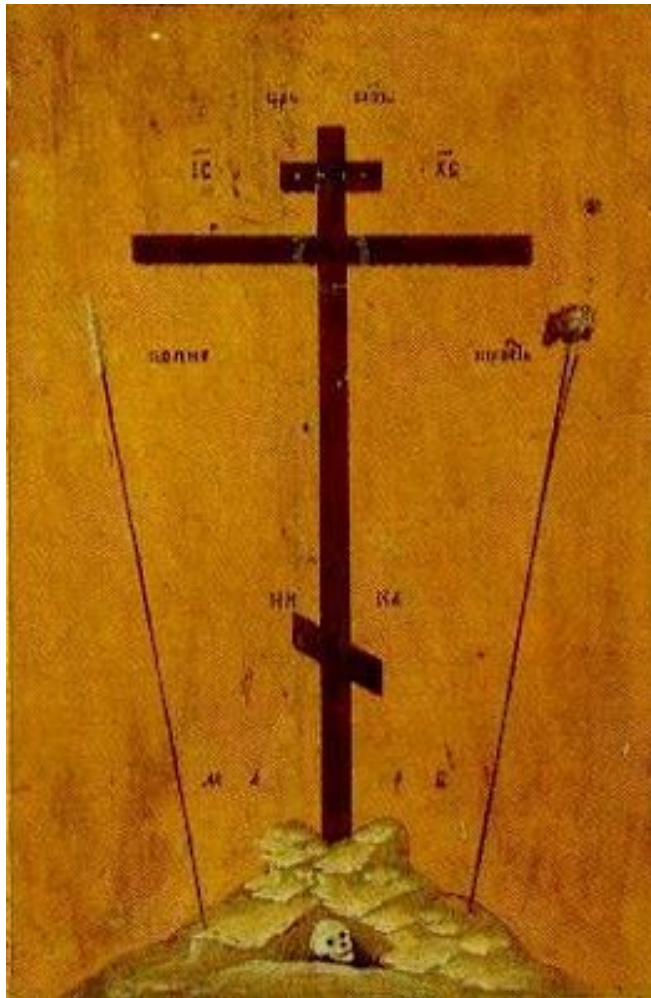


From the Divine Office for the Third Sunday of Great Lent

O Cross of the Lord to which the world aspires, let the light-giving flashes of your grace lift up the hearts of those who honor you. We welcome you with divine love, O you through which the dismay of tears has passed away, and by which we have been saved from the snares of death and carried up into imperishable joy. Through Your Cross, O Lord, reveal to us the splendor of Your beauty, granting the reward for their abstinence to Your servants who ask in faith for Your generous help and Your great mercy. (Vespers)

The Angel's fiery sword will no longer guard the gate of Paradise, for the Cross of the Lord has put it out wondrously. The power of Death has been broken, the victory of Hades wiped out, and You, my Savior, have stood up and called out to all those bound in Hell: "Come now; enter again into Paradise! (Orthros)



**THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT
MARCH 7, 2021**



VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

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 (Feast)

1: O Lord, let the light of Your countenance shine upon us.

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

2: O Lord, for those who fear You, You have raised a banner to which they may flee out of the range of arrows.

Khallisna Ya-Bnallah, Ya Man qama min baynil-amwaat, nahnu muranneemeena Laka. Hale-loueya.

3: You have ascended on high, taken captives, and received men as gifts.

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 7, pg. 4)

You destroyed Death by Your cross. You opened paradise to the thief. You changed the weeping of the myrrh-bearers, and commanded Your apostles to proclaim that You, O Christ God, have risen, granting to the world great mercy.

Troparion of the Holy Cross (Tone 1)

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

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 intercessions, save our souls from death.

Kontakion of the Annunciation (Tone 8)

We your servants ascribe to you, O Mother of God, thank offerings of victory, O Champion Leader, for we have been liberated from terror. But since you have that invincible power, do you free us from danger, so that we may cry out to you, "Hail, O Virgin and Bride ever pure!"

TRISAGION: *We bow in worship before Your Cross, O Master, and we give praise to Your Holy Resurrection.(3 times)*

Homily on the Precious & Life-giving Cross of Christ
St. Theodore the Studite

How precious is the gift of the Cross, how splendid to contemplate! In the Cross there is no mingling of good and evil, as in the tree of Paradise: it is wholly beautiful to behold and good to taste. The fruit of this tree is not death but life, not darkness but light. This tree does not cast us out of Paradise, but opens the way for our return. This was the Tree on which Christ, like a king on a chariot, destroyed the devil, the lord of death, and freed the human race from his tyranny. This was the Tree upon which the Lord, like a brave warrior wounded in hands, feet, and side, healed the wounds of sin that the evil serpent had inflicted on our nature. A tree once caused our death, but now a Tree brings life. Once deceived by a tree, we have now repelled the cunning serpent by a Tree. What an astonishing transformation! That death should become life, that decay should become immortality, that shame should become glory! Well might the holy Apostle exclaim, "Far be it from me to glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world!" The supreme wisdom that flowered on the Cross has shown the folly of worldly wisdom's pride. The knowledge of all good, which is the fruit of the Cross, has cut away the shoots of wickedness.

The wonders accomplished through this Tree were foreshadowed clearly even by the mere types and figures that existed in the past. Meditate on these, if you are eager to learn. Was it not the wood of a tree that enabled Noah, at God's command, to escape the destruction of the flood together with his sons, his wife, his sons' wives and every kind of animal? And surely the rod of Moses prefigured the Cross when it changed water into blood, swallowed up the false serpents of Pharaoh's magicians, divided the sea at one stroke and then restored the waters to their normal course, drowning the enemy and saving God's own people? Aaron's rod, which blossomed in one day in proof of his true priesthood, was another figure of the Cross, and did not Abraham foreshadow the Cross when he bound his son Isaac and placed him on a pile of wood?

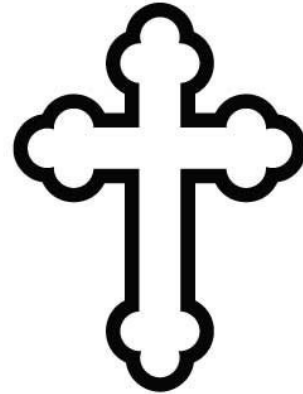
By the Cross death was slain and Adam was restored to life. The Cross is the glory of all of the Apostles, the crown of the Martyrs, the sanctification of the Saints. By the Cross we put on Christ and cast aside our former self. By the Cross we, the sheep of Christ, have been gathered into one flock, destined for the sheep folds of heaven.

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today +Josephine Chebib Yanni. Requested by Joe & Lorraine Lian
March 14 +Josephine Chebib Yanni. Requested by Antoinette Arraj and family

Last Week's Collection

Regular	\$2,157
Candles	\$ 33
Easter Flowers	\$ 105
Stole	\$ 25
Diocesan	\$ 45
Total	\$ 2,365



FINANCIALS

<u>2.2021</u>		<u>YTD (10.2020-2.2021)</u>	
Income	\$5,876	Income	\$32,116
Expenses	\$5,046	Expenses	\$26,701
Net	\$ 829	Net	\$ 5,414

We are still running a surplus for the year, thanks to your generous donations. We will continue to control expenses as much as possible. I will be paying the furnace repair bill this month and will use funds from our savings account to do so (approx. \$11,000).

God willing, we will continue to keep our head above water for the balance of the year! May God continue to bless you for your good stewardship of His community of Our Lady of Perpetual Help!

This Week's Lenten Services

Mon. 3/8 @ 6PM Great Compline

Wed. 3/10@ 6PM Presanctified Liturgy

Fri. 3/12@ 6PM Little Compline w/Akathist Hymn

Sun 3/14@10AM Fourth Sunday of Great. Commemoration of St. John Climacus

If we have to cancel a service, we will send an email to the email list and put a post on our Facebook page.

Fr. Bryan is available for confession after each Lenten service, on Saturdays from 10AM-Noon, and by appointment.

WATCH YOUR THOUGHTS
FOR THEY BECOME WORDS
WATCH YOUR WORDS
FOR THEY BECOME ACTIONS
WATCH YOUR ACTIONS
FOR THEY BECOME HABITS
WATCH YOUR HABITS
FOR THEY BECOME CHARACTER
WATCH YOUR CHARACTER
FOR IT BECOMES YOUR DESTINY



**GOD WITH US ONLINE SERIES
DYING TO SIN
The First Steps in Askesis**

**Mondays, February 22, March 1 & 8 @ 8 - 9 p.m. ET
Register at godwithusonline.org**

Instructor - Rev. Deacon Thomas Moses

Rev. Deacon Thomas Moses serves as a deacon at Our Lady of the Cedars Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Manchester, NH, where he lives with his wife and daughter. He is a graduate of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary and now works as a full time high school theology teacher at Bishop Guertin High School and a per diem chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital, both in nearby Nashua, NH. Some of his written work can be found on Catholic Exchange.

Prokimenon

Reader: O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance!

People: O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance!

Verse: To You, O Lord, I have called: O my Rock, be not deaf to me!

People: O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance!

Reader: O Lord, save Your people

People: And bless Your inheritance!

Epistle: Heb 4:14-16; 5:1-6

Alleluia Verses

Remember Your congregation which You have acquired from the beginning: You redeemed the scepter of Your inheritance.

Verse: God is our King forever: He brought about salvation in the midst of the earth.

Gospel: Mk 8:34-38; 9:1, Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross

Special Petitions for the Ecumenic Prayer (Inserted after the third petition)

- For all your people who have proven positive with the coronavirus, that they may be restored to full health and offer you their praise and thanksgiving, we pray to you, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For all those who have died as a result of the coronavirus that they may be granted rest with the Saints and the mercy of God in the Heavenly Kingdom, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For doctors, nurses, and all in health care, risking their lives to minister to those afflicted with the coronavirus, that they remain safe, and in good health as they serve others, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For all your people in Lebanon who were hurt during the disastrous explosion, that they may be restored to full health, and for those who died that they may be granted rest among the Saints, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For peace throughout the Middle East, especially in Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, and Iraq, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.

HIRMOS of Saint Basil (Tone 3)

In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the human race as well: O Sanctified Temple, Spiritual Paradise, and Glory of Virgins, from whom our God, who exists before all eternity, took flesh and became a little Child! He has taken your womb as His throne, making it more spacious than the heavens. Therefore, O Full of Grace, in you all creation rejoices: glory to you!