

From the Divine Office for the Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

Today let us celebrate the God-bearing Fathers, the mystical spokesmen of the Spirit, who sang a hymn of unity in the midst of the Church. They proclaimed the one Essence of the divine Trinity. They defended Orthodoxy before Arius, and they ceaselessly intercede before God that He take pity on our souls. (Vespers)

Wishing that we ceaselessly keep the perfect memory of His incarnation, the God of compassion inspired in men the idea of portraying His venerable features by painting icons. Thus, seeing them with our eyes, we may believe what His word has taught us, recognizing clearly the name and aspect, the work and deeds of the holy people and the Judge of all combats, Christ, who grants crowns to the holy martyred athletes. Through these images, the Church has continued to keep the true Faith ever more clearly, and honors the icon of the incarnate Christ. (Orthros)



FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL (787 A.D.)

OCTOBER 16, 2022



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Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

Antiphon (3rd)

- 1: Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us shout with joy to God our Savior.
O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia
- 2: Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving and let us joyfully sing psalms to Him.
Khallisna Ya-Bnallah, Ya Man qama min baynil-amwaat, nahnu muranneemeena Laka. Haleloueya.
- 3: For God is a great Lord and a great King over all the earth.
O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia.

Entrance Hymn

Priest: Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ!

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

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 2) pg. 38

When You descended to death, O immortal Life, You put Hades to death by the splendor of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from below the earth, all the heavenly powers cried out to You: “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!

Troparion of the Fathers (Tone 8)

O Christ our God, You are infinitely glorified, for You established our Fathers as radiant stars on earth. You led us to the true Faith through them. O most merciful One, 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 (Tone 2) Pg. 16

O never failing Protectress of Christians and their ever-present intercessor before the Creator, despise not the petitions of us sinners, but in your goodness extend your help to us who call upon you with confidence. Hasten, O Mother of God, to intercede for us, for you have always protected those who honor you.

Luke as an Iconographer

In the sixth century Theodore, a reader at Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, compiled a history from various sources. In it he describes an image of the Theotokos which Empress Eudoxia found in Jerusalem and sent to Constantinople. This may have given rise to the belief, first recorded in the ninth century, that St Luke had painted the first icon of the Theotokos. The Hodigitria icon (she who shows the way), which was prized in the capital until it was lost in the Ottoman invasion, was attributed to him.

A Byzantine icon of the Theotokos revered in Rome was long held to be by St. Luke, but has been shown to be no earlier than the fifth century in origin. Called “Salus Populi Romani” (the salvation of the Roman people), it is enshrined in the Basilica of St. Mary Major and has been visited frequently by Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis.

The Death of St. Luke

We know little about St. Luke after the martyrdom of St Paul. He is said to have returned to Asia Minor, preaching in the Churches there, in Greece and the Balkans. According to a fairly early tradition he died in Boeotia, a district in central Greece, and was buried in Thebes, its principal city. After the founding of Constantinople, when many well-known relics were brought to the capital, St Luke’s body was taken to Constantinople during the reign of the Emperor Constantius, son of St Constantine the Great.

At some time before 1187 – the circumstances are not known – the body was brought to Padua, Italy and enshrined in Padua’s Church of St. Justina where it remains. In 1992 the Orthodox Metropolitan of Thebes requested a portion of the relics from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Padua. Carbon-14 dating and other tests were carried out on the body and on the reputed skull of St Luke enshrined at St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague. The skull and the body were demonstrated to be that of a single individual from Syria who died sometime after AD 72. The Bishop of Padua sent to Thebes the rib closest to the heart which was then reburied in the original tomb of St. Luke.

In December, 1997 the tomb began exuding myrrh and since then the interior of the tomb has been fragrant.

In Praise of St. Luke

What shall I call you, O divinely-inspired Apostle Luke? A river flowing to us from Paradise? The Ark of the Covenant established by Christ? A star shining forth the supreme Light? A radiance illumining the Church of God? A table of the Bread of Life and a divine Chalice? Intercede for the salvation of our souls.

What shall I call you, O glorious Apostle Luke? An attentive physician who heals souls and bodies with the treasures of Heaven’s graces? A collaborator and traveling companion of Paul? The writer of the Acts of the Apostles, O holy Luke? There are many names for your many qualities. Intercede for the salvation of our souls.

What shall I call you, O divine preacher Luke? A disciple who gave us the good news of Christ? A physician through whom our souls are healed of their passions? A radiance shining the supreme Light? The solid foundation of the Faith who wrote an account of the all-holy Gospel for our sake? Intercede for the salvation of our souls.

O holy apostle of Christ, whose divine teachings you relate, foundation stone of the Church: truly, by your preaching, you have drawn back from the abyss of perdition the hearts darkened by ignorance. You save them from the violence of the stormy waves, O you who were both the companion and imitator of Paul, the Vessel of Election. O wondrous Luke, we entreat you, O jewel of the Antiochians: intercede before the Savior, our God, for the faithful who celebrate your sacred memory. Stichera at Vespers

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today **Our new bishop Francois Beyrouti**
Wyatt William Rahall
+Corinne Halal. Requested by Tom Syseskey

Today's flowers are donated by Maria Filewicz

Today's Coffee Hr. is hosted by Laurance & Saimon Aulo
Next week's Coffee Hr. will be hosted by Antoinette Arraj & Lisa Jagielski

Please remember in your prayers: George Arraj, Jr., Ron Abraham, Peter Abraham, Vi Gazal, Robert Ghiz, Sadie Mirante, Archie Opatka, Katherine Thomas, Charlotte Stockhaus, Ruth Welsh, James Rahall, Richard Abraham, Sr., Daneil Sarrouf, Bob Lynch, Michael Mooradian, Michael McNeil, Jeff McNeil, Wyatt Willian Rahall, St. Patrick's Manor, the people of Ukraine, and those who suffered a loss as a result of Hurricane Ian .

If there are people for whom you would like me to pray, please reach out and give me their names. Part of our vocation as Christians is to pray for each other, especially when someone is sick or suffering in any way.

Last Week's Collection

Weekly	\$ 1,308
Candles	\$ 20
Coffee Hr.	\$ 65
Stole	\$ 25
Other	\$ 110
TOTAL	\$ 1,528

God bless you for your generosity!



Welcome to any visitors we may have with us this morning! We are happy to have you worship with us.

Please join us downstairs in the church hall for the coffee hour so that we can get to know each other better and answer any questions you may have about the parish or the Melkite Church.

UPDATED PICNIC REPORT

As I stated earlier, the Picnic was a big success! It was a fun afternoon. We worked hard, but it was worth it! People ate, danced, and spent time with each other, which is the point of a family picnic.

The picnic was also a financial success. We had gross receipts (food, raffles, donations) of \$17,848.39. Our expenses were \$4,324.65. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, friends, and the Greater Worcester business community, we had a net profit of \$13,523.74! We will use these funds to offset the cost of work we need to do in and around the church. Again, thank you so much for your generosity of time, talent, treasure, and hard work!

Fr. Bryan

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!

Most Reverend Francois Beyrouti was ordained a bishop on October 12, 2022 at St. Anne Co-Cathedral in North Hollywood, CA. He will be installed as the 6th Eparchial Bishop for the Eparchy of Newton on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 2PM.

Many Years, O Master!



October 18 – Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (September 14) we begin the Cycle of St Luke. Selections from his Gospel are appointed to be read every day at the Divine Liturgy. About one month later, on October 18, we keep the remembrance of St Luke himself.

Aside from a few bits of information in the Scriptures we knew little about St. Luke, even though he composed a substantial part of the New Testament itself. Besides the Gospel St Luke composed the Acts of the Apostles as the second part of the story of Christ and the early Church (see Acts 1:1). Some commentators think that St Luke also had a part in writing the Epistle to the Hebrews.

Luke was a companion of St Paul, probably since his stay at Troas, on the coast of Asia Minor. It is here that St Luke begins speaking of Paul and his companions as “we” (Acts 16:10). Luke is mentioned as St Paul’s companion in two epistles, Colossians and Philemon, both written towards the end of Paul’s life. When St Paul appealed to Caesar, St Luke accompanied him from Caesarea to Rome (see Acts 28:16). Towards the end of St Paul’s life, it seem that Luke was his only companion (see 2 Tim 4:11).

Luke and Antioch

Ancient authors speak of Antioch as Luke’s birthplace (Eusebius’ Church History III and Gospel Questions IV) while St Paul says that he was a physician (Col 4:14). It seems that he was not a Jew. In the same passage others are mentioned as Jews but Luke is not. “*Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner greets you with Mark, the cousin of Barnabas, about whom you received instructions (if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus, who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision*” (Col 4:10-11).

As a native of Antioch Luke was likely a Greek but he may have been one of the many Greek proselytes to Judaism in the city, which also had a notable Jewish population. In the first-century A.D. proselytes to Judaism were generally pagans (Greeks and Romans) who had come to believe in one God, worshipped in the synagogue and observed the morality of the Jews. They had not accepted circumcision, nor did they observe ceremonial laws. Many of them came to accept Jesus as the Christ.

Did St. Luke See Christ?

One tradition, first mentioned in the *Panarion* of Epiphanius, says that St. Luke was one of the Seventy, the second circle of disciples called by Christ. He is often mentioned in commentaries as the unnamed companion of Cleopas who encountered the risen Christ on the road to Emmaus. This idea is even found in our Menologion, the liturgical book containing the service for his feast.

Others, however, say that there was no evidence that Luke, an educated Greek from Antioch, had been in Galilee or Judea during Christ’s ministry, although it cannot be ruled out. In the first verses of the Gospel Luke describes himself as having investigated everything carefully, which is why he wrote this narrative for Theophilus. This suggests to many that Luke was not recording first-hand impressions but compiling the reminiscences of others.

Perhaps the liturgical designation of Luke as an apostle and as one of the Seventy resembles calling St Paul one of the Twelve. “Twelve” and “Seventy” were understood in the early Church as designations of office rather than as historical references.

Prokimenon

Reader: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

People: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

Reader: For You are just in all you have done to us, and all Your works are true and Your ways right.

People: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

Reader: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, .

People: And Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

Epistle: Tit. 3:8-15

Alleluia Verses

O God, our ears have heard, our fathers have declared to us the deeds You did in their days, in the days of old.

Stichon: The just cried out, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them from all their trials.

Gospel: Lk. 8:5-15



Just as in Paradise,
God walks in the Holy
Scriptures, seeking man.

Saint Ambrose of Milan