

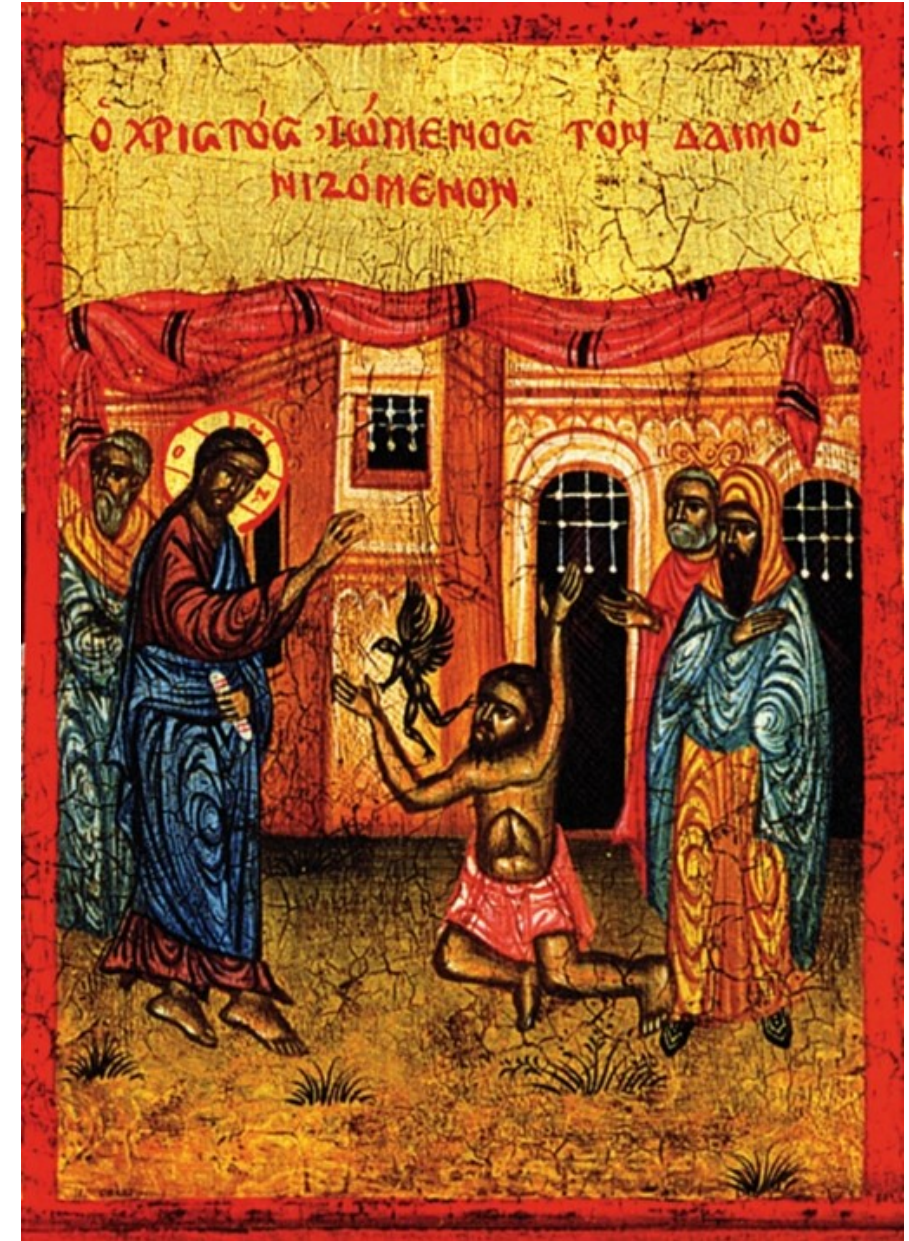
From the Divine Office for the feast of the Martyrs Marcian & Martyrios (Oct. 25)

Marcian and Martyrios, those mystic lamps of the Church and champions of the Holy Trinity, having driven back heresies with the buckler of faith, have shone the light of Orthodoxy all over the world. Obedient to their pastor, the holy Paul, equal to the apostles, that master of true teaching, they rejected the division proposed by Arius and Nestorius, and avoided the confusion put forth by Severus and Savellius. They acknowledged the Unity at the heart of the Trinity, and they invite us all to sing with faith of the God who took flesh from the Virgin, in two natures, as one Son. They received from heaven the crown of victory, and they ask great mercy for us all. (Vespers)

Marcian and Martyrios overthrew the strange and foolish doctrine of Arius through the divine grace of the Holy Trinity, for whom they fought their fight. As martyrs, they received the shining diadem, and they intercede before Christ on behalf of us who celebrate their sacred memory. (Orthros)



SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS OCTOBER 25, 2020



Jesus Healing the Gerasene Demoniac

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church
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Worcester, MA 01604
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Email: olphmelkite@gmail.com
Rev. Bryan McNeil, Pastor
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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."

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.

Kondakion (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.

Some people in the Church tend to think that "vocation" refers exclusively to the calling of a cleric or monastic, or as a member of a religious community. The Lord does call some people in every age to serve the Church as priests, deacons, chanters, etc. He does invite others to serve Him as a monk or nun, but these are not the only people whom He calls to serve Him.

Our Fundamental Vocation

Every person baptized into Christ has a vocation. The essence of that vocation is perhaps best expressed in the First Epistle of Peter: "*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light*" (1 Pt 2:9).

There are three important aspects of our universal vocation expressed in this passage. First, our vocation is to a **priesthood**: what the Scripture calls a "royal priesthood." Christ is the true kingly priest and, because we have been baptized into Him and sealed in His Holy Spirit, we share in His priesthood. As members of a people, the people of God. We are not individually priests, as are the ministers of the altar, but members of a priesthood because of our common union with Christ the High Priest.

This passage also tells us **the reason for this priesthood**: "*that you may declare the praises of*" God. Our vocation as members of the royal priesthood is to support the Church's call to proclaim the work of God in Christ. Some, like the apostles and evangelizers, are called to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Others, like the Gadarene whom Jesus delivered in the Gospel or the Samaritan Woman, are called to show forth God's love for mankind in their own corner of the world. Still others – most of us, in fact – are called to lend our assistance to these chosen vessels as they proclaim Christ to the world.

How Can We "Proclaim?"

When we think about "proclaiming God's work" we invariably think about speaking or writing. There is a host of other ways by which the Church makes the Good News present in our world. At the Bridegroom Matins on Holy Tuesday we are reminded that the abilities which we have received are often the way in which the Lord makes known to us our way of responding to this call:

"Come, O faithful,
let us work eagerly for the Master,
for He distributes wealth to His servants;
And let us increase the talent of grace,
each one according to his ability.
Let one adorn his wisdom with good deeds.
Let another beautify the celebration of the service.
Let someone strong in faith communicate the word to the uninitiated,
And another dispenses his wealth to the poor.
Thus, we shall increase what has been loaned to us and,
Like faithful stewards of grace,
Shall be worthy of the Master's joy.
O Christ God, make us worthy of that joy, for You are the Lover of mankind.

Through each of these ways and countless others, believers can take their place in the royal priesthood, joining in the Church's mission to declare though word or work "*the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.*"

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today +Charlotte Ghiz, Eva Ghiz, Lynda Kouri, Louis (Hap) Ghiz. Requested by Robert Ghiz.

Nov 1 +Tom & Betty Kenney. Requested by Tom Syseskey.

Nov. 8 +Amelia Filewicz (30yr.), Michael Filewicz, Filewicz & Harayda Families, living & deceased. Requested by Maria Filewicz and family.

Today's flowers donated by Maria Filewicz in memory of Amelia Filewicz

Upcoming Feast Day Liturgical Schedule

Thu 11/12, 6PM - Divine Liturgy for the feast of John Chrysostom

Sat 11/21, 10AM - Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple

NOTE: Evening feast day services will be at 6PM effective September 1 unless announced otherwise.

There are a number of things we need for the church. They include: a second icon stand, a second candle box, red & blue altar cloths, new vigil lamps for the iconostasis and walls, new altar server sticharia, as well as some smaller items. If you would like to donate any of these items in memory of your loved ones, please contact Fr. Bryan.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Regular: \$1,335
Candles: \$ 14
Stole: \$ 20
Memorials: \$ 20
Diocesan: \$ 25
Total: \$1,414

Thanks to everyone who has continued to send in their contributions on a regular basis. As a reminder, it costs approximately **\$8,000** monthly to maintain the parish. Your continued generosity has made it possible to pay our operating costs without dipping into savings.

May God continue to bless you for your generosity to your parish!

The Samuel J. Daige Educational Trust Our Lady of Perpetual Help Scholarship

The Samuel J. Daige scholarship trust provides for an allocation for members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (Worcester, MA) who are of Lebanese decent.

Scholarships are intended to support the tuition and tuition-related fees incurred by eligible students who are pursuing an associate, bachelor or graduate degree at an accredited college or university in the United States.

One scholarship will be awarded each year to an active member of Our Lady of Perpetual help Church in Worcester, MA.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be considered for this scholarship, you must:

1. Be under 25 years of age.
2. Be accepted and enrolled in an accredited college or university in the United States in an Associate's, Bachelor's or graduate degree program.
3. Be a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help church in Worcester, MA.

Be of Lebanese descent (minimum of 6.25% Lebanese ancestry)

SELECTION PROCESS

The following criteria will be considered in the selection process:

1. Letter of recommendation from church priest or member of church leadership council.
2. Written essay on educational goals and career objectives (100 words maximum) .

Application and required documents should be mailed to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees by **November 1, 2020**. The mailing address is listed below.

Zachary W. Esper, Jr.

3 Cedar Hill Road

Grafton, MA 01519

If you have any questions or need additional information, please send inquires to OLPH or zesper@hotmail.com or call (508) 930-0945.

The Samuel J. Daige Educational Scholarship Trust was funded by the estate of Gloria Daige in memory of her son, Samuel J. Daige. Samuel was highly decorated for his military service in Vietnam receiving the Bronze Star Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Purple Heart w/One Oak Leaf Cluster and the Vietnam Service Medal.



Spreading the Good News

THE GOSPELS RECORD SEVERAL INSTANCES when the Lord Jesus called people to be His followers. At times He called people to leave their homes and livelihoods and follow Him. He called Peter and Andrew, James and John as they were busy fishing “*and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him*” (Mt 4:22). Similarly, Matthew walked away from his toll booth and followed Jesus (see Mt 9:9); the other disciples, whose calls are not recorded in the Gospels, did the same.

Sometimes the Lord called but was refused. The cost of following Jesus was more than some people could bear. To the rich young man who wanted to be perfect Jesus said, “*If you want to be perfect, go – sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.*’ *When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth*” (Mt 19:21-22).

In other instances, the Lord raised objections Himself before the would-be follower could discover through failure and discouragement that following Christ meant enduring hardships. Thus “*a teacher of the Law came to Him and said, ‘Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.’ Jesus replied, ‘Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head*” (Mt 8:19-20). The Lord wanted this teacher of the Law to know that following Christ would not provide the comfortable lifestyle he may have been anticipating.

To a procrastination, however, He gave the opposite advice. “*Then another disciple said to Him, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ But Jesus told him, ‘Follow me and let the dead bury their own dead*” (Mt 8:21-22). The Lord surely wanted followers, but He had a different approach based on the readiness of the person before Him.

This passage suggests the hurdles that people in any age will face when they consider following the Lord in a radical way: fear of the unknown, self-concern, pre-occupation and attachment to other things – all can hinder us from following Christ.

The Vocation of the Gadarene

The Gadarene whom Jesus healed (Lk 8:27-39) wanted to follow Jesus as well; the Scripture says that he “*begged to go with Him,*” but the Lord had another plan for him. “*Jesus sent him away, saying, ‘Return home and tell how much God has done for you.’ So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him*” (Lk 8:38-39).

The Gadarenes had made it clear that they wanted Jesus to go away. He would not force Himself on them. At the same time, He wanted to leave them with a permanent reminder of His presence: their own fellow countryman whom He had delivered. This man had once been a burden to the townspeople; now He would be a blessing.

The apostles were told to go through the world preaching the Gospel; this man’s call was to go home and do the same in his village. Was his call by Christ less of a vocation than that of the apostles? It was different, surely, but it was a vocation nonetheless.

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.

Verse: 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: Gal 2:16-20

Alleluia Verses

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

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

Gospel: Luke 8:27-39

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.