



OUR LADY OF THE CEDARS CHURCH

A MELKITE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

140 MITCHELL STREET, MANCHESTER, NH 03103

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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)

September 17, 2017

The Fourth Day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross;
The Commemoration of the Holy Martyr Sophia,
and of her three daughters, Faith, Hope, and Charity

THE SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Parish Advisory & Finance Council:

KEN MONTY (PRESIDENT), 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 (6th Tone) Page 51

The Troparion of the Holy Cross (1st Tone):

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, strengthen our public authorities in every good deed, and protect Your nation by power of Your Cross.

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

Kondakion of the Holy Cross (2nd Tone):

O Christ our God who chose of Your free volition to be elevated upon the Holy Cross, grant Your mercies to Your new people who are called by Your Name. In Your power gladden the hearts of our public authorities; strengthen them in every good deed so that Your true alliance may be for them a weapon of peace and a standard of victory.

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: Galatians 2:16-21 and Mark 8:34-9:1

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Zahia Fawaz (33rd), Queenie Ashooh (54th), Matilda Bachaalani (36th), Josephine Najine (74th), Farida Tealge (38th), Malvina Azzi (15th), Mitchell Burkush (43rd), and Queenie Duffy (30th)

Sunday, 11:00 AM:

For the repose of Denis O'Keefe (40 Day Memorial),
by his wife Terri and Family

Next Saturday, (September 23) 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Wilfred Macaulay (43rd), Elias Baroody (53rd), Paul Spencer (28th), and Karemi Elias (28th)

Next Sunday, (September 24) 11:00 AM

For the repose of the deceased members of the parish
And for all of our deceased friends, relatives, and loved ones



I will be out of town Sept 18-22 attending the annual Melkite Clergy Conference in Wichita, Kansas. You may leave messages at the parish phone, and I will check them and return your calls.

-Fr. Tom

40 Days for Life kickoff rally and prayer vigil

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion. The mission of the campaign is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40 day campaign of prayer, fasting, and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God's favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion.



The Fall 2017 campaign runs from September 27 - November 5. The Kickoff Rally will be held on Monday, Sept. 25 at 7 PM. All are invited for an evening of prayer, music, and refreshments at Ste. Marie Parish Hall, 378 Notre Dame Avenue, Manchester, as we begin the next prayer vigil in Manchester. The guest speaker will be Jennifer Robidoux, Vice President of New Hampshire Right to Life, and the choir from Northeast Catholic College will perform.

RSVP to 40daysforlifemanchester@gmail.com or call Sheila at 978-226-3240.



Paul is overwhelmed by awareness of God's great love for him and wants to share that experience with everyone. Christ tells us that true life comes from surrendering to Him and following Him. Both are basic elements in our Christian Faith. Let us pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood, that we may continue to have messengers of this great joy among us.

Sunday School will begin on Sunday, Oct. 1. If your child is new to the Sunday School program, please register him/her by calling Martha Dagher at 603-622-2290.

Attendance Last Week: Sat., 4:30 PM: 18 Sun. 11:00 AM: 87
Last Weekend's Collection: \$ 919.⁰⁰ Hurricane Relief: \$ 353.⁰⁰

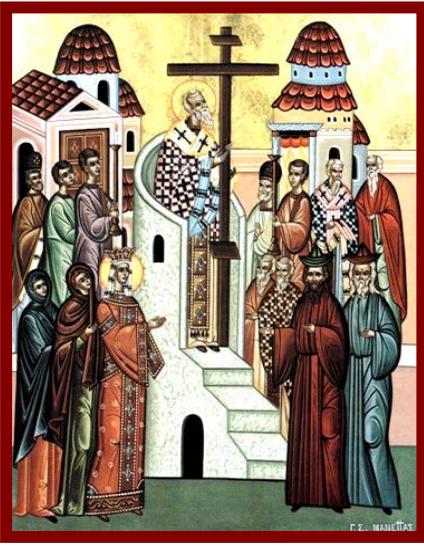
The average Sunday envelope donation: \$30.⁷⁴

The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ 77,287.²⁴

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Sat., Sept. 23	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The 16th Sunday After Pentecost
Sun., Sept. 24	10:15 AM	Sunday Orthros
Sun., Sept. 24	11:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: The 16th Sunday After Pentecost

The Icon of the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross



This Feast is celebrated each year on September 14. It commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine.

In the twentieth year of his reign (326), the Emperor Constantine sent his mother Saint Helen to Jerusalem to venerate the holy places and to find the site of the Holy Sepulcher and of the Cross. Relying upon the oral tradition of the faithful, Saint Helen found the precious Cross together with the crosses of the two thieves crucified with our Lord. However, Helen had no way of determining which one was the Cross of Christ.

With the healing of a dying woman who touched one of the crosses, Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem identified the True Cross of Christ. Saint Helen and her court venerated the Precious and Life-Giving Cross along with many others who came to see this great instrument of Redemption.

The Patriarch mounted the ambo (pulpit) and lifted the Cross with both hands so that all of the people gathered could see it. The crowd responded with "Lord have mercy".

This became the occasion of the institution in all of the Churches of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross, not only in memory of the event of the finding of the Cross, but also to celebrate how an instrument of shame was used to overcome death and bring salvation and eternal life.

The Feast is an opportunity outside of the observances of Holy Week to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world, and the triumph of the wisdom of God through the Cross over the wisdom of this world. This Feast also gives the Church an opportunity to relish the full glory of the Cross as a source of light, hope and victory for Christ's people. It is also a time to celebrate the universality of the work of redemption accomplished through the Cross: the entire universe is seen through the light of the Cross, the new Tree of Life which provides nourishment for those who have been redeemed in Christ.

Icon of the Feast

The icon of the Feast of the Precious Cross tells the story of the finding of the Cross and of its Exaltation. Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate. On each side of the Patriarch are deacons holding candles. The elevated Cross is surrounded and venerated by many clergy and lay people, including Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine. In the background of the icon is a domed structure that represents the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. This church was one of the churches constructed and dedicated by Emperor Constantine on the holy sites of Jerusalem.

“I have been crucified with Christ”

WHAT MAKES A PERSON RIGHTEOUS before God? It is a question that religious people continually ask of themselves and their spiritual leaders. But what do the Scriptures tell us bring us closer to God?

The Torah

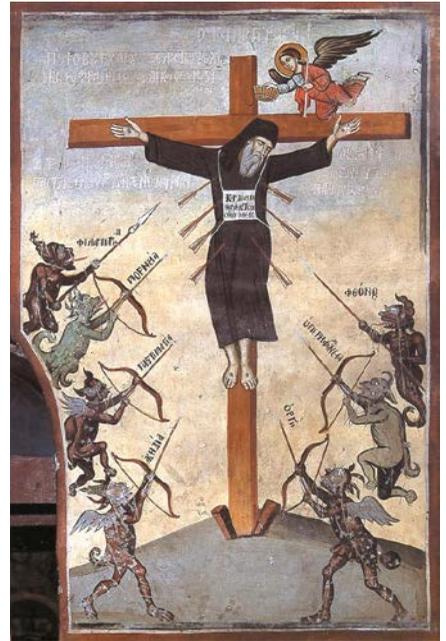
Jews consider the Torah (the Law) as the cornerstone of their experience of God. Just as Christians see the Gospels as the heart of the New Testament, Jews see the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, as the core of the Hebrew Scriptures. The Torah contains the Commandments which God gave through Moses; observing them is what makes someone an “observant” Jew, obedient to the expressed will of God. “*You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the LORD*” (Lv 18: 4, 5).

When we think of the precepts of the Law which Moses received from God we think of the Ten Commandments. In fact, there are many other precepts in the five Old Testament books of Moses which Jews call the Torah and Christians call the Pentateuch. Later Jews came to see 613 commandments as prescribed in the Torah, including ritual and other precepts in addition to the moral laws. Various Jewish traditions number these precepts differently but all see the observance of the Law of Moses as the way to righteousness before God.

Christ and the Law

In the Gospels Christ is not depicted as critical of the Law but as endorsing it. He was critical of people who abused the precepts of the Law, using it to look down on others or control them. Thus, in the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee Christ says that the Pharisee, who observed the precepts of the Law, did not attain righteousness through his actions because he made of them a way to look down upon his neighbor, the Publican.

Observing the precepts of the Law was good, but not enough to make a person godly. The same is true today. As the 20th century Greek elder St Porphyrios observed, some people “... make prostrations and cross themselves in church and they say, ‘we are unworthy sinners’, then as soon as they come out they start to blaspheme everything holy whenever someone upsets them a little.” Jesus taught that the ceremonial precepts of the Torah were good, but that there was something more important. He directed people to see that the Law was to be fulfilled through Him. “*Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill*” (Mt 5:17). He did not explain how this was to happen; it was the Apostolic Church, directed by the Holy Spirit which came to see that there was a way for people of all kinds to be righteous before God. It



was not by assiduously observing the precepts of the Torah but by living in Christ, who perfectly fulfilled the Father's will for Him on earth.

St Paul on Christ and the Law

St Paul was convinced that Christ had fulfilled the Law as He had promised, teaching that "*Christ is the end [i.e. completion] of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes*" (Rom 10:4) and that therefore "...*by the works of the Law no flesh shall be justified*" (Gal 2:16).

Obedying the precepts of the Law because they are the will of God is the heart of a righteous observance of the Torah. And so, by submitting Himself completely to the Father's will, Christ totally fulfilled the moral precepts of the Law. In the Garden before His arrest Christ prayed, "*O my Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will*" (Mt 26:39). He accepted even "this cup" (His approaching passion) if it were His Father's will.

Christ is also the fulfillment of the ritual precepts of the Law in that He replaces the temple and its cult as the authentic worship of God. When Jesus entered the temple, He drove out those selling the animals needed for sacrifice. People often see this as an attack on commercialism in religion, but this was not Jesus' point. Asked for a sign to explain His actions, He replied: "*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*" Then the Jews said, "*It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?*" But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said" (Jn 2:19-22). The Temple would be "rebuilt" as the risen body of Christ. Its offerings would be fulfilled in Christ's offering of Himself, the eternal sacrifice, in which we share at the Divine Liturgy.

Not an Easy Out

St Paul's insistence that a person is not made righteous by observing the Law led some people to conclude that they could do whatever they wanted. St Paul never taught that. The point of his teaching is that a person does not **earn** righteousness by observing the Law. He saw that observing the Commandments or following the lead of the Church was a way of sacrificing our own will in union with Christ who did the same. Thus the believer can say with St Paul, "*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me*" (Gal 2:20). Uniting ourselves with Christ is the way to attain righteousness according to the New Covenant. We do so in the sacrifice of praise which is the Liturgy and in the crucifying of our own will by keeping His precepts and those of His Church.

To Be Crucified with Christ

"The True Life of a Monk" is an icon often found in Greek and Slavic monasteries, not for veneration but for reflection on what it means to be crucified with Christ. The monk on the cross is not a recognized saint, not even a particular individual. He personifies the person (monk) who seeks to live in Christ. This is why the schema he wears on his chest is inscribed with the concluding phrase of today's epistle reading, "*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.*" Instead of Roman soldiers it is demons we see assaulting the monk with the passions of our fallen humanity, which our ego pushes us to gratify: vanity, lust, gluttony and the like. The monk repels their assaults by surrendering his ego to the will of God expressed in the precepts of the Gospel and his monastic rule.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Church

256 Hamilton St., Worcester, MA

Invites you to a

FAMILY OUTING

Sunday, September 17, 12-5 pm

Middle Eastern Food, Activities for Kids,

Entertainment by Mitch Kaltzunas, Free Admission



Navigating Life's Changes & Losses

Saturday, October 7th, 2017, 8:30am to 11:30am

Immaculate Conception Parish,

216 East Dunstable Rd, Nashua, NH 03062

Rebecca Zuill MSW, a professional social worker from St. Joseph Hospital Oncology Center, Nashua, NH, will lead our discussion about tools and strategies to manage our responses to life changing events. Continental Breakfast will be served. All are welcome! To register, please contact the Parish Office by Thursday, September 28 at 603-888-0321 or office@iccnashuanh.org.



The Sisters of Holy Cross will hold their Annual Fall Fair

on Saturday, October 14, from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, at Holy Cross Center 357 Island Pond Rd Manchester. Penny Sale, Crafts, Games. Sisters' Lollipops, etc. Free Admission and Parking



NH Night of Worship

The NH Alliance invites you to come experience praise and worship as you have never experienced it before where every region of the state will sojourn to Saint Marie's church 378 Notre Dame Ave Manchester on September 29th from 7-9pm. Non Catholic and Catholic alike will share their common bond, their savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Lift up your hands and come praise our God.

Open House

Trinity High School, 581 Bridge Street, Manchester, NH, will be hosting an Open House for 8th Graders on October 24th at 7pm



Today's Readings:

From the 1st Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (2: 16-21)

BRETHREN, we know man is not justified by the works of the Law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. Hence we also believe in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law, because by the works of the Law no man will be justified.

But if, while we are seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore the minister of sin? By no means! For if I rebuild the things I destroyed, I make myself a sinner. For through the Law I have died to the Law that I may live for God. With Christ I am nailed to the cross. It is now no longer I who live, but Christ is living in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live within the faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me.

الرسالة (غلاطية 2: 16-21)

يا إخوة، لعلنا بأنّ الانسان لا يُبرَّرُ بأعمالِ الناموس، بل انماً بالايمان بيسوع المسيح، نحنُ أيضاً امناً بالمسيح يسوع، لكي نُبرَّرَ بالايمان بالمسيح لا بأعمالِ الناموس. اذ لن يُبرَّرَ بأعمالِ الناموسِ أحدٌ من ذوي الجسد. فإن كُنّا، ونحنُ طالبون التبرير في المسيح، نوجدُ نحنُ أيضاً خطاةً، أفيكونُ المسيحُ خادماً للخطيئة؟ حاشى. فإن عدتُ أبني ما قد هدمتُ، جعلتُ نفسي متعدياً. لأنني بالناموسِ مُتُّ للناموس، لكي أحيأ الله. اني مصلوبٌ مع المسيح. وأنا حيٌّ، لا أنا بعدُ، انما المسيحُ حيٌّ فيّ، وما أحيأه الآن في الجسد، أنما أحيأه في الايمان بابنِ الله، الذي أحببني وبدلَ نفسه عني

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For anyone who would save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will save it. For what does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, but suffers the loss of his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes with the holy angels in the glory of his Father." And he said to them, "Amen I say to you, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death, till they have seen the kingdom of God coming in power."

الانجيل (مرقس 8: 34 الى 9: 1)

قال الربّ. من أراد أن يتبعني، فليترك نفسه ويحمل صليبه ويتبعني. لأن من أراد أن يخلص نفسه يهلكها ومن أهلك نفسه من أجلي ومن أجل الإنجيل فذاك يخلصها. فإنه ماذا ينفع الإنسان لو ربح العالم كله وخسر نفسه؟ أم ماذا يُعطي الانسان فداءً عن نفسه. لأن من يستحي بي وبكلامي في هذا الجيل الفاسق الخاطيء، يستحي به ابنُ الانسان أيضاً متى أتى في مجد أبيه مع الملائكة القديسين. وقال لهم: الحق أقول لكم إن بعض القائمين ههنا لا يدقون الموت حتى يروا ملكوت الله آتياً بقوة.

Please remember to pray for the health and protection of Genevieve Allen, Donna Andruskiewicz, Olivia Aragon, Paul Archambeault, 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, Sarah Dagher, Janet Drake, Bishop John Elya, Sher Farrow, Julie Fregeau, Mary Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, Christine Freitas, John Gallagher, Marguerite Ganem, Loretto Gauvin, Bonnie Gomez, Gail Fisher, Laurice Haddad, Nick Haddad, Lucille Harper, Laura Jorba, Virginia Kearney, Leila Khoury, Shirley Lanoue, Susan Latvis, Diana Label, Fr. Theophan Leonarczyk, Sadie Grace McCallum, Miriam McCallum, Ramona Matias, Susan Merrill, Maria Moser, Joanne Nader, Alfred Nasr, Afef Nasr, Raymond Nehme, Samira Nehme, Blaise Notter, Steve Notter, Steven O'Leary, Ellen Osgood, Josephine Paquette, Sheila Quinn, Susan Quintal, Deborah Roberts, Adam Rubin, Fr. Andre St. Germain, Kara Salvias, Denise Sherburne, Tarrant Smith, Catherine Waldron, George Webber, Martha Webber, 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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