

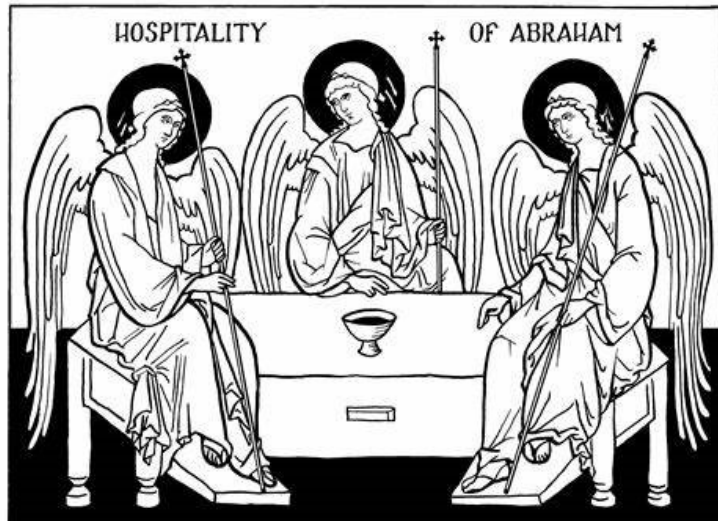
*From the Divine Office for the Fathers*

*O Word of God and Lover of Mankind, infinite and beyond description in Your becoming Man for our sake: the noble assemblies of Fathers proclaimed that You are both perfect Man and perfect God, one Person is two perfect natures, with two perfect natures, with two perfect wills. Wherefore, we profess that You are one God with the Father and the Holy Spirit; and singing a hymn of praise to the Fathers, we adore you.*

*O glorious Fathers of the Councils, you demonstrated that Phyrus, Sergius, Onuphrios and Dioscorus were in error as well as Nestorius concerning their doctrines on Christ. You saved the flock by teaching the true principle that Christ is one divine Person in two natures. This Christ we adore as perfect Man and perfect God, on with the Father and the Holy Spirit. O holy Fathers, we honor you and sing to you a hymn of praise.*

*The fathers of the Councils, inspired by God, declare and express that in Christ there is a divine Act and divine Will, uncreated and infinite: the Act and Will of the Son of God; and a human Act and human Will: those of the Son of Man. Thus did they proclaim that Christ is one divine Person having two natures, those of God and of Man. Wherefore, we the faithful honor these Fathers every year, and glorify Christ who glorified them.*

*The Fathers of the Council proclaim to us today that the eternal Trinity ion one God and one Lord, explaining to us that it is of one nature, consubstantial, of one will and one act, not divided nor shared but existing in the simplicity of God's being; and defining that this will and act of God have no beginning and will never have an end. Wherefore, we the faithful glorify these Fathers a Equals of the Apostles, for they taught all mankind the true doctrine of God.*



**SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRT SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS  
JULY 18, 2021**



**SIXTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**

**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 (1st)**

1: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth, sing praise to His name.

**Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.**

2: Say to God: How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies cringe before You.

***Be shafa'ati Walidatil Eelah, ya Mukhallisu, khallisna.***

3: Let all the earth worship You and sing praises to You; let it sing praises to Your name, O Most High!

**Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.**

### **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.

### **Resurrection Troparion (Tone 7) pg. 42**

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 Fathers (Tone 8)**

O Christ our God, you are infinitely glorified, for You established our Fathers as radiant stars on earth. Through them, you have led us to the true faith. 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

### **The Spiritual Leaders of Our Day**

In addition to the founders of our parish or eparchy we remember with profit those who made our Churches bear spiritual fruit in the recent past. First among them will be the so-called “new martyrs” – those who suffered for their faith under Communism or Islam.

There are others who set directions for renewal which are still affecting us. Ukrainian Greek Catholics remember in this vein Metropolitan Andriy Sheptytsky who began the process to rediscover lost elements of Tradition in the life of the Ukrainian church. Melkites recall the Fathers of the “School of Cairo,” including Archbishop Joseph Tawil and Archimandrite Oreste Kerame, who did the same.

All Catholics are indebted to the Eastern Fathers at the Second Vatican Council, particularly Patriarch Maximos IV, whose thoughts on ecclesiology and liturgy affected the life of all the Churches since that day. When Pope John XXIII announced his call for a council, Patriarch Maximos and his synod of bishops began preparing their responses to the ideas circulated by Council.

The witness of their synodal activity would have great effect on the outcome of the council. Archimandrite Robert Taft has called it “collegiality *ante factum*, long before the work of the Council had made this ecclesiology common coin.” Fr Taft has credited the contributions of the patriarch and his sixteen bishops to the council as including: “the vernacular, Eucharistic concelebration and communion under both species in the Latin liturgy; the permanent diaconate; the establishment of what ultimately became the Synod of Bishops held periodically in Rome, as well as the Secretariat (now Pontifical Council) for Christian Unity; new attitudes and a new ecumenical vocabulary for dealing with other Christians, especially with the Orthodox Churches; the recognition of Eastern Catholic communities as, ‘Churches,’ not ‘rites’” (Introduction to *The Melkite Church at the Council*).

### **Your Personal Forebears in Christ**

Besides these builders of the Church, each of us has his or her own spiritual leaders who have been significant in their own personal spiritual development. Let us remember:

Our godparents, who brought us to baptism;

The priest who baptized us;

The clergy, teachers and catechists who helped our faith mature over the years;

The monastics and religious to whom we turned for guidance or inspiration in our Christian life.

Each of them has made crucial contributions to our growth, helping us become people of faith.

Eastern Christians have traditional ways of honoring those who have gone before us in the community of faith. We honor those who have been glorified in the Church as saints by displaying and venerating their icons. If your parish does not have icons of, say, the new martyrs, consider commissioning one. Consult your parish priest on the appropriate procedure. You may also request that he conduct an intercession service in their honor on their feast day. Offer to provide bread or kolyva for the occasion.

It is always appropriate to request a memorial service or a commemoration at the Divine Liturgy for the departed. Remembering parish founders in this way is the best way to recognize our debt to them. Most jurisdictions publish necrologies listing the departed clergy of the eparchy and many parishes remember these clergy on the anniversary of their death. And everyone can request a similar service at any time for their personal ancestors in the faith.

We can always render thanks in these ways to those “*who have spoken the word of God to you.*”

Fr. Bryan will be away next Sunday. Fr. James Koury, Cancellor pro tem, will celebrate the Divine Liturgy.

**DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS**

**Today** +Saadallah al Kateb. Requested by Laurence & Saimon Aulo and Family  
**This morning's Coffee Hour is hosted by Laurence & Saimon Aulo**  
**Next Sunday's Coffee Hour is hosted by Sam & Hiam Francis**

**Last Week's Collection**

**Regular** \$695  
**Candles** \$ 26  
**Coffee Hr** \$ 23  
**Total** \$744

**God bless you for your generosity!**  
**Just a reminder that the parish still has bills in the Summer.**

**Reminders**

If you are not currently receiving collection envelopes and would like to, please let me know. I now have online access to the list our envelope company has and can easily add you.  
  
I have cut back on mailing out the Bulletin. Currently, I am mailing out approximately 25 to parishioners I know who do not have email or can't get to church. If you know someone who would like the Bulletin and is not receiving it either in the mail or via email, please let me know and I'll send them a copy.

As you know, we were not able to have our Picnic last year due to the pandemic. I would like to try to have something this Fall. It doesn't have to be on the same scale. I was thinking of several things: We could have a simpler version of the Picnic or a Take-Out Food Fair. Someone also mentioned a Memorial Service for all the loved ones we lost during the pandemic followed by a luncheon. We would charge a minimal amount for the luncheon, which would be catered. That gives everyone a chance to enjoy the event. If we make a little profit, that's great, but the primary purpose is to welcome everyone back to the parish. As I have said several times, you are missed!

If you have some other ideas or would like to help with one of the above possible events, please call, text, or email me. My contact information is on the first page of the bulletin. We will have a planning meeting in July.

**PARISH COUNCIL**

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 five 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.

We will have an election this Fall. If you are interested in serving on the Council or want to nominate someone, please let me know. The election will take place in late September.

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

**Summer Liturgical Schedule**

**Mon July 19, 6PM** - Vespers for the Feast of St. Elias followed by blessing of cars  
**Wed Aug 4, 6PM** - Paraclisis  
**Fri Aug 6, 6PM** - Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Transfiguration followed by blessing of grapes  
**Wed Aug 11, 6PM**- Paraclisis  
**Sun Aug 15, 10AM** - Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

**ST. BASIL THE GREAT MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**15 SKYVIEW DR., LINCOLN, RI**  
**SUMMER FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 7 - 4:00PM TO 11:00PM**  
**SUNDAY AUGUST 8 - NOON TO 8:00PM**

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
**DJ JOHN & GEORGE MAALOUF-SATURDAY**  
**MITCH KALTSUNAS - SUNDAY**

## Remembering Our Leaders

One of the Epistle readings often heard at the Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Council Fathers, Hebrews 13:7-16, begins with these words: “*Remember those who preside over you, who have spoken the word of God to you. Follow their faith, considering the outcome of their conduct*” (v.7). Clearly this passage was chosen for this day to honor the Fathers of the first six Ecumenical Councils for expressing with clarity the orthodox faith.

When this passage was written – in the first century AD – there were no ecumenical councils. The first one (Nicaea I) was called in the fourth century, some 150 years later, so who are the leaders mentioned in the epistle?

The Greek word for leaders used here is *hegoumenoi*, which the monastic tradition would later use to mean the head of a monastery. In the first century this term, like *proistamenos*, was used to refer to the head of the local community: the person who presided over its gatherings and, indeed, all its activities. At first the *hegumenos* in some communities was one of the Twelve; in other places he might be one of the other apostles, the Seventy chosen by the Lord and dispatched by the Twelve to communities in various parts of the region. Thus, Barnabas was sent home to Cyprus, Timothy to Ephesus, and Titus to Crete.

Scholars suggest that the term *hegumenos* was most used in Palestine while the terms bishop or presbyter were more common in other places. In any case, the Epistle is calling on believers to revere their faithful leaders for bringing them the Gospel and for the outcome of their faith for, as St John Chrysostom observed, “One’s faith is declared in the purity of one’s life.”

### Remembering Our Leaders Today

The framers of our liturgical tradition set a precedent for us. They applied the Apostle’s call to remember their leaders to their own era, the age of the councils. We continue to remember them on this Sunday, but we should also consider applying this text by remembering the leaders of our more immediate past. Take the following little quiz to discover whom we might recall in this spirit. Can you identify any of them by name:

In our Liturgy we regularly pray for “the ever to be remembered founders of this holy church.” Who are these founders? What do you know about:

- The first pastor who gathered your community;
- The first members who thought it important to provide a church for their families and descendants;
- The first bishop of your eparchy.
- Those who built or adorned your parish church.

In addition, we may recall other notable figures in the life of our Church: the bishops, priests and deacons as well as the lay leaders who made important contributions to its life. Reminiscences of your parish and eparchial history are often found in souvenir journals, diocesan periodicals or, increasingly, on Church web sites. Explore these resources to become more familiar with the Fathers and Mothers of your local Church.

### Prokimenon

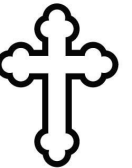
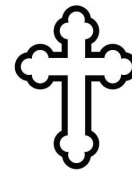
**Reader:** Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.  
**People:** Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.  
**Verse:** Happy are those whose faults are taken away, and whose sins are covered.  
**People:** Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.  
**Reader:** Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, you just;  
**People:** Exult, all you upright of heart.

### Epistle: Titus 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.  
**Verse:** For You saved us from those who afflicted us and have put to shame those who hated us.

### Gospel: Mt 5:14-19



### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**I would like to start religious education this fall for adults and children. We will use diocesan resources for the children. For the adults, we will discuss different aspects of our Faith. If there is anything you want to know more about, please don’t hesitate to let me know.**

**I believe that our Byzantine music is also part of religious education, so I plan to have regular music sessions so that those who want to become more familiar with our music have that opportunity. We will begin with the music for the Divine Liturgy and then move on to feast day and other music. I hope you will be able to join us!**

**There will be more to come during the summer.**