

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE FLOWER OR OTHER CHRISTMAS DONATIONS  
GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

William & Janice Abdelnour  
Barbara & William Abraham  
Ronald Abraham

+James & Julie Abraham  
+Salim Abraham, Annie Abraham, Robert Abraham, Gloria  
Abraham

George Arraj, Jr.  
Andy & Jocelyn Aulo  
Steven & Phyllis Callan

+Robert & Isabella Esper, Francis & Cathleen Callan, Michael  
Sabacinski

Houda Daou  
Ryan & Tina Dumont  
James & Karen Esper  
Maria Filewicz  
Arthur Gazal

+James & Catherine Esper, Robert & Lorraine Nelson  
+Amelia Filewicz  
+Arthur P. Gazal, Amelia Gazal, Shaker Gazal, Frank  
Ricciardi, Antoinette Ricciardi

Robert Ghiz  
Lisa Jagielski  
Joe & Lorraine Lian  
Robert & Arlene Lian  
Mercadante Funeral Home  
Sadie Mirante  
Lawrence & Barbara Morris  
Nick Rahall  
Mary Rizk  
Tom & Daneil Sarrouf  
Antonio & Karen Solitro  
Thomas Syseskey  
Marilyn & Zenon Tencza

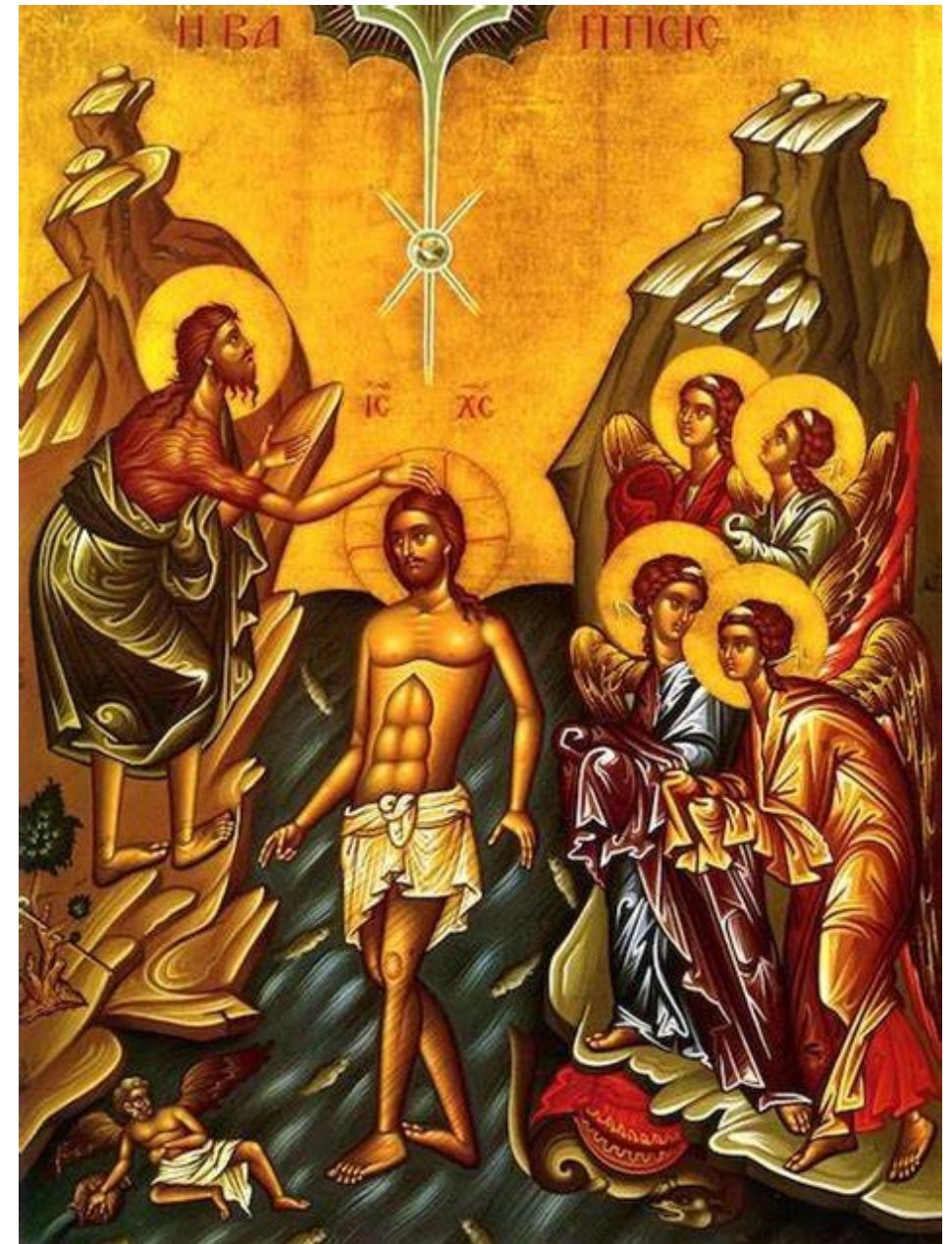
+George Arraj, Alfred Jagielski  
+Deceased members of Lian & Kouri families

+Peter Solitro

+George & Alice Joseph, Stanley & Michaline Tencza



**SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY  
JANUARY 9, 2022**



**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church**  
256 Hamilton St.  
Worcester, MA 01604  
Rectory: (508) 752-4174 Hall: (508) 755-2199  
Email: [olphmelkite@gmail.com](mailto:olphmelkite@gmail.com)  
Rev. Bryan McNeil, Pastor  
Email: [Brymc56@comcast.net](mailto:Brymc56@comcast.net) Cell: (978) 314-1962  
Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

### Antiphon (Feast)

1- Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His love endures forever.

**O Son of God, Who were baptized by John in the Jordan River, save us who sing to you Alleluia!**

2. Let the house of Israel say: He is good, for His love endures forever.

***Khallisna YabnAllah, ya man 'atamada min Youhanna fil Urdoun, nahnul muranneemeena Laka. Haleloueya.***

3. Let those who fear the Lord say: He is good, for His love endures forever.

**O Son of God, Who were baptized by John in the Jordan River, save us who sing to you Alleluia!**

### Entrance Hymn

**Priest:** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. The Lord is God and He has appeared to us.

**People:** **O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia!**

### Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8) pg. 42

You descended from on high O compassionate One; and consented to burial for three days that You might free us from suffering. O Lord, our life and our resurrection, glory to You.

### Troparion of Theophany (Tone 1)

At Your Baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was revealed: for the Father's voice bore witness to You by calling You His Beloved Son, and the spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God who have appeared to us, and enlightened the world, glory to You.

### Patronal Troparion (Tone 1) Pg. 15

In giving birth, you have preserved your virginity and in falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Mother of God. You have passed to life being the Mother of Life. Through your intercession, save our souls from death.

### Kondakion of Theophany (Tone 3)

Today You have appeared, O Lord, to the universe and Your light, O Christ our God, has been impressed upon us who sing to You with full knowledge: You came and appeared, O Inaccessible Light.

### The Work of Ministry

In St Paul's vision of the Church, there are no passive spectators. All are meant to be active, to be engaged in the work of ministry in one way or another. Most parishes have their regular schedule of projects that mark its life during the year – coffee hours, fundraisers, socials, outings – and people work to make them happen. This is certainly one level of ministry, but there is more. Two such ministries which touch the heart of every parish are those concerned with worship and catechesis. Liturgical singing is a ministry in which all worshippers should be involved. Everyone should take part in the chants appointed for the people. Others have a more particular or specialized ministry as cantors or choir members. A cantor can make or break the liturgical services in the parish because the cantor is the liturgical minister most concerned with the involvement of the people. People have long associated ministering in the holy place with “altar boys.” In fact, the role the servers play is basically the role of subdeacons. In many places the servers are actually vested as subdeacons. At least a few older teens or young adults should be involved in this ministry to supervise and train any younger servers the parish might employ. In some Eastern Churches those senior servers who have a firm commitment to this ministry are actually blessed by the bishop as subdeacons.

Another essential ministry in every parish is that of catechist. Many people identify the term catechist with Sunday School teacher, but those who coordinate youth ministry, work with young adults or conduct adult education programs are also catechists. In some churches people have been trained to introduce visitors to the church or help them follow the Liturgy. In other places people have been instructed to conduct church open houses, perhaps in conjunction with a food festival. All of these are catechetical ministries essential for the spiritual growth of the parish. Taking part in any of these activities demands a level of commitment. Cantors must plan their leisure activities around the parish's schedule of liturgical services. Catechists must commit themselves to a full cycle of sessions in any given year. These demands would be a real burden to anyone who was not convinced that ministering in this way was their return to God of the gift He had given them.

### Training Is a Must!

One aspect of any serious ministry is the need for training. The twentieth-century academic Margaret Mead once said in another context, “*Zeal without knowledge is a sin.*” This certainly applies to ministry in the Church. The desire to serve must be complemented by a willingness to be trained for service. Being smarter than a child, for example, does not automatically make someone a good catechist! Neither does having “learned one's catechism” (in another age or even in another Church tradition) dispense a volunteer catechist from going through a training program. While our “volunteer army,” however, has a rigorous boot camp, people often have assumed tasks in the Church or been given them by their pastors without any adequate preparation. Because adults know more than children, for example, it is sometimes assumed that any adult can be a catechist. Because a person is “nice” to their friends or relatives, it may be taken for granted that he or she would make a good doorkeeper or greeter. In some communities the resulting distorted practices have become “traditional.” While some clergy have encouraged people to assume responsibilities without preparation, others still refuse to let laypeople assume any significant duties in the church. It is easier, they say, to do things themselves since they will have to do everything over anyway. Neither of these approaches will lead a parish to the Scriptural model of a mature congregation. In spiritually strong Churches, preparation for ministry is essential. It is not enough to say “come and do.” To “equip” for the work of ministry, to use St Paul's phrase, means more than giving praise and encouragement, or even providing the basic materials required for the service in question. To equip the saints for the work of ministry means to form them in the spirituality of the Church and the place of their ministry in its life.

## DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today      Healing of Archie Opatka  
              HS Nicholas Rahall  
              HS Richard Nejaimey  
+Dorothy Rumberg. Requested by Maria Filewicz

## Last Week's Collection

Weekly	\$ 785
Candles	\$ 35
Coffee Hr.	\$ 22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$842</b>

God bless you for your generosity!



## COFFEE HOUR

Given the recent spike in Covid cases in the Commonwealth, I have decided to suspend the coffee hour until cases subside. We have had some parishioners contract covid and I want to keep us all as safe as possible. When the situation improves, we will restart the Coffee Hour.

Thanks for your understanding!

Please go to [archiesarmy.net](http://archiesarmy.net) to see updates on Archie Opatka's battle heptoblastoma. "O Christ, Physician of our souls and bodies, heal, bless and have mercy on Your child Archie!"

## 2022 Calendar

The 2022 calendar is available at the back of the church. Please pick one up. We will not be mailing the calendar *en masse* this year. I will be sending the calendar to folks I know who cannot get to church. If you or someone you know cannot get to church to pick up a calendar, please let me know and I'll be happy to send them one.

## FINANCIALS

<u>12/2021</u>		<u>YTD(10/2021-12/2021)</u>	
Income	\$11,526	Income	\$23,470
Expenses	\$ 7,924	Expenses	\$17,695
Net	\$ 3,601	Net	\$ 5,775



## THEOPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS

I would like to do house blessings this year. Given the current covid situation, we need to wait until things improve. I am fully vaccinated and have received a booster.

Once it is safe, we can schedule a time for me to bless your home.

Fr. Bryan



MANY PEOPLE ONLY SEE THEIR PASTOR during liturgical services. They may have no contact with any of the clergy outside of this context. The only other “church functions” they attend may be social or athletic events where the clergy are on the sidelines. The pastor’s most prominent role in our Church today is as liturgist. As a result, particularly in rural or village churches of the Christian East, a man’s voice was his chief qualification for entrance into the clergy. And if he had a nice full beard like Jesus, so much the better! Priests would often preempt deacons and deacons the other clergy if their rendition of the Gospel or a favorite hymn was more lyrical. The best clergyman was a good liturgist and the best liturgist, after all, was the best virtuoso. When parishes were established in this country they were often organized after the model employed by the Roman Catholic churches around them. There the laity had no role in the parish beyond taking up the collection and possibly arranging flowers for the altar. Any ministry in the parish was exercised by the clergy and religious such as teaching sisters. If we look to see how things were done in the New Testament era, a very different picture emerges. In the Epistle to the Ephesians, for example, we find a very clear cut job description. St Paul writes, “To each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift...He himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph 4: 7, 11-13).

### Those with Gifts of Leadership

St Paul lists several types of Church leaders. The **Apostles** were first of all those who had been eyewitnesses to Christ life and ministry. When a replacement for Judas was to be chosen Peter identified the eligible candidates as being one “*of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us*” (Acts 1:21-22). He then went on to indicate his own understanding of an Apostle’s role in the Church: “*one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.*”

Many people think that **Prophets** are fortune tellers, telling how the future is to play itself out. Sometimes that is close to the truth. At other times the prophet’s gift is to speak God’s will for the present moment or, rather, to interpret the present moment in the light of God’s will for us. This function in the Church is generally found in the monastic calling. By their vows they become “dead to the world” in a foretaste of the common destiny of all of us. In the Kingdom of God neither possessions nor physical relationships will continue. There will be no ego, no pride, for all the glory will be God’s. In addition some monastics have the gift of discernment, reading the hearts of those who come to them for guidance.

**Evangelists** are those who proclaim the Gospel far and wide. Missionaries and retreat masters have often shared in this gift. Today web masters and bloggers might join in this gift. The **pastor/ teacher**, on the other hand, is the person at the head of the local Church, the bishop or his representative, the presbyter (priest). While the others mentioned traveled around the Mediterranean world bringing the good news of Christ, the pastors were the people left behind to shepherd the local community. Their main role was described as “*equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,*” the “saints” being those who were made holy by being united to Christ in holy baptism. At every baptism we are reminded that “All of you who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” You can’t get much holier than that!

The pastor in this view is primarily an enabler, giving people the tools needed to take up their place in one of the Church’s ministries. He must see to the training of greeters, singers and servers, of catechists and ministers to the sick, of church council members and workers in any other kind of ministry that might be needed in the parish. And it is because he is this enabler of the saints under his care, because he is the teacher and shepherd of the flock that the pastor presides at liturgical services.

### Trisagion - All of you who have been baptized into Christ...

#### Prokimenon

**Reader:** May Your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in You.

**People:** May Your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in You.

**Verse:** Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

**People:** May Your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in You.

**Reader:** May Your kindness, O Lord, be upon us,

**People:** For we have hoped in You.

#### Epistle: Eph. 4:7-13

#### Alleluia Verses

Your favor, O Lord, I will sing forever; from generation to generation, my mouth will proclaim Your faithfulness.

**Verse:** For You have said, “My kindness is established forever.” In heaven You have confirmed Your faithfulness.

#### Gospel: Mt. 4:12-17, Sunday after the Theophany of our Lord

**Hirmos of the Theophany: (Tone 6)** O my soul, magnify the Higher in honor and glory than the heavenly powers! All tongues are at a loss to praise you properly, and every intelligence, even supernatural, is rapt in wonder when it comes to honor you, O Theotokos. But in your graciousness, accept our faith, knowing our holy longing. Intercessor of Christians, we extol you.

#### After Communion - Troparion of Theophany



#### ORDER OF SAINT NICHOLAS

**Bishop Nicholas has reactivated the Order of Saint Nicholas. The Order has done much to support the work of the Eparchy over the years. Please see the flyers in the back of the church for the bulletin boards for more details. Please prayerfully consider joining the Order.**