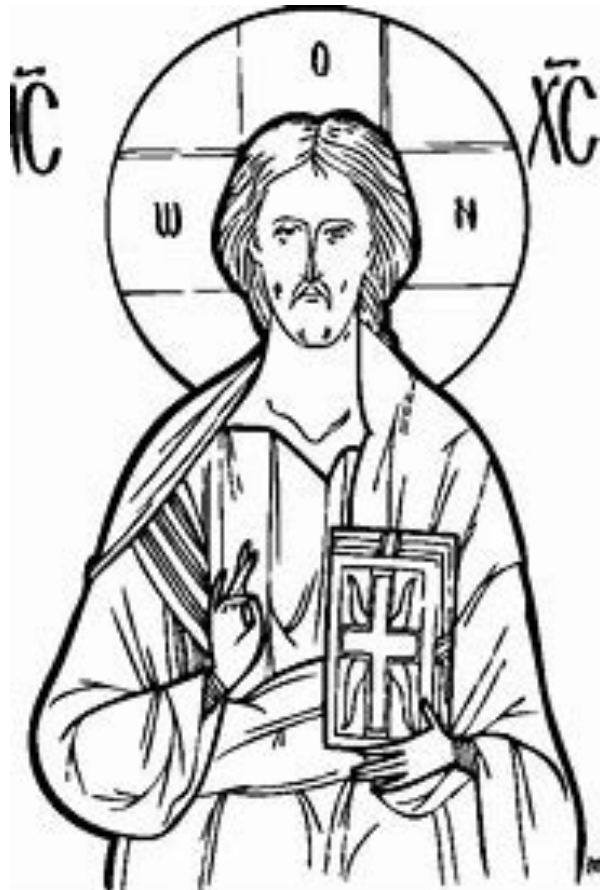


**From the Divine Office**

*O Lord, Your life-giving Resurrection has given light to the whole universe and has renewed our corrupt nature. You delivered us from the curse of Adam. Wherefore we cry out to You: "O Lord Almighty, glory to You!" (Vespers)*

*Let heaven and earth dance with joy today and sing with one heart the praises of Christ our God who has raised from their tombs those who had been held as captives to death! Let the whole creation rejoice, offering the Creator and Redeemer of all hymns worthy of Him! For as the Giver of Life, He has today drawn up mortals with Himself from Hades, carrying them up with Himself to heaven. He has crushed the arrogance of the enemy and shattered the gates of Hades by the divine might of His Kingdom! (Orthros)*



**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
JULY 10, 2022**



**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 (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 4) pg. 40**

The women disciples of the Lord, having learned from the angel the joyful announcement of the resurrection, and having rejected the ancestral sentence, proudly told the apostles: Death is despoiled. Christ God is risen, bestowing to the world great mercy

### **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.

### **Kontakion (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.

### **Demons in the Scriptures**

The Old Testament presents Satan or the devil as “the Accuser” (in Hebrew, *ha satan*; in Greek, *ho diabolos*) who misleads or slanders people and thus incites them to sin. He is depicted as a tempter, a persuader who convinces people to choose other than godly ways to live. When his influence spreads among the influential figures in society, an entire culture can be perverted. But Satan cannot force anyone to comply with his ways; we can always reject his temptations.

Old Testament-era Jews also came to speak of other diabolical figures in addition to Satan. The devil had his minions, angels who fell with him and who sought to drag people down with them. As the New Testament Book of Revelation describes it: “*So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him*” (Rev 12:9).

By the first and second centuries BC, belief that there were demons active in Israel had become common in popular Judaism. Deliverance from demons was an important part of the ministry of Christ in the Gospels and of the apostles in Acts. It is assumed today that many of the people in the Gospel accounts believed to have a demon were actually afflicted with some form of psychosis. This does not explain the absence of demonic possession in Jewish writings before Christ. Could it be that the coming of the Messiah prompted a last-ditch effort of Satan and his angels to assert power?

Jesus became quickly known as a healer and exorcist, confronting physical maladies and the assault of demons: “*Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them*” (Mt 4:24).

Jesus sent His disciples out to preach the kingdom of God and gave them authority over demons: “*He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease*” (Mt 10:1). They continued to exercise this power even after Pentecost (see Acts 8:7; 16:16ff.).

The Church has continued to exercise this power over unclean spirits. The second-century apologist St Justin the Philosopher told a Jewish acquaintance named Trypho that “now we, who believe in our Lord Jesus, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, when we exorcise all demons and evil spirits, have them subjected to us” (*Dialogue with Trypho*, 76.6).

By the third century it was common that people entering the Church through baptism first be freed from the power of any unclean spirits. In our Byzantine ritual today, four prayers of exorcism are part of the reception of a catechumen, calling on Satan to “Depart, and admit the vanity of your power which could not even control the swine.” When blessing water, oil or sacred vessels or when consecrating churches, the bishop or priest first prays that the influence of unclean spirits be averted from this place or object.

Our sacramental books also include prayers to deliver people from unclean spirits. In many places use of these prayers is on the increase as a result of people becoming involved with occult practices, thus opening themselves to influence by unclean spirits. A Coptic priest, Fr Sama’an Ibrahim, conducts prayers of deliverance weekly in his church carved into the rock of Moqattam Mountain, home of Cairo’s garbage collectors. Most of those who fill the 2000-seat church seeking deliverance are Muslims, says Father Ibrahim. “Christians rarely get possessed, because they are baptized young.”



### DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Today** Health & well-being of Hayley Beaudoin. Requested by Karen & Antonio Solitro  
+Nicholas & Theodora Barouk. Requested by Michael & Virginia Mischitelli and Antonio & Karen Solitro

**July 17** + Vincent Mischitelli. Requested by Antoinette Arraj & Family

**July 24** +Vincent Mischitelli. Requested by Michael & Virginia Mischitelli & Family  
+William (23rd) & Bertha Rahall, Habib & Miriam Rahall. Requested by Nick Rahall & Family

**This morning's Coffee Hr. is hosted by Antonio & Karen Solitro and Virginia & Michael Mischitelli**  
**Next Sunday's Coffee Hr. will be hosted by Antoinette Arraj and Lisa Jagielski**

Please Remember in your prayers: Susan Arraje, George Arraj, Jr., Robert Ghiz, Archie Opatka, Katherine Thomas, Charlotte Stockhaus, Ruth Welsh, James Rahall, Richard Abraham, Sr., Daneil Sarrouf, the people of Ukraine, those who suffered a loss as a result of the mass shootings in various cities in the country.

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

<b>Weekly</b>	<b>\$1,264</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>\$ 32</b>
<b>Donation</b>	<b>\$ 100</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,396</b>

**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.**

### UPCOMING LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

**Wed July 20, 6PM** Divine Liturgy for the Great Prophet Elijah followed by blessing of cars.

### 2022 Family Picnic

Our annual Family Picnic will be on **Sunday September 11, 2022 from Noon to 6:00PM.**

Our next meeting will be **July 12 at 6:30PM**

We need volunteers for many tasks: advance food preparation, food runners, setup/breakdown, cashiers, children's activities, etc. If you can share a couple of hours prior to, or on the day of the Picnic, please reach out to Marilyn Tencza at (774) 239-2081 or mtencza9@hotmail.com.

Thanks in advance for your help!



### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

As most of you know, next year (2023) is the one-hundredth anniversary of the parish. I would like to form a committee to explore how we want to mark the occasion. We will have an initial meeting on **July 19 at 6:30PM.**

## Do Demons Have Power?

IN EASTERN ICONS, such as the traditional representation of the Gergasene demoniacs, demons are often portrayed as little winged black men. In the medieval art of the West the horned, bat-winged and fork-tailed red giant was the most popular representation of the devil. What is the origin of these images and what do they actually represent?

Any representation of a demon in iconography, whether Western or Eastern, is an attempt to interpret Scriptural teaching. The imagery itself is not found in Scripture but strives to graphically depict a Biblical doctrine. Physical depictions of non-physical realities, however, are always doomed to fail. This is why in our Tradition depicting the Father or the Holy Spirit in human form is considered inappropriate since they were not incarnate. Icons of Christ, on the other hand, are considered so important because they point to the truth of His incarnation: that He actually became human to join His nature to ours.

One artistic convention frequently employed in images of demons is the use of wings. This device “interprets” the Scriptural image of Satan as a fallen angel. As the Lord Himself said, *“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven”* (Lk 10:18). Since “everyone knows” that angels have wings, artists assumed that fallen angels have wings too.

### Does Size Matter?

The size of demons in icons or other images is a commentary on the power of Satan as understood by the artist and, ultimately by his Church. Medieval artists in the West often depicted Satan as larger than other figures in their paintings. They were interpreting Christ’s description of Satan as *“the ruler of this world”* (Jn 12:31) and St Paul’s characterization of him as *“the god of this age”* (2 Cor 4:4). A being of such power was in their eyes larger than life.

But Christ had said that, as a result of His passion, *“the ruler of this world will be cast out”* (Jn 12:31). Thus, in the Eastern icon of Pascha, Satan is not depicted as a superman but as a colorless corpse bound in chains, defeated by the sacrifice of Christ. This image illustrates the teaching on Christ’s victory on the cross, *“that through death He might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil.”* (Heb 2:14). This is also why our Great Saturday liturgy puts these words in Satan’s mouth: “My power has been swallowed up! ... Death’s power has lost its strength.

In Eastern icons Satan and demons are regularly depicted as insignificant pests: tiny black creatures futilely attacking man. This illustrates the term for Satan used in all the Gospels, Beelzebub (see Mt 12:24, Mk 3:22 and Lk 11:18). This is a satiric parody of the Canaanite title for their god meaning “Lord of the princes.” The Jewish parody used in the Gospels, “Lord of the flies,” points to the trivial nature of Satan before Christ’s power – little more than a gnat.

## Prokimenon

**Reader:** How great are Your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have wrought them all.

**People:** How great are Your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have wrought them all.

**Reader:** Bless the Lord. O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord my God!

**People:** How great are Your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have wrought them all.

**Reader:** How great are Your works, O Lord!

**People:** In wisdom You have wrought them all.

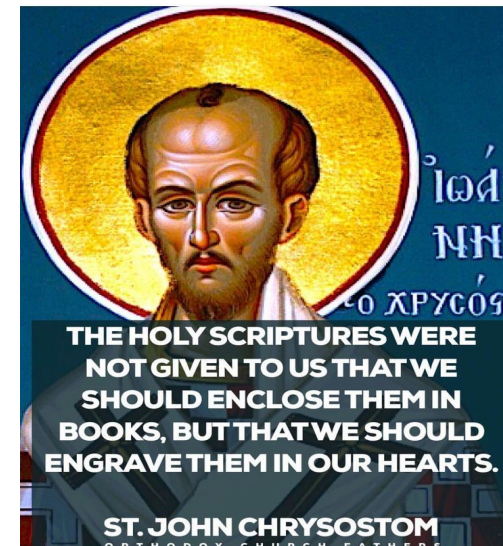
## Epistle: Rom. 10:1-10

### Alleluia Verses

String Your bow, go forth, reign for the sake of truth, meekness and righteousness, and Your right hand shall lead You wonderfully.

**Verses:** You loved righteousness and hated iniquity: therefore God, your God, anointed You with the oil of joy above Your companions.

## Gospel: Mt. 8:28-34; 9:1



## FINANCIALS

### 6.2022

Income \$4,741

Expense \$6,890

Net (\$2,149)

### YTD (10.2021-6.2022)

Income \$61,338

Expense \$58,486

Net \$ 2,851