



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)

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

December 30, 2018

**The Commemoration of the Holy and Just Joseph, Spouse of the Theotokos,
of James, the Brother of the Lord, of David, Prophet and King,
of the Holy Proto-Martyr Stephen and of the Holy Martyr Anysia**

THE SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

Parish Advisory & Finance Council:

KEN MONTY (*PRESIDENT*), ROBERT ANDERSON, ROBIN ANDERSON, JOHN CULLEN,
MARTHA DAGHER, TIM ERMATINGER, KEN KOMISAREK, MARYLOU LAZOS, JESSICA LOMANNO,
MAURICE PARE', RAFAEL PESCHIERA, PAUL ST. GERMAIN, AND JOHN SIWIK

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 (5th Tone) Page 52

The Troparion of the Nativity of the Lord (4th Tone)

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shed the light of knowledge upon the world. Through it those who had been star-worshippers learned through a Star to worship You, O Sun of Justice, and recognize in You the One who rises from on high, O Lord, glory to You!

The Troparion of Joseph (2nd Tone)

O Joseph, proclaim to David, the ancestor of Christ, the great miracles you have witnessed: You have seen the Virgin with Child, given praise with the shepherds, adored with the Wise Men, and the angel of the Lord has appeared to you. Intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls.

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

The Kontakon of the Nativity of the Lord (3rd Tone)

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent in Essence, and the earth presents a cave to the Inaccessible. The angels with the shepherds sing His glory and the Wise Men with the Star travel on their way, for to us is born a New Child, who is God from all eternity.

THE PROKIMENON:

O LORD, SAVE YOUR PEOPLE AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE!

To You, O Lord, I have called; O my Rock, be not deaf to me!

Today's Readings: 2 Timothy 4: 5-8 and Mark 1: 1-8

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday (December 29) 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Louise Samara (30th), Frederick Solomon (16th), Margaret Marpes (41st),
Eva Abood (28th), and Elizabeth Freije (6th)

Sunday, (December 30) 10:30 AM

For the repose of Mary Miller, who fell asleep in the Lord on
December 16, by her daughter Andrea Taylor

For the repose of Juliette Bilodeau,
by her husband Henry Bilodeau

Next Saturday (January 5) 4:30 PM:

For the repose of George Abood (47th), Susan Attalla (46th), Zahia Elias (34th),
Leo Elias (12th), Sam Elias (68th), Cassie Gallagher (37th), Ernest Baroody (45th),
Mary Noufel (37th), and Mariam Haddad (37th)

Next Sunday (January 6) 10:30 AM:

For the repose of Abraham Dagher (18th Anniversary)
by his parents, Jamil and Rosemonde Dagher, and Family



**Christ is born: Glorify Him!
 Christ comes from heaven:
 Go out to meet Him.
 Christ descends to earth:
 Let us be raised on high.**

-St. Gregory of Nazianzus



The Feasts of the Circumcision of the Lord and of St. Basil the Great

These feasts will be commemorated with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil on New Year's Day at 10:30 am.



Next Sunday: The Feast of Theophany!

Theophany (a Greek word meaning "Manifestation of God") is one of the great feasts of the liturgical year. It is a celebration not only of God's manifestation as Holy Trinity, but also of His mercy and compassion expressed in the Person of Jesus who became man for our sake in order to open the gates of salvation to all people.

This Feast will be commemorated with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and the Great Blessing of Water at the Divine Liturgies next weekend!

Sunday School will resume next Sunday, January 6, at 9:30 AM.

There will be a second collection for the mortgage this weekend

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.

The 2019 offering envelopes and 2019 parish calendars are available in the back of the church.

Attendance Last Sat. 4:30 PM: 20 Sun. 10:30 AM: 91
Christmas Eve: 154 Christmas Day: 78
Last Weekend's Collection: \$1,320.⁰⁰ Christmas: \$2,676.⁰⁰

The average Sunday envelope donation: \$42.⁰⁷

The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$67,060.²⁵

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Tues. Jan. 1	10:30 AM	Divine Liturgy: The Feast of St. Basil the Great and the Circumcision of the Lord
Sat., Jan. 6	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The Feast of Theophany
Sun., Jan. 6	9:45 AM	Orthros for the Feast of Theophany
Sun., Jan 6	10:30 AM	Divine Liturgy: The Feast of Theophany

The Fathers Speak.....

On the meaning of the Nativity of the Lord:

What shall I say? And how shall I describe this birth to you? The Eternal One has become an infant. He who sits upon the sublime and heavenly throne now lies in the manger. For this He assumed my body, that I may become capable of His word, taking my form He gives me His spirit, and so, He bestowing and I receiving, He prepares me for the treasure of life. He takes my form to sanctify me. He gives me His spirit, that he may save me.

-St. John Chrysostom



Our Savior, dearly beloved, was born today. Let us rejoice; for on the Birthday of Life, sorrow can have no place. That day has swallowed up the fear of death, and by the promise of eternity elevates our joy. No one is excluded from a participation in this gladness; and we have a common ground of rejoicing, in that Our Lord, the destroyer of sin and death, finding no man free from guilt, has come to work a universal redemption. Let the saint rejoice, for he approaches his reward; let the sinner be glad, for he is invited to forgiveness; let the Gentile take courage, for he is called to life.

-St. Leo the Great

THE BISHOP'S APPEAL



As this year draws to a close, we count all the "good gifts and perfect graces" which our Father in Heaven has bestowed upon us and upon those we love in 2018. And we commemorate today St. Joseph who was the provider and protector of the Holy Family in Nazareth. Be a protector and provider for our Melkite Eparchy in America by giving a generous **end-of-year tax-deductible gift to the Bishop's Appeal**. Your gift to the Appeal is essential for meeting the critical needs of our Melkite Church in America and for assuring its continued and future growth. And 10% of your gift supports our brethren who suffer persecution because of their faith. Know that our Father and Shepherd, Bishop Nicholas thanks you for your generous support and asks God's abundant blessings upon you and all your family in the New Year 2018.

REMEMBER THE MELKITE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL: Give a lasting gift for future generations of Melkites and help to ensure that our beautiful Melkite heritage continues to grow and flourish for your children's children. Simply add the following statement to your last will and testament: *I hereby bequeath to the Melkite Eparchy of Newton the following sum: \$_____.* Contact Bishop Nicholas personally to inform him of your generous bequest: 3 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132.

The Men of St. Joseph of St. Catherine of Sienna Parish (207 Hemlock St, Manchester) will be meeting Saturday, January 12 for an 8:00 AM Mass. Breakfast will follow in the parish hall, with a guest speaker. All adult males are welcome. For further information contact Ron Latouche, OFS, at 603-669-2674.



The Circumcision of the Lord

OUR CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY draws to a close with the Feast of His Circumcision on January 1. In accordance with the Law of Moses, the Lord Jesus was circumcised eight days after His birth. It was also the time that He was formally given the name Jesus.

At first glance we see that in this Jesus' family was simply doing what was customary among Jews. They were making the infant a part of God's People, the people of the Covenant. By His incarnation the Word of God became a human being, one of us by nature. By His circumcision He became a member of a specific people, a Jew. He would observe the Sabbath, study Torah and observe the festival pilgrimages to Jerusalem (see Lk 2:41-52). He would observe the

traditions of Israel because it was through Israel that the world would be saved. As we sing at vespers on this feast: *"The most merciful God did not disdain circumcision in the flesh. He offered Himself instead as a symbol and example of salvation to all. He made the Law, and yet submitted Himself to its commands and to what the prophets had foretold of Him. O our God, who hold all things in Your hands, and yet were wrapped in swaddling clothes: O Lord, glory to You!"*

In submitting to the Law of Circumcision, Our Lord signifies that He is the fullness and the completion of the Old Covenant. St. Paul says, in the Epistle Lesson read on the Feast: *For in [Jesus] the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness of life in Him, Who is the head of all rule and authority. In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ (Col. 2:9-11).*

The Church Fathers explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that he had truly assumed human flesh, and that his Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics (Docetists) taught.

The Fathers also spoke of the Circumcision of the Lord as prefiguring his redemptive shedding of blood. Reflecting on this, Archbishop Fulton Sheen in *The Life of Christ* says:

"In the Circumcision of the Divine Child there was a dim suggestion and hint of Calvary, in the precious surrendering of blood. The shadow of the Cross was already hanging over a child eight days old. He would have seven blood-sheddings of which this was the first, the others being the Agony in the Garden, the Scourging, the Crowning with Thorns, the Way of the Cross, the Crucifixion, and the Piercing of His Heart. But whenever there was an indication of Calvary, there was also some sign of glory; and it was at this moment when He was anticipating Calvary by shedding His blood that the name of Jesus was bestowed on Him."

presence was limited in time; His spiritual presence will last as long as time itself will last.

The focus on Christ's spiritual presence is His Body, the Church. It is the mystery or sacrament of the risen Christ, which – like all sacraments – reveals His presence behind a veil. The Church is the world being transformed in Christ; at the same time it is Christ transforming the world.

The faithful, insofar as they are living a life of repentance, seeking to model their lives on Christ's, are the world being transformed. The faithful, insofar as they celebrate Christ's presence in the Scriptures, in baptism, the Eucharist and the other mysteries – including the mystery of love for others – are Christ transforming the world. The saints are those who witness by their lives that we can be transformed and transform others in Him.

Christ's presence in the Scriptures was at first practically limited to its public reading in the assembly. People would listen carefully so as to memorize what they heard. Only the wealthy could afford hand-copied Scriptures for their personal use. In addition Books of Scripture, particularly the Gospels, would be richly adorned, carried in procession and offered for veneration, reminding believers that Christ was truly in them. Since the invention of printing the Scriptures have become increasingly available; as a result we may not be as quick to recognize the divine presence in a paperback Bible as in the Gospel on the holy table.

What enables us to experience the presence of Christ when we read the Scriptures – or, for that matter, when we assist at the Liturgy or other mysteries? St Isaac the Syrian offers the following advice: “Never approach the words of the mysteries that are in the Scriptures without praying and asking for God's help. Say, ‘Lord, grant me to feel the power that is in them.’ Reckon prayer to be the key that opens the true meaning of the Scriptures” (*Ascetical Treatises*, 73).

Even more hidden to us is the presence of Christ in others. This presence calls silently for us to acknowledge Him, a call that we often are too deaf to hear. Some, like Mother Teresa and others like her, can hear that call and they become the light and salt of the Gospel sayings. The presence of these saints with their acute hearing of Christ's voice is one of the signs that Christ is transforming the world even now.

Christ's Return Will Transform Us

“*Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing*” (2 Tm 4:8). St Paul expresses here his hope in the final transformation of “all who have loved His appearing.”

Like St. Paul we await our ultimate transformation at Christ's return. As the Church celebrates Christ's appearing in the flesh (the Nativity) and His appearing in power at the Jordan (the Theophany), we are reminded that Christ's first coming would find its ultimate fulfillment only in His second coming.

“In His first coming He was wrapped in swaddling clothes in the manger. In His second coming He is clothed with light as with a garment. In His first coming He bore the cross, despising its shame; He will come a second time in glory accompanied by the hosts of angels.

“It is not enough for us, then, to be content with His first coming; we must wait in hope of His second coming. What we said at His first coming, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,’ we shall repeat at His last coming. . . .”

-From the Catecheses of St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Today's Readings:

A reading from the 2nd Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy (4: 5-8) and)

My son Timothy be watchful in all things, bear with tribulation patiently, work as a preacher of the Good News, fulfill your ministry. As for me, I am already being poured out in sacrifice, and the time of my deliverance is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have completed the course, I have kept the faith. For the rest, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the just Judge, will give to me on that day: yet not to me only, but also to those who love his coming.

الرسالة (2 تيموثاوس 4 : 5-8)

يا ولدي تيموثاوس، تيقظ في كل شيء، احتمل المشقات، اعمل عمل المُبشِّر، أوفِ خدمتك. لأنني الآن أراقُ سكبياً، ووقتُ انحلالي قد حضر. قد جاهدتُ الجهادَ الحسن، أتممتُ سعيي، حفظتُ الايمان. انما يبقى اكليلُ البرِّ المحفوظ لي الذي سيَجزيهني به في ذلكَ اليومِ الربُّ الديانُ العادل، لا اِيَّايَ فقط بل جميعَ الذين يحبون ظهوره أيضاً.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1: 1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, "*Behold, I send my messenger before you, who shall prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the desert, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, make straight his paths,'*" there came John in the desert, baptizing and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea went out to him, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and all were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "One mightier than I is coming after me, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

الانجيل (مرقس 1 : 1-8)

بدءُ انجيلِ يسوعَ المسيحِ ابنِ الله، كما هو مكتوبُ في الانبياء: ها عنذا ارسلُ ملاكي امامَ وجهك يهيئُ طريقَكَ قدامَكَ. صوتُ صاخرٍ في البرية: اعدوا طريقَ الربِّ، واجعلوا سبيلَهُ قويمَةً. كانَ يوحنا يُعمدُ في البريةِ ويكرزُ بمعموديةِ التوبةِ لغفرانِ الخطايا. وكان يخرجُ اليه كلُّ اهلِ بلادِ اليهوديةِ وجميعُ سكانِ اورشليم، فيعتمدونَ منه جميعُهُم في نهرِ الاردنِ معترفينَ بخطاياهم. وكان لباسُ يوحنا من وَبَرِ الابلِ، وعلى حَقْوِيَّةٍ منطقةً من جلد، وكان طعامه الجرادُ وعسلَ البرِّ، وكان يكرزُ قائلاً: انه ياتي بعدي مَنْ هُوَ اقوى مني، وانا لستُ باهلٍ ان انحني وأحلَّ سيرَ حذائه. انا عمدتُكم بالماء، واما هو فسيعمدُكم بالروح القدس.

Please remember to pray for the health and protection of Genevieve Allen, Donna Andruskiewicz, Olivia Aragon, Elizabeth Ashooh, Elsie Ashooh, Alice Auclair, Erin Baroody, Michael Baroody, Henry Bilodeau, 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, John Gallagher, Marguerite Ganem, Mary Ann Garvey, Loretto Gauvin, Bonnie Gomez, Gail Fisher, Laurice Haddad, Nick Haddad, Lucille Harper, Laura Jorba, Virginia Kearney, Leila Khoury, Shirley Lanoue, Susan Latvis, Diana Label, Haley Lesmerises, Sadie Grace McCallum, Miriam McCallum, Ramona Matias, Susan Merrill, Maria Moser, Joanne Nader, Mimi Nasser, Alfred Nasr, Afef Nasr, Raymond Nehme, Samira Nehme, Steve Notter, Steven O'Leary, Ellen Osgood, Alice Paymant, Marco Enrique Peschiera, MaryJo Pond, Ellen Powell, Sheila Quinn, Daniel Quintal, Deborah Roberts, Adam Rubin, Fr. Andre St. Germain, Kara Salvias, Barbara Schultz, Raymond Sherburne, Tarrant Smith, Catherine Waldron, George Webber, Martha Webber, Marilyn Whitmore, 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.



  <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>
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