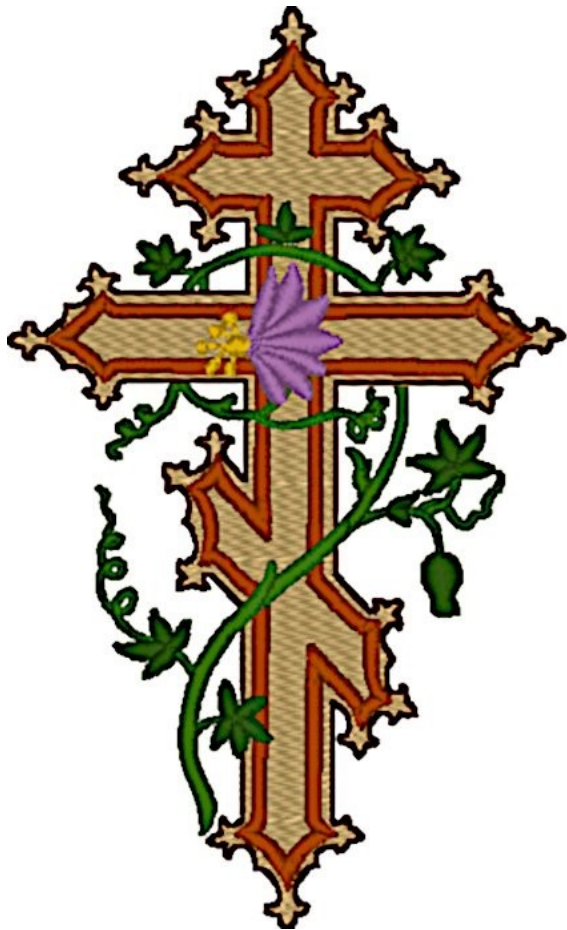


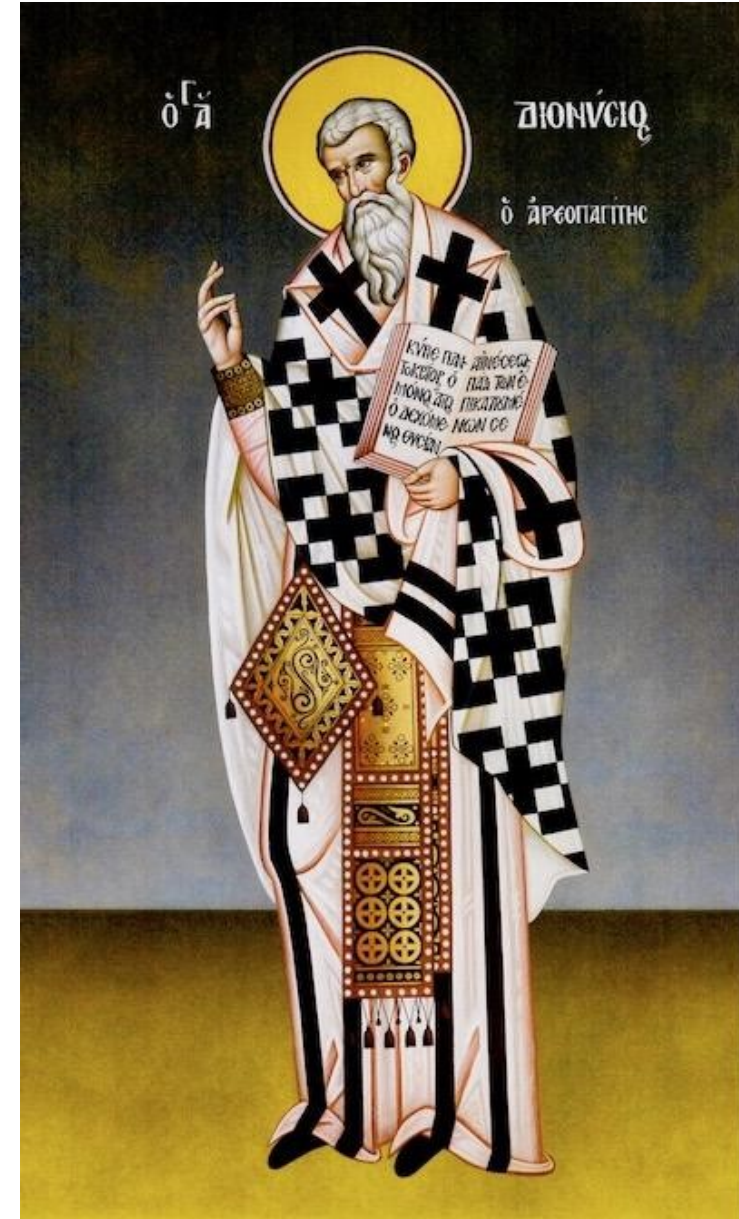
From the Divine Office for the Hieromartyr Dionysios the Areopagite (Oct. 3)

O holy hieromartyr Dionysios, master of gentleness, measured in all things, clothed with a straight conscience as befits a priest: you drew ineffable truths from the Vessel of Election. You have kept the faith and completed a course equal to his. Intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls. (Troparion)

You were outstanding as a hierarch and martyr, and were a faithful shepherd, O venerable father Dionysios, who drank from the chalice of Christ. You were pleasing to our God in all things, and now you dwell in light together with the heavenly ministers, interceding before Him on behalf of us all. (Orthros)



**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS
OCTOBER 3, 2021**



**Hieromartyr Dionysios the Areopagite
October 3**

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
Rev. Bryan McNeil, Pastor
Email: Brymc56@comcast.net Cell: (978) 314-1962
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 Dormition (Tone 1)pg. 15

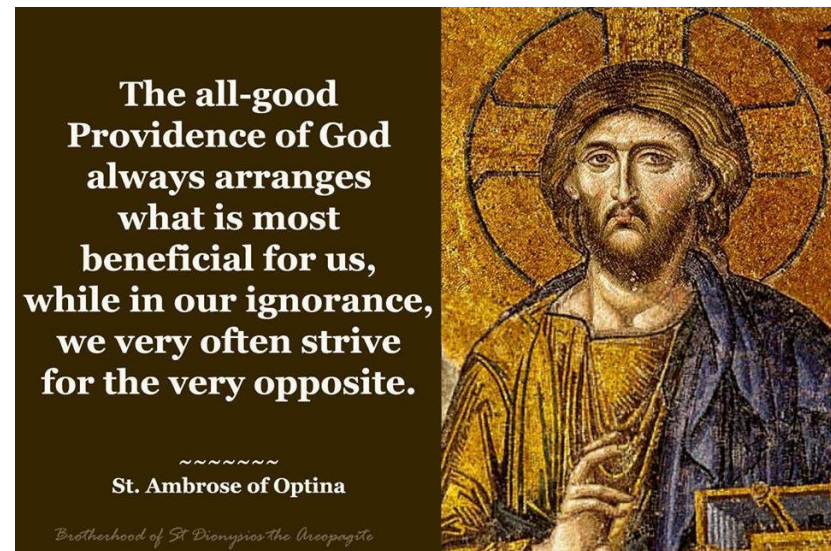
In giving birth, you have preserved your virginity, and in falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Mother of God. You have passed to life, being the Mother of Life. Through your intercession, save our souls from death.

Kontakion (Tone 2)

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.

In St Matthew’s Gospel the following injunction concludes and sums up the Sermon on the Mount: “*If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful... You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Mt 5:32-36, 43-48). If the aim of the Christian life is to imitate the Lover of mankind, the chief sign of that way of life is the way we treat our enemies. We can and should act in the image of God.*

Perhaps the most striking example of love for ones enemies in the Gospels is the prayer for His killers which Christ offered while hanging on the cross. “*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing*” (Lk 23:24). Arrested for preaching in Christ’s name some years later, the first martyr, St Stephen, used his last breath to imitate Christ’s love for His enemies, praying: “*Lord, do not hold this sin against them*” (Acts 7:60) as he was being stoned by his killers: God, and those who follow His way, do not let themselves be conditioned by the wickedness of others. Even when forgotten or rejected, they continue to be faithful to loving others.



DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

- Today** **Healing of Archie Opatka**
 +Peter Solitro (40 day). Requested by Antonio & Karen Solitro
- Oct 10** **Healing of Archie Opatka**
 +Peter Solitro. Requested by Maria Filewicz
In Thanksgiving for God's Blessings. Requested by Eric Ewanco
- Oct 17** **Healing of Archie Opatka**
 +Peter Solitro. Requested by Antoinette Arraj
- Oct 24** **Healing of Archie Opatka**
 +Peter Solitro. Requested by Lisa Jagielski

This morning's Coffee Hour is hosted by Antonio & Karen Solitro
Next Sunday's Coffee Hour is hosted by Eric Ewanco

THANK YOU!

We generated **\$12,223.23** in **gross receipts** from the Picnic! We had expenses of **\$3,133.87**, bringing our net profit to **\$9,089.36**. This was due to the incredible generosity and hard work of so many people! While the money we generated is important, I believe that people coming together to work and visit with each other is priceless. I never cease to be humbled by your commitment to the parish and each other.

We will have a meeting to review the Picnic and see where we can do things better. That will be combined w/lunch for everyone who worked. It will be later this month.

God bless you for your hard work and generosity to our Parish!

PARISH COUNCIL

As previously stated, I would like to form a Parish Council this fall. It is an important part of parish life. For a parish of our size, I think seven people will be enough, at least to begin. We will elect three members and I will appoint two. Currently, we have both a Finance & Building committee. Each of these committees will have a representative on the Council.

I will be sending a ballot in the mail in the next couple of weeks. Rather than go through a nomination process followed by an election, we will just have the election. The top three vote getters will be elected to the Council. Should someone not wish to serve, we will go to the person who received the next largest number of votes. We will meet once a quarter and expand that when required.

Please remember that the Parish Council, like all of the councils, is an advisory body. Its purpose is to advise the pastor on elements of church life. It is not a governing body. Problems often arise when that distinction is not understood by all, including the pastor.

Last Week's Collection

Weekly	\$ 789
Candles	\$ 28
Coffee Hr.	\$ 15
Stole	\$ 100
TOTAL	\$ 937



FINANCIALS

<u>9/2021</u>		<u>YTD (10/2020-9/2021)</u>	
Income	\$15,594	Income	\$87,878
Expenses	\$11,364	Expenses	\$90,242
Net	\$ 4,590	Net	(\$ 2,364)

We ended the year with a small deficit, thanks to our successful Picnic. As a reminder, it costs approximately \$8,000 per month to run the parish. God bless you for your continued generosity to the parish!

Upon further thought as well as dealing with the delta variant of covid-19, I have decided to postpone the planned Memorial Service and luncheon until the pandemic subsides. Please call or email me if you would like to be on the planning committee.

Fr. Bryan

Imitating the Lover of Mankind

Does Christ ask the impossible of His disciples? At times it seems so, as when He tells us to “*love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back*” (Lk 6:35). This doctrine goes against the ordinary inclinations of people of every society, social class or station in life. As a result it has been routinely ignored by Christians of every age when they are faced with the choice of actually putting it into practice. As a result, many non-believers have seen Christians as hypocrites – teaching this principle in theory but ignoring it in practice. In all honesty, many of us might see ourselves in this criticism leveled by the eighteenth-century political philosopher of the American Revolution Thomas Paine: “Those who preach this doctrine of loving their enemies, are in general the greatest persecutors, and they act consistently by so doing; for the doctrine is hypocritical, and it is natural that hypocrisy should act the reverse of what it preaches.” (Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*).

In the Old Testament

The Scriptures are full of imprecations against the enemies of Israel. The Torah and the early histories of Israel encourage believing Jews to consider the pagans living in their midst as God’s enemies and, therefore, their own. If they encourage readers to treat their enemies with compassion, it is for a motive other than kindness. The author of Proverbs warns his readers, “*Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice or the Lord will see and disapprove and turn His wrath away from them*” (Prov 24:17, 18). In other words, don’t rejoice over your enemy’s misfortune or God will restore their good fortune to spite you!

In Proverbs we find another word of advice on dealing with one’s enemies which was apparently well regarded among first-century Jews: “*If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you*” (Prov 25:21, 22). The author encourages the doing of good from a base motive – Treat your enemy kindly. You will make him feel guilty and God will bless you in the bargain! This is very far from the New Testament teaching and shows us how far from conventional wisdom, even among God’s People, Christ’s doctrine is.

Imitating God

Christ regularly encouraged His disciples to imitate God’s way rather than man’s. God’s way is, of course, the way of mercy and compassion. God “*does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities, For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him*” (Ps 103:10, 11). While the Jews were long encouraged to trust in God’s mercy, it was Christ who taught us to imitate that compassion in the way we treat others. The Lord Jesus urged His disciples to strive for perfection in their spiritual lives and He pointed to love for one’s enemies as exemplifying that perfection. Anything less, He identified with the spirit of the scribes and Pharisees.

Prokimenon

Reader: My strength and my courage is the Lord, and He has been my Savior.

People: My strength and my courage is the Lord, and He has been my Savior.

Verse: The Lord has chastised me through His teaching, yet He has not delivered me to death.

People: My strength and my courage is the Lord, and He has been my Savior.

Reader: My strength and my courage is the Lord,

People: And He has been my Savior.

Epistle: 2 Cor. 11:31-33; 12:1-9

Alleluia Verses

The Lord shall hear you on the day of distress; the name of the God of Jacob shall defend you.

Verse: O Lord, save Your king and listen to us on whatever day we call upon You.

Gospel: Lk. 6:31-36

There are registration forms for religious education on the table at the rear of the church. Please take one and register your children. Once we know how many children we have, we can put classes together. We will begin having classes once a month and expand from there. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Fr. Bryan