the attack.



Let us pray also for:

-Fr. Paolo Dall'Oglio, a Jesuit priest who was kidnapped by the militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, while walking in Raqqa July 29, 2013.

- For the more than 300 school girls that were kidnapped in Chibok, Nigeria in the Spring of 2014, who are being forcibly converted to Islam

-Fr. Alexis Prem Kumar, a priest from southern India, who was abducted by Taliban members from a school for refugees that he was visiting in the village of Sohadat, Afghanistan on June 2, 2014.

- And for all held captive and persecuted for their Christian faith.

Kyrie eleison! Kyrie eleison! Kyrie eleison!

Summer Program at the College of Saint Mary Magdalen

The College of Saint Mary Magdalen in Warner, NH is still accepting registrations for its Summer Program for high school students. The Collegiate Summer Program offers participants the opportunity to study theology, philosophy, literature and political science. During the summer program, students also attend daily Mass and enjoy sports, socials and day trips including hiking and canoeing. The program is for students who will be entering their sophomore, junior or senior year of high school in the fall of 2014. It is also open to students who have just graduated high school. The Collegiate Summer Program is a two-week session that runs from Sunday, July 27 – Saturday, August 9, 2014. Register today at www.magdalen.edu! For more information, contact the admissions office at admissions@magdalen.edu or 603.456.2656.

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, Anthony Blando, Helena Burkush, Danielle Caron, Meghan Connors, Lucy Corriveau, Theresa Cullen, Jamileh Dagher, Lynn Dargie, Marie Dargie, Sher Farrow, Declan Finn, Julie Fregeau, Mary Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, Christine Freitas, Loretto Gauvin, Sr. Marguerite Gravel, Nick Haddad, Jean Hannoush, Lucille Harper, Peggy Hunt, Howard Jabaley, Laura Jorba, Virginia Kearney, Shirley Lanoue, Roger Lawrence, Sadie Grace McCallum, Miriam McCallum, James McCloskey, Susan Merrill, Margaret Mitchell, Alfred Nasr, Afef Nasr, Blaise Notter, Steven O'Leary, Denis O'Keefe, Helen Baroody Payne, Josephine Paquette, Jean Poleatewich, Sheila Quinn, Deborah Roberts, Adam Rubin, Fr. Andre St. Germain, Robert Siwik, Nassim Sleiman, Salwa Sleiman, 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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is coming!
Aug. 15, 16, 17**