



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 ROBERT SPENCER

REV. DEACON PAUL LEONARCZYK

*"Enter the Church and repent for your sin, for here is the physician, not the judge.
Here one is not investigated, but one receives remission of sins." (St. John Chrysostom)*

January 26, 2014

The 32nd Sunday After Pentecost

The Commemoration of our venerable father Xenophon and his relatives

THE SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

Parish Advisory & Finance Council:

RICHARD ASHOOH, ROBERT ANDERSON, ROBIN ANDERSON, MARY CULLEN, MARTHA DAGHER, MARYLOU LAZOS, TERRI LEONARCZYK, MATTHEW LOMANNO, PAUL MANSUR, KEN MONTY, NAJWA MOUSSOBA, JENNA NEHME, PAUL ST. GERMAIN, AND CHRISTELLE SLAYBE

Parish Secretary: ROBIN ANDERSON

Sunday School Coordinator: MARTHA DAGHER

Cedars Society President: MARYLOU LAZOS

N.A.M.Y. Advisor: ROBIN ANDERSON

HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION: Sunday 10 AM & 12:45 PM, 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 (3rd Tone - page 52)

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

The Kontakon of Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (1st Tone)

O Christ Our God, who through Your birth have sanctified the virginal womb and have blessed the arms of Simeon, You have come today to save us. When wars prevail, keep Your people in peace and strengthen our public authorities in every good, for You alone are the Lover of Mankind.

THE PROKIMENON:

THE LORD WILL GIVE STRENGTH TO HIS PEOPLE;

THE LORD WILL BLESS HIS PEOPLE WITH PEACE.

Give to the Lord, you sons of God, give to the Lord glory and peace.

Today's Readings: I Timothy 4: 9-15 and Luke 19: 1-10

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Lillian Frangos (24th), Georgette Attalla (56th), George Salim (28th), Saleemy Thomas (33rd), Joseph LaJeunesse (10th), uliet Anton (7th), & Susan Wihby (45th)

Sunday, 11:00 AM:

For the repose of Joseph Michael Duquette who departed from this life on Jan. 17,
by Betty Ashooh and Family

For the repose of Gerald Harper,
by his wife Lucille Harper

For the repose of Salma Wehbe (22nd Anniversary),
by Sandra O'Leary and Family

Next Saturday, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of John Baroody (56th Anniversary)

Next Sunday, 11:00 AM:

For the health and salvation of all of the members of the parish



Please pray for the release of Greek Orthodox Archbishop Paul Yazigi and Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim who were abducted on April 22 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.

NEXT SUNDAY: THE FEAST OF THE ENCOUNTER OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE



In the Byzantine Church the title of this feast is Hypapanty, a Greek word that signifies “Meeting.” This feast, which closes the cycle of the Nativity according to the flesh of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, commemorates the event on the fortieth day after the birth of the Lord, when Mary carried Him to the Temple in accordance with the Mosaic Law to offer Him to the Lord, and to ransom Him by sacrifice (Luke 2:22-37).

They were met by Simeon in the Temple, who upon seeing the child Jesus exclaimed “Now you shall dismiss Your servant, O Lord, according to Your Word in peace, because my eyes have seen Your salvation, a light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.” As part of the commemoration of this “light of revelation,” candles will be blessed and distributed at the end of the Liturgy next weekend.

Chicken shawarma and fries will be served up by the parish youth group on Sunday following the Divine Liturgy! Plan on staying for lunch, and enjoy some great food, and good company. Thank you for supporting our youth group.

There will be a meeting of the Parish Advisory Council on Monday, Jan. 27 at 7:00 PM in the church hall.

It’s time for 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.

There will be a second collection this week, for the mortgage.

A turkey dinner is being planned for Sunday Feb. 9, following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Mark the date and watch for more details!

Attendance Last Saturday 4:30 PM: 9 Sunday 11:00 AM: 88

Last Weekend’s Collection: \$ 1,146.⁰⁰

The average Sunday envelope offering last week was \$49.⁶²

The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$ 346,376.⁶⁶

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Weekday services will be held in the basement chapel

Wed., Jan 29	7:00 PM	Vespers
Thurs., Jan. 30	8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy: For the health of Sher Farrow
Sat., Feb 1	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The Feast of the Encounter of the Lord
Sun., Feb. 2	10:15 AM	Orthros for the Feast
Sun., Feb. 2	11:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: The Feast of the Encounter of the Lord



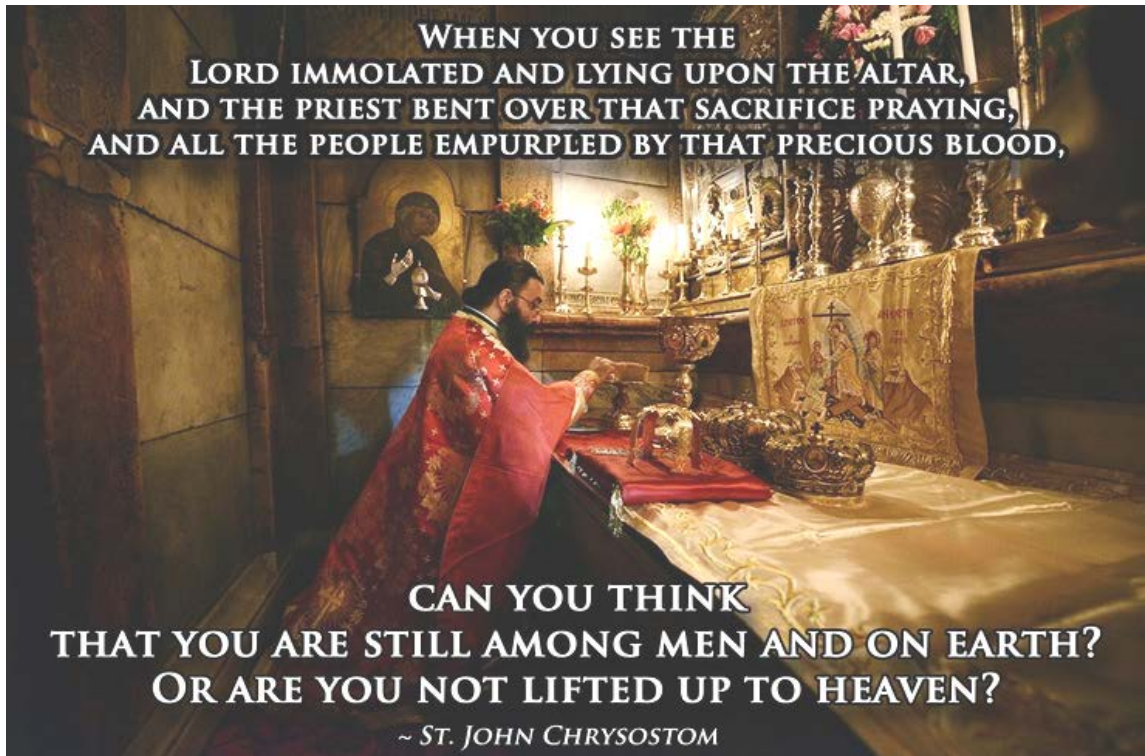
6th Annual St. Francis of Assisi Parish Penny Sale

Held at Sacred Heart Church 265 Main Street in Manchester Sat. Feb 22 8:00am to 7:00pm Sun. Feb 23 9:30am to 5:00pm Over 300 prizes including iPad mini, 12ft Snark Sailboat, Gas Cards, Baskets of Cheer, 50/50 Drawings, Instant Winner Games, Theme baskets, and Fun for all Ages. Grand Prize Raffle \$1000, \$500, \$250. Saturday evening Baked chicken dinner. Saturday and Sunday Breakfast, Snack Bar, and Baked Goods.

Support the Bishop's Appeal!

The annual Bishop's Appeal officially ended in all the parishes of the Eparchy on 31 December. However, **donations to the Appeal will continue to be received and credited to your parish until 31 January for anyone who makes an end-of-year, tax-deductible donation.** Donation cards and envelopes are available in the narthex. Your donation means so much to so many! May God bless you and yours in the New Year.

Give a lasting gift for future generations of Melkites in America by remembering the Melkite Catholic Church in your will. 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.



January 27: The Transfer of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom

Saint John Chrysostom, the great ecumenical teacher and hierarch died in the city of Comana in the year 407 on his way to a place of exile. He had been condemned by the intrigues of the empress Eudoxia because of his daring denunciation of the vices ruling over Constantinople. The transfer of his venerable relics was made in the year 438, thirty years after the death of the saint during the reign of Eudoxia's son emperor Theodosius II (408-450).

St John Chrysostom had the warm love and deep respect of the people, and grief over his untimely death lived on in the hearts of Christians. St John's disciple, St Proclus, Patriarch of Constantinople (434-447), during services in the Church of Hagia Sophia, preached a sermon praising St John. He said, "O John, your life was filled with sorrow, but your death was glorious. Your grave is blessed and reward is great, by the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ O graced one, having conquered the bounds of time and place! Love has conquered space, unforgetting memory has annihilated the limits, and place does not hinder the miracles of the saint."

Those who were present in church, deeply touched by the words of St Proclus, did not allow him even to finish his sermon. With one accord they began to entreat the Patriarch to intercede with the emperor, so that the relics of St John might be brought back to Constantinople. The emperor, overwhelmed by St Proclus, gave his consent and gave the order to transfer the relics of St John. But those he sent were unable to lift the holy relics until the emperor realized that he had sent men to take the saint's relics from Comana with an edict, instead of with a prayer. He wrote a letter to St John, humbly asking him to forgive his audacity, and to return to Constantinople. After the message was read at the grave of St John, they easily took up the relics, carried them onto a ship and arrived at Constantinople.

The coffin with the relics was placed in the Church of Holy Peace (Hagia Eirene). When Patriarch Proclus opened the coffin, the body of St John was found to be incorrupt. The emperor approached the coffin with tears, asking forgiveness for his mother, who had banished St John. All day and night people did not leave the coffin. In the morning the coffin was brought to the Church of the Holy Apostles. The people cried out, "Father, take up your throne." Then Patriarch Proclus and the clergy standing by the relics saw St John open his mouth and say, "Peace be to all." Many of the sick were healed at his tomb. The celebration of the transfer of the relics of St John Chrysostom was established in the ninth century.



A Month of Giants

WHERE DO WE FIND THE TRUTHS of our faith? As could be expected, we look first to the Holy Scriptures, the revealed Word of God. The Scriptures, however, were not written as dogmatic treatises but as records of God's intervention in our history. As such they do not necessarily address concerns that arose later among Christians. They must be interpreted in a way that accords with the practices of "*the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of truth*" (1 Tim 3:15).

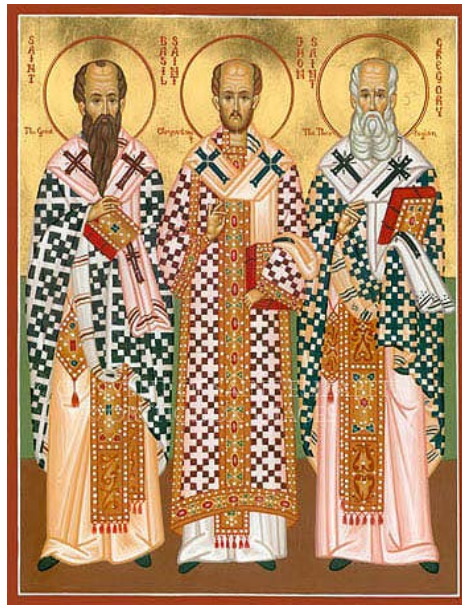
Clarifying the Church's teachings from the earliest times been the task of its leaders: first the apostles and later their successors, the bishops. While each of them individually has the mission to teach in the name of the Church, the Body of Christ, the determination of correct doctrine has always been a task for its leaders as a group. Thus the Acts of the Apostles records how, all together, the apostles settled the question of Jewish ritual and dietary requirements (see *Acts 15:8-29*).

Similar gatherings of bishops, called synods or councils, were held in the early Church as it began to develop structures (dioceses, eparchies). The first ones mentioned in Church annals took place in the mid-second century in Rome and Ephesus. By the end of that century these local decisions were communicated to Churches in other areas. In the third century it became customary for these councils to be held at regular intervals to discuss matters affecting the Churches. When Christianity was officially recognized in the fourth century Roman Empire the Ecumenical Council (convoking bishops from all over the empire) was introduced. Beginning with Nicaea I, ecumenical councils became "the court of last resort" for settling doctrinal disputes in the early Church.

Who Taught the Teachers?

The Nicene Creed and the teachings of later councils would definitively express the Church's teaching on certain subjects, like the incarnation of Christ. But who taught the Council Fathers and helped them express these doctrines in the way that they did? At the Third Ecumenical Council (Ephesus, 381) the bishops sought clarity by consulting the writings of certain noted hierarchs. Extracts from works by Peter I and Athanasius of Alexandria, Cyprian, Ambrose, Gregory Nazianzen, Basil, and Gregory of Nyssa were read as authoritative teachers. The idea that certain writers were *Fathers of the Church* was born.

By the time of the Fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon, 481) it was common for the Churches to see some Fathers as ecumenical teachers and hierarchs, whose writings should be revered after the Scriptures and any authoritative council doctrines. Thus at the Fifth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople II, 553) the assembled bishops affirmed, "Hold fast to the decrees of the four councils, and in every way follow the holy Fathers, Athanasius, Hilary, Basil, Gregory the Theologian, Gregory of Nyssa, Theophilus, John Chrysostom of Constantinople, Cyril, Augustine, Proclus, Leo and their writings on the true faith" (Session 1).



A number of these great Fathers are commemorated in January, including:

St Anthony the Great (January 17) – Not one of the dogmatic teachers, St. Anthony first organized ascetics in the Egyptian desert into a monastic or communal life. He lived from c.251-356. His biography, by St Athanasius of Alexandria, is readily available.

St Athanasius the Great and St. Cyril of Alexandria (January 18) – These two archbishops of Alexandria were instrumental at two crucial ecumenical councils. Athanasius (c. 296-373) was repeatedly exiled for upholding the teachings of Nicaea I on the Trinity against the Arians. Cyril (c. 376-444) wrote extensively on the incarnation and was instrumental in the fight against Nestorianism, which upheld the reality of Christ's humanity to such an extent that His divinity paled in comparison.

St Maximos the Confessor (January 21) – A monk and writer, Maximos (c. 580-662) opposed the monothelite compromise on the nature of Christ which taught that Christ had only one will. Maximos insisted that this teaching compromised the doctrine of Chalcedon that Christ was completely God and man. He was tortured and exiled for his position (hence the title "Confessor") but eventually vindicated at the Sixth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople III, 681-682).

St Gregory the Theologian (January 25) – A member of Cappadocia's Christian elite, Gregory (329-389) served as bishop in Salima, Nazianzus and finally in Constantinople where he turned the pro-Arian sentiment of the city's Christians back to Orthodoxy. His writings and sermons on the Trinity were quickly recognized as extraordinary, hence the title "Theologian."

St. John Chrysostom (January 27) – This well known preacher from Antioch (c.347-407) was chosen as Archbishop of Constantinople in 397. He was popular with the poor but castigated the wealthy –including Empress Eudoxia – for their extravagant lifestyles. He was exiled and died in what is today Abkhazia in the Caucasus. The next year his remains were brought back to Constantinople and buried with honor, the event we remember today.

St Ephrem the Syrian (January 28) –Born in the Syriac city of Nisibis on the Persian border, Ephrem (c. 306-373) is known as "the harp of the Spirit" because he expressed his theological thought in poetry. His over 400 hymns are especially revered in the Syriac Churches where they figure in the Liturgy. His *Hymns Against Heresies* supported the doctrine that Christ was fully human and divine.

St Isaac the Syrian (January 28) – A native of Bahrain, Isaac entered the monastic life at an early age, in the seventh century. After only a few months as bishop of Nineveh, Isaac left the active life and spent the rest of his days as a solitary, devoting himself to study and writing. His ascetical homilies greatly influenced the spiritual life of the Syriac, Greek and Slavic Churches as well as his own Church of the East.

General Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs, Ss. Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom (January 30) – Devotees of these saints in Constantinople argued over which one was the greatest. This common feast was established after the three appeared together in a vision to St. John of Euchaita, in the year 1084, and said that they were equal before God: "There are no divisions among us, and no opposition to one another."

Through their prayers, O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Amen

Please remember to pray for the health and protection of Genevieve Allen, Elizabeth Ashooh, Elsie Ashooh, Louise Ashooh, Al Auclair, Alice Auclair, Erin Baroody, Michael Baroody, Ted Baroody, Betty Bilodeau, Anthony Blando, Helena Burkush, Danielle Caron, Meghan Connors, Lucy Corriveau, Julie Cullen, Theresa Cullen, Jamileh Dagher, Nicholas Daniak, Lynn Dargie, Marie Dargie, Sher Farrow, Declan Finn, Julie Fregeau, Mary Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, Christine Freitas, Anne Gallagher, Loretto Gauvin, Nick Haddad, Jean Hannoush, Lucille Harper, 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, Virginia Pichette, Jean Poleatewich, Sheila Quinn, Deborah Roberts, Adam Rubin, Robert Siwik, Nassim Sleiman, Salwa Sleiman, Tarrant Smith, 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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