

Hymns from the Feast of Saints Peter & Paul

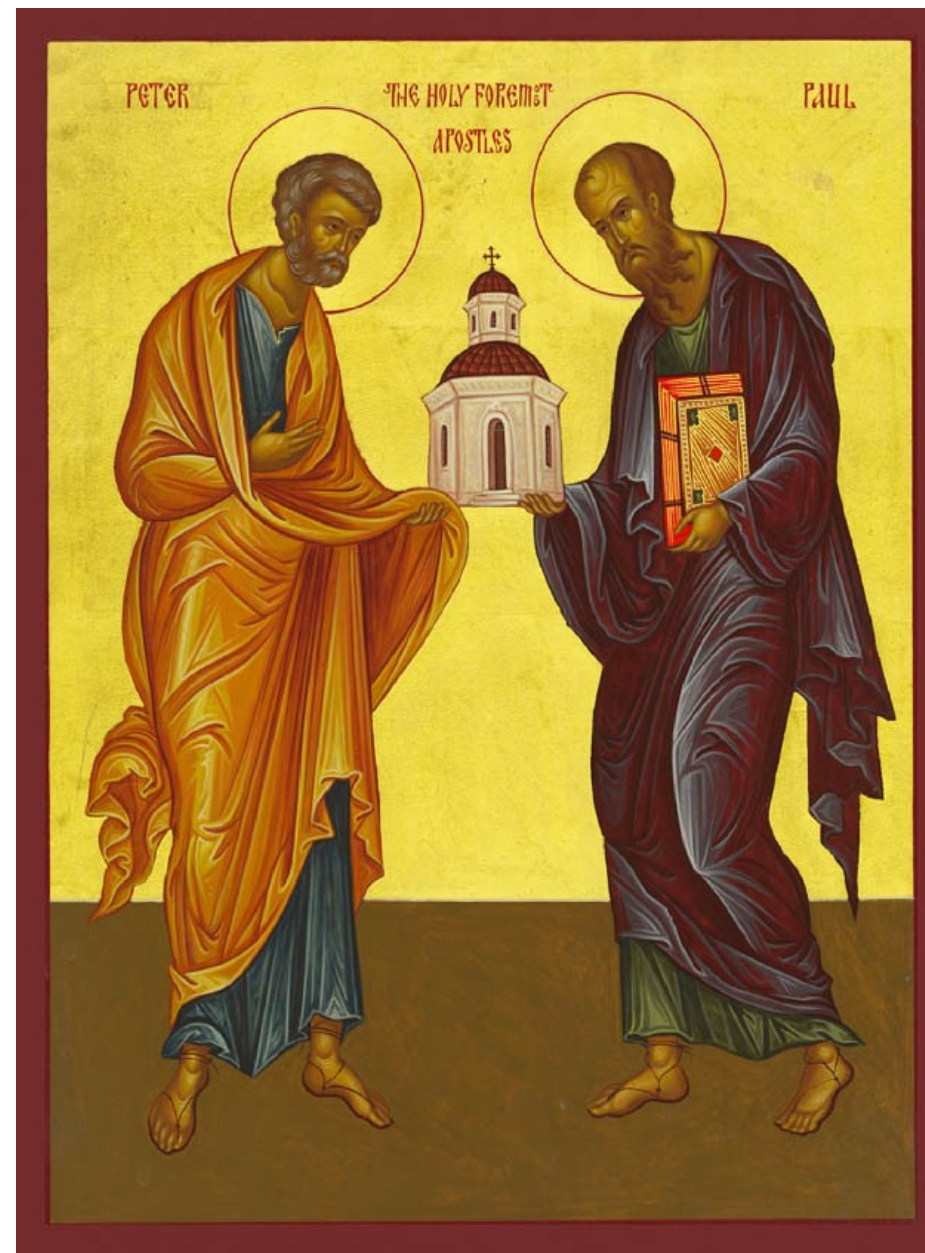
What songs of praise could be worthy of Peter and Paul? They are like two wings on which the knowledge of God spreads out to the far ends of the earth and soars aloft to Heaven, two hands from which the Gospel pours forth grace, two feet on which the doctrine of truth travels about the world, two rivers of wisdom, two arms of the cross through which the merciful Christ casts down the pride of demons.

(Vespers)

The venerable feast of the Apostles has come for the Church of Christ, bringing us salvation. Acclaiming them in spirit, let us say: "Hail, O luminaries who make the light of the mystic Sun shine upon those in darkness! Hail Peter and Paul, friends of Christ and chosen vessels, unshakeable foundations of the teachings about God! Be with us in spirit, obtaining spiritual blessings for those who celebrate your feast with hymns!" (Orthros)



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 28, 2020



SAINTS PETER & PAUL

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church
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Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

Antiphon (1st)

1: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth, and 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.

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 3, pg. 39)

Let all in heaven rejoice, and all on earth be glad, for the Lord has exerted power with His arm: By death He has trampled upon Death and has become the firstborn from the dead. He has delivered us from the bosom of Hades and has granted 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 intercessions, 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.

St Maron's Monastery in Annaya has received hundreds of thousands of letters from people all over the world who want to share the news of miracles, cures and wonders performed by St Charbel. One of the hardest to explain away concerns Kevin Boustany, a Canadian who suffered from an eye and cornea infection and eventually lost sight in his eye. Kevin wanted to research his condition on the Internet. When he turned the computer on, a photo of St Charbel appeared on the computer screen with the following sentence next to the photo, "I will heal you and give you back your sight". Kevin was shocked and immediately visited his doctor who examined his eye and testified that Kevin was indeed healed.

Kevin travelled to Lebanon to visit the tomb of St Charbel at the monastery of St Maron in Annaya and to thank God and St Charbel for his healing.

Kevin's healing is not the only example of unexplained photos of St Charbel. On May 8, 1950, the hermit's birthday, four Maronite missionaries came on pilgrimage to his tomb. Father George Webby, a Maronite priest from Scranton, PA took a photo of the four monks and the guard on duty. When the picture was developed, there was a mysterious monk with a white beard shown standing next to the missionaries. Experts ruled out trick photography. The oldest monks, who had known Father Charbel, recognized the monk in the picture as the saint himself, just as he had looked during the last years of his life. All subsequent portraits of the Saint were based upon this photo.

St Xenia of St Petersburg (c. 1719-1803) An ascetic who was not a monastic, Xenia was the wife of a Russian military officer assigned to the capital, Col. Andrei Petrov. One evening at a party, Andrei suddenly fell over dead (perhaps an aneurism had burst). After his funeral, Xenia, 26 years old at the time, left the capital for eight years, some say, to live in a hermitage.

When Xenia returned to the capital, she gave away her possessions, including her house. She kept only her husband's uniform, which she wore, and adopted his name. For 45 years, Xenia would wander the poorest sections of the city, consoling the poor and the homeless. At night she would go out to the fields to pray.

Known for her gift of sight, Xenia came to be recognized as able to foretell the future. People welcomed her into their homes in the hope that her presence would bring them a blessing. Any donations people would give her she passed on to the homeless. After her death, Xenia was often manifested to people and they began venerating her as a saint. An elaborate chapel was built over her grave.

One such manifestation occurred in California to a young biker who was looking for spiritual peace. He visited an evangelical church and was attracted by what he heard. Told that he should conquer the passions, he found that giving up biking was too hard for him, so he left the group.

He was later involved in a serious road accident in which he lost his legs. An invalid, he took up again with some old friends, who were crashing in a run-down tenement. Once in an alcohol and drug fueled stupor, he found himself lying in a dumpster – his "friends" had thrown him in for a laugh. Depressed and at the brink of despair, he saw an old bag lady approach him. Glaring at him, she commanded him, "You know where to go, so go there!" He immediately thought of the church and set out to find it.

When he reached the church, he saw that it had been transformed by domes and crosses. The church was part of a group that had been received into the Orthodox Church. He saw an iconostasis at the front of the church and on it an image of his bag lady – St Xenia had brought him back to God.

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today +Nicholas & Theodora Barouk, deceased members of the Barouk family, deceased members of the Vasil family. Requested by Michael & Virginia Mischitelli and Antonio & Karen Solitro.

+Montaha (Mona) Abboudy who passed away on June 21.

+Bertha Peters who passes away on June 22.

July 5 Health and wellbeing of Elaine and Paul Syseskey. Requested by Tom Syseskey. Flowers donated by Joe and Bonnie Najemy in memory of Robert & Alice Najemy and Dey & Donald Harvey.

July 19 +Bishop John Adel Elya (1 year anniversary).

Bishop Nicholas has requested that all parishes in the Eparchy have a memorial service on this day for our Eparch Emeritus, John Adel Elya.

Feast Day Liturgical Schedule

Mon. 6/29, 7PM - Divine Liturgy for the feast of SS. Peter & Paul

Mon. 7/20, 7PM - Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Great Prophet Elijah

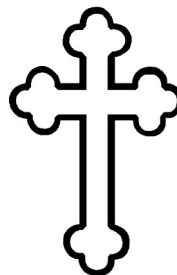
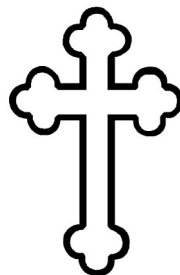
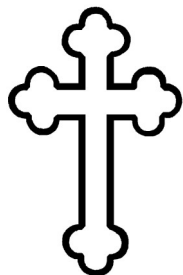
Wed. 8/5, 7PM - Great Vespers for the feast of the Transfiguration

Thu. 8/6, 7PM - Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Transfiguration and Blessing of Grapes

Mon. 8/10, 7PM - Paraclisis

Fri. 8/14, 7PM - Great Vespers for the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Sat. 8/15, 10AM - Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos



Tomorrow we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the feast of Saints Peter and Paul at 7PM. We will also livestream the Liturgy.

If you have family news you would like to share with the parish, please contact Fr. Bryan so that he can put it in the bulletin.

Also, if you need help with anything during this uncertain time, please contact Fr. Bryan so that he can assist or put you in contact with parishioners who have volunteered to help.

MEMORY ETERNAL

Please remember in your prayers Montaha (Mona) Abboudy who passed away June 21. Our condolences to George and the entire family.

Please remember Bertha Peters who passed away June 22. Our condolences to her daughter Nancy McFadden and the entire family.

Also, please remember Nicholas Aboody who passed away this past week. Our condolences to the family.

May they rest in a place where there is no pain, no grief, no sighing, but everlasting life!

Please continue to pray for all those infected with Covid-19 as well as those who care for them. Let us also remember those who have lost their lives to the virus. Memory eternal!

- ◆ Please remember in your prayers all the members of our parish who are sick or suffering in any way. Please contact Fr. Bryan with the names of those folks whose names you would like to include in the bulletin so that we can all pray for them.
- ◆ Let us also pray for our country and for our public authorities, that that may be strengthened in every good deed.

Into the Wilderness

WE ARE AT THE END of the Fast of the Apostles and many who have observed this Fast will be happy that it is over. We prefer feasts to fasts and look forward to any fast-free days observed during the year. There are some, however, who make every day a fast day. They regularly adjust their diet and their activities, as the rest of us may do during a Fast. They are often the ones who will one day be recognized as saints.

Some saints, in the West or in the various Eastern Churches, have suffered for their faith, some to the extent of sacrificing their lives (the martyrs). Other saints are those who have brought the Gospel to pagan tribes or nations (Equals-to-the-Apostles) or have invigorated the life of their local Churches. At the end of a Fast, however, it may be most appropriate to recall some saints and saintly people who lived their whole lives in prayer and fasting (the ascetics) or in almsgiving (the merciful) to a noteworthy degree.

Holy Ascetics

When we think of a life of prayer and fasting, we tend to think of the monastic life. Not all ascetics live in monasteries, however (Mary of Egypt was not a nun), and not all monastics are ascetics. These ascetics from several Eastern Churches are those whose ascetical lives were confirmed by the miracles attributed to them.

St Kyrillos VI (1902-1971) was a middle class Egyptian Copt: an office worker who left his job and family at the age of 25 to enter the Baramous Monastery in the Nitrian desert. He was tonsured a monk in 1928 and ordained a priest in 1931 as “Father Mina.” He began serving all-night vigils and the Divine Liturgy daily from 2 to 8 AM, a practice not common in the Coptic Church at the time. Three years later he began living as a solitary, first in a cave and later in the ruins of an abandoned windmill. He lived on bread, herbs and spices and the water he brought back with him on his weekly visit to the monastery.

It was during this time that his first miraculous healing was recorded. These healings so multiplied that some people considered him a sorcerer. “Within months,” the ascetic’s biographer writes, “Father Mina’s reputation... blazed throughout Old Cairo. A myriad of healings, prophecies, visions and unusual divine happenings surround the period.” Another adds, “No other period in the recorded history of the Coptic Church witnesses so many reports of unfamiliar and extraordinary events.”

From 1941 to 1959 Father Mina lived as an urban monastic, becoming a confessor to many. In 1947 he established a church in Old Cairo in honor of his patron; the next year he built a hostel for university students at the church. For the next twelve years he formed countless disciples at the church, inspiring many university students to monasticism and church service. Finally in 1959, he was elected patriarch. As Pope Kyrillos VI, he spearheaded the total renewal of the Coptic Church.

St Charbel Makhlof (1828-1898) was the orphaned son of a Lebanese mountain family who, as a child, would spend the day in prayer while caring for the family’s small flock. Two of his mother’s brothers were monks and the youth wanted to follow them, but his mother objected. Finally, in 1851, the young man was able to sample the monastic life at the Maronite Monastery of Our Lady in Mayfouk. He ultimately took monastic vows at St Maron’s Monastery in Annaya, where he remained. Ordained a priest in 1859, Father Charbel remained at the monastery until 1875. For the next 23 years, he lived as a solitary at the monastery’s hermitage. He suffered a stroke while serving the Liturgy and died on December 24, 1898.

Prokimenon

Reader: Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

People: Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

Verse: All you peoples, clap your hands! Shout to God with cries of gladness!

People: Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

Reader: Sing praise to our God, sing praise!

People: Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

Epistle: Rom 6:18-23

Alleluia Verses

In You, O Lord, I have hoped: let me never be put to shame.

In Your goodness, save me and deliver me; lend Your ear and hasten my deliverance.

Verse: Be for me a protecting God, a sheltering house to save me.

Gospel: Mt 8: 5-13, Healing of the Centurion’s Servant

Hirmos— It is truly meet...

Kinonikon: Praise the Lord from the heavens...

After Communion: We have seen the True Light...

